

## **CHAPTER- 5**

### **THE SOCIO-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENTS**

#### **➤ Introduction**

A Culture is defined as learned behavior which has been socially acquired and in other words “it is the shared and organized body of customs, skills, ideas and values which are transmitted socially from one generation to other”. Culture is a modern concept based on a term first used in classical antiquity by the Roman orator Cicero: "cultura animi" (cultivation of the soul). This non-agricultural use of the term "culture" re-appeared in modern Europe in the 17th century referring to the betterment or refinement of individuals, especially through education. During the 18th and 19th century it came to refer more frequently to the common reference points of whole people, and discussion of the term was often connected to national aspirations or ideals. Some scientists used the term "culture" to refer to a universal human capacity. Cultures are internally affected by both forces encouraging change and forces resisting change. These forces are related to both social structures and natural events, and are involved in the perpetuation of cultural ideas and practices within current structures, which themselves are subject to change. Culture plays an important role in human societies. It lays down norms of behavior and provides mechanisms which secure for an individual, his personal and social survival. It includes everything one generation can tell, convey or hand down to the next. Culture is an experience that is learned, shared and transmitted. Every culture has its own customs which may have significant influence on gender. Culture in one or a word related to domestic violence against women. In Indian society as culture is transmitted from old generation to new generation, tolerating violence is also transmitted from one generation to other. The socio-cultural background plays an important role in analysis the present situation of domestic violence against women.

➤ **Profile of the respondents**

The Table: 5.1

**Domestic violence and Age category**

Sr. No.	Age Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	18 to 30	146	73.0	73.0
2.	31 to 40	31	15.5	88.5
3.	41 to 50	14	7.0	95.5
4.	51 & above	9	4.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

Domestic violence and age both are correlated to each other. The Table 5.1 indicates that large majority 73% of the respondents in our sample belongs to the age group of 18-30 years. This suggests that the frequency of domestic violence of different types in the families occurs at a relatively, younger age or among young couples. As the age advances the marriage life and the family settles down and the frequency of the occurrence of domestic violence in the families or married life progressively declines like for example, respondents beyond the age of 51 years reported less 4.5% domestic violence. This data also suggests that young couples have less tolerance and adaptability towards those issues which generates domestic violence with this logic the incidences of divorces and separation will also be more among young couples as compared to people with advanced age. This data also subscribes to one of the hypotheses that domestic violence will be more among people with lower age or newly married couples. With the passage of time incidences of domestic violence progressively declines.

Table 5.2

### **Domestic violence and Education**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Below 10 <sup>th</sup>	43	21.5	21.5
2.	10 <sup>th</sup> pass	17	8.5	30.0
3.	HSC	36	18.0	48.0
4.	Graduate	70	35.0	83.0
5.	Post graduate	26	13.0	96.0
6.	Above Post graduation	8	4.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

Domestic violence against women is always related with the level of education. It is a set of belief that those women who have lower education or no education or lower education than the husband they are more prone to domestic violence.

The available data does not support the assumption that the high level of education among women will have less domestic violence. The large majority 35% of the women respondents in our sample belongs to the category or those having Graduate degrees. This suggests that the frequency of domestic violence of different types occurs in those families who are very well educated. The data also suggests that that education plays an important part in domestic violence. The data also suggest that those women having Post graduate degrees 13% and more than post graduation 4% have lesser domestic violence. This data also suggests that couples do not believe in making compromises and adjustments towards the issues which generate domestic violence. Education has been regarded as the most significant instrument for changing women's subjugated position in the society. It not only develops the personality and

rationality of individuals, but qualifies them to fulfill certain economic, political and cultural functions and thereby improves their socio-economic status. One of the direct expectations from educational development in a society is the reduction in the inequality among individuals and that is why *Education* was included as the basic right of every human being in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Constitution of UNESCO also directs its efforts to achieve 'the ideal of equality of educational opportunity without regard to race, sex or any distinction, economic or social'. This data do not subscribe to one of the hypotheses that domestic violence will be more in less educated couple's than educated people and with the passage of education, incidences of domestic violence will progressively increases. It is said that education reduces domestic violence but the data suggests a total reverse situation.

Table 5.3

### **Respondent's occupation and Domestic violence**

Sr.No	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Not engaged in paid work outside the home	136	68.0	68.0
2.	Engaged in paid work outside the home	64	32.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

Table 5.3 the above data indicates that the large majority 68% of the women respondents in our sample belongs to the category that is those women who are not engaged in any kind of paid work outside the home. Occupation is an important indicator of a person's position in society. It is believed that the higher the education one has, the higher the occupation one holds and the higher prestige she gets in the society. This clearly indicates that domestic violence is more in those women or housewives who are not going out for working. It is less 32% in those who are engaged in paid work outside the home. It is because those who are staying at home and are not going out for working they are not contributing anything in terms of money therefore, domestic violence is more because for each and everything the wives have to depend on the husband. The most common type of violence which is seen in those women who are not going out for work is

economical, emotional and physical because as she is not financial secured every time she needs money she has to beg. The reason housewives are abused more because of their dependency on the husband. Dependency is also treated as a cause of physical violence in family. The wife is completely dependent both physically and socially, her husband exploits her dependency and uses violence at whims to reinforce his dominant position. Domestic violence is less in those women who are engaged in paid work outside home. It does not mean that domestic violence is absent they also had to face it. Though they are going out and working, getting money into the family but still they are also victims of domestic violence. In many cases the woman is going for work and when she comes back to home she is also likely to get beaten up and all her money is taken. The working women percentage is also less because the working wives may not accept the dominant position of the husband in the family decision making and raise questions about certain things. It does not mean that the working women do not have violence in their family. In some cases working women also were victims of physical violence because may be if they are questioning their husbands. The women with no job designate their complete dependency on their husbands and they will not have economic independence or would be engaged in occupations with low economic returns and low prestige. This data subscribes to one of the hypotheses that domestic violence is more in those women who are not going out and work compared to those working women.

Table: 5.4

<b>Respondents Household Composition and Domestic violence</b>				
Sr.No	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Nuclear	72	36.0	36.0
2.	Joint	128	64.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The above mentioned data indicates that domestic violence is more in Joint family with 64% cases. In Joint family domestic violence is reported more because the ruling person in the family is the mother-in-laws or father-in- laws. Moreover sister-in-laws are also interfering in the couples life .The main reason of violence in joint families is also because the concept of privacy

is missing. The data also indicates that domestic violence is lesser in Nuclear families (36 %) as they have a pattern of privacy. In nuclear families the interference of mother-in-law and others are not very effective as they are in joint families. Many women also saw instigation by other family members as the reason for violence. The data also suggests that other marital family members like sister-in-law or her husband are responsible for violence. This led to fights, further leading to violence between both the spouses. In joint families one of the major problems is that everyone in the family listens only to husband's family members and as a result the husband restricts his wife's movements or monitor and control her activities. He may also resort to physical violence. Women also felt that their husbands take side of their mother listen to whatever they say without understanding their wife's viewpoint and react based on what they have been told. In nuclear families these things are less. This data subscribes to one of the hypotheses that domestic violence will be more in joint families compared to the nuclear families.

Table: 5.5

### **Marital status of respondents**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Remarried	4	2.0	2.0
2.	Separated	162	81.0	83.0
3.	Deserted	5	2.5	85.5
4.	Divorced	22	11.0	96.5
5.	Widowed	4	2.0	98.5
6.	Divorced & remarried	3	1.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

In the present study we have included marital status to evaluate the problem of domestic violence. In most of the cases women are not divorced but staying away for longer period of time, others are helpless and staying with their parents at their natal home, very few are remarried because in India remarriage is not considered good for women. Some cases of widows

where there is no violence by husband because the husband is dead but the in-laws are responsible for domestic violence.

Above table indicates the marital status of the respondents. The women who faced domestic violence in their life most of them live separately from their husband at their natal homes 81% because most of the girls are not so educated or have very less education and are dependent on their parents, do not have any source of living or have filed the case against their husbands or are waiting to reconcile. The divorced women are only 11% as very less percentage of women takes the decision of divorcing the husband and rather stay in tormenting relationship. The data suggest that the remarried 2% and widowed 2% women are very less with only very few women took the decision of getting remarried again. The data given also gives a clear picture of Indian society that many women takes the decision of leaving their husband's home and going and staying at their natal place *Myakka* and wait for their husbands to come and take them. Some of them divorced and say no to the violence. Very few women are divorced and remarried because in Indian society when a women gets divorced then she is not considered as a marriage material or in other words she will not get a good match or she does not have any right to get married again so, very few percentage is for those women who have divorced their husbands and got remarried which is 1.5%.

Table: 5.6

### **Awareness of domestic violence**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	YES	162	81.0	81.0
2.	NO	38	19.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The majority respondents admitted that they were aware of domestic violence but cannot do anything for it. The above mentioned data indicates that significant relations can be seen between the two variables. It was assumed that lack of awareness increases domestic violence or in other words those women who are not aware of domestic violence and her rights they are

more prone to be victims compared to those who are aware of domestic violence. But the data pose a different picture. There were almost 81% women who replied in *yes* that they were aware of domestic violence in other words they also were aware that they are the victims but still tolerating it because as in Indian scenario it is said to a girl that whatever the husband do whether wrong or right as being a wife they should tolerate. The data show that very few women are not aware of domestic violence prevention measures 19%.

Table: 5.7

### **Awareness of Domestic Violence Act**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1	YES	146	73.0	73.0
2	NO	54	27.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

It is seen in the above mentioned table that there can be significant correlation between awareness of Domestic Violence Act and increase in domestic violence in the society. Mostly, the women are aware of what domestic violence is and what is Domestic Violence Act and even all about what benefits this act is giving to the women. Too many people continue to believe that domestic violence is a private matter between a couple, rather than a criminal offence that merits a strong and swift response. Even today, the victim of a domestic assault runs the risk of being asked, "What did you do to make your husband angry?" These questions imply that the victim is to blame for this abuse. People in our Criminal Justice System -- Police, Prosecutors, Judges, and Jurors -- need to be educated about the role they can play in curbing the acts of domestic violence. Even when cases are brought to notice, domestic crimes are difficult to prosecute. Too often victims are so terrorized that they fear for their lives if they call the police. Silence is the batterer's best friend. We have to end the silence and change our attitudes towards domestic crime. Most of the women are aware of Domestic Violence Act that is 73% and very few women were there who were not aware of Domestic Violence



Act that is 27%. Survivors of domestic violence recount stories of put-downs, public humiliation, name-calling, mind games and manipulation by their partners. Many say that the emotional abuse they have suffered has left the deepest scars. Many respondents said to researcher that to avoid these things in society they keep on tolerating domestic violence though, they are aware of it.

Table: 5.8

### **Age at marriage of the respondents and Domestic Violence**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	18 to 20	87	43.5	43.5
2.	21 to 25	87	43.5	87.0
3.	26 to 30	21	10.5	97.5
4.	31 and above	5	2.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The above table reveals the data that 43.5% respondents were from the age group of 18 to 20. The second group with the same percentage like the first one is from 21 to 25 with 43.5%. The present data also support one of the hypothesis that is “Domestic violence is more in compared to middle aged and old.” The percentage of married women are more who agreed with specific reasons for justifying a husband beating his wife by selected background characteristics of her husband. It is evident from the table that younger women and those married before 25 years of age are agreeing relatively more 43.5% with at least one reason of wife beating than the women who doesn’t fall in those respective categories. Inter spousal age differences and lower age confounded with lack/poor awareness of the marital life may be the contributing factors for the same. Women engaged in domestic work or housewives are again found to be agreeing more towards the reasons for wife beating than those who are working or in either private or public sectors. Further it is noted that agreement with at least one reason and with each of the different reasons for wife beating declines sharply with the level of education. This may be due to the possible increase in awareness of their rights and duties with the higher level of education. The

data also represents the percentage of ever-married women who have been beaten or physically mistreated since age by background characteristics. Prevalence is also shown according to the persons who beat or physically mistreated them – their husband, their in-laws or other persons. The youngest age group i.e. 18-20 shows a high proportion of being beaten compared to older women like those who married at a later age of 31 and above. The data reveals that the percentage of violence is 2.5%. This is probably due to their less time to be exposed to the risk of being beaten since age 18. Educational level of women makes substantial difference of being beaten or physically mistreated. Illiterate women have found to experience violence more than three times compared to women who are educated higher secondary or above. Working women are found to be more mistreated than non-working women since age 18. Higher the age at marriage leads to lower the proportion of women to be beaten since age 18. Women who have been married for less than five years are less likely to have been beaten than women who have longer marital duration. It is generally believed that not bearing children and not bearing a son are important reason for wife beating. However, the finding shows that women with no living child are somewhat less experienced violence than women with living children.

Table 5.9

### **Religion and Domestic violence**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Hindu	131	65.5	65.5
2.	Muslim	41	20.5	86.0
3.	Sikh	15	7.5	93.5
4.	Christian	4	2.0	95.5
5.	Jain	9	4.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The above data reveals and supports that domestic violence is more in Hindus and Muslims compared to other religions. Religion and domestic violence go hand in hand. In India the majority of people are Hindus and the above mentioned data also reveals that 65.5% of Hindus have more domestic violence compared to Muslims that is 20.5%. As it is seen that there is less violence in Sikh 7.5%, Christians 2.0% and Jain 4.5%. In India, caste and religion are integrated into social composition. Hence, each shadows over the other evolving a unique structure in which an individual locates himself/herself. He/she acquires social identity from that structure. In a sense, caste and religion remains integral to one's personality too. In this sense, a person's attitude and decisions are heavily conditioned by these two factors as these factors work to restrict a person's behavior. Why consider the religious or spiritual issues of Religion and Domestic Violence? This is because these are fundamental not only to the believing victim and abuser but also to all those who live in a culture which is largely based upon group's moral values and traditions. While religious beliefs can often play an important role in the healing for victims of domestic violence, the misuse of religious teachings can also exacerbate the abuse. Abusers often use spiritual abuse as a way of controlling their victims. They misuse scriptures to justify physical, sexual and other abusive behavior. Advising a victim to pray, or become a more religious person, will not stop the abuse. Unfortunately, when a victim receives this kind of advice, she is often left feeling hopeless—unworthy of love, respect and dignity. Victims begin to question the validity of their faith, or may feel they must choose between their faith and their safety. Victims of domestic abuse need to hear that their faith tradition does not condone the abuse against them, and that their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being is important. Domestic violence is equally prevalent within faith and secular communities. It is easy to be blinded by familiarity or "picture-perfect" families. An abuser or a victim can be anybody from any class, any communities. People of faith will most likely reach out first to his/her own faith community in times of trouble. Therefore, well-informed and committed faith leaders are often in the best position to provide immediate support and referrals to domestic and sexual violence crisis centers and other community resources.

Table 5.10

**Social Class & Domestic Violence**

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1	Lower	19	9.5	9.5
2	Working	36	18.0	27.5
3	Middle	108	54.0	81.5
4	Upper	37	18.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

Domestic violence is something that happens every day around the world. Young, old, rich or poor, this is an issue that we must look at to better ourselves as a country. One of the things that we look at is how domestic violence relates to the different social classes of the country, this being upper, middle, working and lower. The present data presents that domestic violence is more in middle class families 54%. Some would think that it would be more common in lower classes but the data reveals that in lower classes domestic violence is only 9.5% , but the reality of it is domestic violence is a problem across all social classes. The present day reveals that there is a relation between domestic violence and social class. To begin with we need to understand what domestic violence is. The National Domestic Violence Hotline describes domestic violence as patterns of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influences another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and educational levels (The National Domestic Hotline). This is one of the best definitions you will find. It's important to realize that

Domestic Violence can happen to anyone. The focus on economic background is important; as there is not one social class that domestic violence does not occur in. It is a key that we keep this in mind; otherwise we begin to label and fit certain social groups into categories. And it will continue forever. Domestic violence is also seen in high or upper classes that data clearly mentions 18.5% and same as in the working classes also 18%. There is, therefore, a hypothesis that “the domestic violence is more in lower classes compared to other classes.”

Table 5.11

**Type of Marriage of respondents and Domestic violence**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Arranged	174	87.0	87.0
2.	Love	12	6.0	93.0
3.	Love-cum-arranged	6	3.0	96.0
4.	Court marriage	8	4.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The available data does not support the assumptions that domestic violence is more in love marriages as compared to arrange marriages. The above data clearly reveals that there are more cases of arrange marriage in court of law. Domestic violence is more in arranged marriage with 87%. An arranged marriage describes a situation in which the parents of two people, who are of typically similar cultural background, are predetermined to be married together on insistence by their parents or a third party. Arranged marriages are a part of a number of different cultures, both old and new. They present a very logical approach to the institutions of marriage and are influenced by both cultural and economic factors. While some societies consider the idea of parents strategically selecting the life partner of their children are not effective, other cultures have continued this tradition even today. Typically recognized in eastern cultures, arranged marriages provide a number of benefits to both parties, although the data have also shown abuse and violence in situations of arranged marriages. The tradition of arranged marriage is most

commonly found in eastern-based cultures, including Indian, Japanese, and Chinese cultures. However, it was at one time equally popular in Western cultures. In the Elizabethan era, it was not uncommon for parents in high society to arrange marriages among their children to ensure that they maintained the economic status and bloodlines that they greatly valued. Parents of the bride would commonly offer their daughter to the son of a family of equal economic status. These practices are still carried out today and often viewed as a business transaction, in which the bride is sometimes unaware of what has already been planned for her. The factors of arranging marriages are sometimes very complex. They are typically, financially and socially motivated and can act as a treaty between families. Stability and the welfare of the bride also play a significant role in the process of arranged marriages. To a father, making sure that his daughter children are properly taken care of financially is a primary responsibility. By stepping in to arrange a marriage for his daughter, a father can be assured that the husband will be able to provide financially for his daughter as an adult. Culture also has a profound impact on the practice of arranged marriages. Eastern cultures have carried the tradition of arranged marriage into the new millennium; and in many cases the children involved are on board with the idea, others feel that it is their responsibility to comply with arranged marriage for their family. Age, religion, economics, and family ties are all factors in determining a successful match, it is approached very logically without much attention given to the idea of love; it is a marriage that is strategic, love may come after. Along with a bride would also be a dowry, sometimes consisting of money or property, a dowry was meant as the brides contributions to the marriage, since it was traditionally unheard of for a women to contribute financially to an income, the dowry acted as a supplemental source to the new family. Violence is an enemy of love. They don't go together. Some people try to "normalize" violence in relationships. They say that violence happens in every marriage. They try to minimize violence or make it look like it is an inevitable and avoidable part of relationship. Further it is mentioned that the second category after arranged marriage is love marriages with 6%. In love marriages the couples usually know each other and each other's temperament. In the present study many respondents described that the husband was very loving and caring but because of parents-in-laws problems were created. They explain it away, "When there in an argument, sometimes things get out of hand, but it's not too bad. It doesn't happen all the time". This is nothing less than brainwashing. Such an attempt to normalize violence is dangerous and may even promote violence. Beware of the person who,

referring to outbursts of rage and physical-emotional violence, says, "that occurs in every marriage, now and then." Take a good look at the person who says so. Chances are you are looking at a person who does so. The truth is that we all get angry, but all of us do not become violent when we are angry. Violence doesn't happen in every marriage. *If someone tries to sell the idea of violent love, don't buy it.* Some respondents perpetuate the myth that when you are madly in love with someone, you may occasionally get mad in "passion" and hit her. People who get mad in that way haven't gotten over their primitive hatred. People can't be considered mature until they can control their anger and disallow their hate from mixing with their love.

"Everything is fair in love and war." So a person with distorted thinking doesn't mind scaring and controlling the partner he "loves." It is self-serving for men to believe that "A man is the king, and his home is his kingdom. His kingdom is his to rule." On the other hand, an abused woman may be advised by well-wishers. The problem is that the "good" that is, love, only weighs an ounce while the "bad" that is, violent rage, weighs a ton. Many women bear the weight of a ton for an ounce of relief telling them, "He really loves me like no one ever did. I have to tolerate his getting mad once in a while." Some women falsely hope, "He is insecure about me. Once we get married, this (violence) will not happen". The above data also reveals that violence is also less in love-cum arrange marriages 3% because in this type of marriage also understanding of each other will be there and may be violence happens because of ego and even because parents get them married or parents involvement is there so mostly the disputes are handled by them and again and again their interventions helps. In court marriages too the percentage is more 4% than love-cum arranged marriages. In court marriages again at times families of both the individuals does not know each other as well as it is in the case of love marriage and love-cum-arranged.

Table: 5.12

**Reasons for living separately from spouse**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
1.	Husband's job	27	13.5	13.5
2.	Own job	8	4.0	17.5
3.	Arguments turning to domestic violence	165	82.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

As it can be seen from the table, more than 82.5% of the respondents were living separately from their husband because of arguments turning to domestic violence. The data also suggest that many of the respondents were living separately because of the husband's job 13.5%, as it was somewhere else so there was lack of love and affection. Most of the time female had to be with parent-in-laws and they use to send them to their natal families. Some of the respondents also said that because of their own jobs 4%, a distance was created between her and her husband and there was always a kind of communication gap between them. In some of the cases respondents also mentioned that their husband always use to be out on tours because of their jobs. It is always said that "Out of Sight out of Mind". Many of the respondents said that because husband was always on official tours he was away from family. Many of the respondents even said that small conversations were converted into violence. Many time disagreements or arguments with husband or with his friends or with mother-in-law used to turn the whole situation unfavorable. Majority of respondents pointed very different type of reasons and situations that why they are living separately.



Table: 5.13

**Respondent's freedom  
with regard to going out with friends**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Can decide independently	55	27.5	27.5
2.	Had to consult someone	22	11.0	38.5
3.	Had to follow instructions	123	61.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

India is a democratic country. Democracy means for the people, by the people and of the people but when it comes to women then it becomes for the men, by the men and of the men. As in the Fundamental rights itself it is mentioned that it is the Right to Equality but when it comes to women then there are socio-culturally defined norms that they have to follow. Again in the Fundamental Rights it's mentioned that every citizen has the Right to Speech but women are told that they should always obey the commands of her husband and she should not speak in front of her husband as it is considered as a bad wife behavior. Though India is a free country but Indian women are still not free. When the respondents were asked about the freedom most of them replied that no freedom is given to them. Like the above data is mentioning a very simple explanation of their condition. There was no freedom given to the respondents in regard to going out with their friends. Most of the women 61.5% said they had to follow only the instructions given and very less said they decided independently 27.5% and very less percentage was for women who had to consult someone that is 11%. Most of the women mentioned that they did not even have freedom to make friend by their own wish and to move out with them. Most of them responded that they only had to follow what the husband and what the in-laws used to say. Even the mother-in-law used to keep an eye on the daughter-in-laws about to whom they are talking

and who are their friends and even she used to go to an extent that she used to go to their friends home and used to criticize them.

Table: 5.14

### **Taking decision with regard to schooling of children**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Can decide independently	40	20.0	20.0
2.	Had to consult someone	17	8.5	28.5
3.	Had to follow instruction	91	45.5	74.0
4.	No children	52	26.0	100.0
		200	100.0	

According to the above mentioned table it is clearly visible that women are not even given right to decide the schooling for their children. It is always said that a mother is a better judge for their children. She can take good and right decisions for their children's better future. But in majority of cases the woman is not even given the right to take decisions for her own son or daughter. In majority of respondents they said that they cannot speak in front of their husbands or in-laws or in other words taking decision with regard to schooling of their children. Majority i.e. 45.5%. of respondent said that they just had to follow instructions. Other most of the respondents were not having children almost 26% . Very few said that they were given the right to decide independently that is 20% women, and 8.5% respondents said that they always had to consult some or other member of the house with regard to taking important decision for their children or schooling. This table and data clearly suggests the pitiable situation of Indian wives who cannot even take decision for the child whom she has given birth. Sometimes its husband, sometimes mother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, father-in-laws etc. whose instructions they have to follow or she had to consult. In this democratic country she is not free to take decision

even in matters of schooling of her children. This again at many times became a reason for physical and emotional violence in the family.

Table: 5.15

**Have to take permission to meet natal family**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Yes	167	83.5	83.5
2.	No	33	16.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The data in the table reveals that 83.5% of the respondents are of the opinion that they always had to take permission to meet natal family. Natal family for a woman is very important. Most often, when the daughter gets married, each parent enters a new phase of life since she leaving the house not only being the favorite child, whose life was taken care of by the parents, but also on behalf of his daughter's best friend goes for mom, caring girl for my daddy and in general a huge part of life.

Of course, most daughters continued to maintain close relationships with their parents, even having her own family and children. But here in the relationships between parents and adult married daughter, rarely remain the same; in any case there is some rearrangement of roles and manners of communication. And how much is reasonable and sensitively perceived by the new circumstances of both parties, and decides the subsequent fate of the relationship.

Of course, the most ideal situation is when after the period of marriage, a daughter has been able to emerged as an individual and has gained some psychological independence from parents. And the parents themselves, in turn, should give her daughter an opportunity to dispose of their own lives, that is, the right to make their own decisions and bear the consequences,

trusting her own powers and abilities. But in life, this scenario comes true very often. What tips will help to avoid or resolve conflicts that arise? Causes of conflict are odd enough, but as daughter is married, these causes are almost always a complete surprise to the parents that is, they can certainly know about the event, but be prepared in advance is not always possible. Let us first consider the causes of conflict? Mother's feel hard to reconcile with the fact that her daughter is with her on an equal footing, or in some areas exceeds it. Conflict arises when the mother cannot go with the pointing and care tone for relations between two adult women and to give his daughter the right to do something differently.

Next problem – is this feeling of uselessness, daughter safely does without her mother's advice, and is able to devote more time to her married relation and family. But interferences of parents or natal family makes this issue complicated at times.

In parent's side in relation to the daughters, more often the fathers especially care and control. Therefore, ordinary everyday quarrels (and they occur in all families), causes her father a storm of feelings and deny objective views of the situations. It's his favorite daughter who sits offended and upset, so letting her be alone in the needs her in-law and not interfere in family matters of adult children are difficult task for father. Therefore, it is most often the father is urged to solve conflict situations, defending his "baby." When a girl gets married she had to leave all her dear relations and she has to go in a family where everybody is a stranger and again and again she feels like going to the natal family. In majority of the cases the respondents said that they were not allowed to go and meet their parents. Whenever they use to ask they were said no to go to their natal homes. Most of the respondents said that they had to take permission from their husband or in-laws to go and visit and they also said that taking permission or asking to visit use to turn in emotional violence and sometimes physical also. Very few respondents i.e. 16.5% said that they never took permission for visiting natal family. But 16.5% is again very less in comparison to 83.5%. It clearly gives us the picture of apathy of women.

Table: 5.16

**With regard to buy something for oneself**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
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1.	Can decide independently	56	28.0	28.0
2.	Had to follow instructions	108	54.0	82.0
3.	Had to consult someone	36	18.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

As evident from the above table, that majority of women were not even given freedom to buy anything for herself. In majority of the cases the respondents said that they were not given money for anything. They were always told that “if you want to buy anything go and get money from your natal home or parents and then purchase”. Many respondents pointed that they were not even given 10 rupees when they needed. Majority of women that is 54% said that they always use to follow the instructions which was given to them by the members of her husband’s family. Others said that to buy something for one own self is a small thing and they can decide that independently 28% rest of others 18% said that to buy anything for oneself like dress, sari, footwear, clothes for children or for everything thing else they had to consult first with mother-in-law or father-in-law. Majority of the respondents said that they never felt free in their homes. Even in many cases the freedom to buy sanitary pads, which is the most important and basic need for a woman also, they had to ask from or consult somebody from the family. Most of them said that they just use to follow the instructions which use to come from husband, parent-in-laws, and sister-in-law. In such a democratic country where it is mentioned in the fundamental rights itself that everybody has equal rights for speech, equality, property etc. in that country women are not at all free yet even to buy things for her own self.

Table: 5.17

### **Respondents autonomy in decision making**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Yes	50	25.0	25.0
2.	No	150	75.0	100.0

Total	200	100.0	
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The data shows that about 75% respondents have answered in “No” for autonomy regarding decision making. For understanding this table first of all we have to understand what the word autonomy means. **Autonomy** (Ancient Greek αὐτονομία *autonomia* from αὐτόνομος *autonomos* from αὐτο- *auto-* "self" + νόμος *nomos*, "law", hence when combined understood to mean “one who gives oneself their own law” is a concept found in moral, political, and bioethical philosophy. Within these contexts, it is the capacity of a rational individual to make an informed, un-coerced decision. In moral and political philosophy, autonomy is often used as the basis for determining moral responsibility and accountability for one's actions, choices, mistakes, failures, etc. In medicine, respect for the autonomy of patients is an important goal of, though it can conflict with a competing ethical principle. Autonomy is also used to refer to the self-government of the people. The above mentioned table is all about the autonomy regarding making decisions in the family. Even from table (5.13, 5.14, 5.15, and 5.16) it is clearly shown that there is no autonomy regarding decision making. Majority of women that is 75% said that they did not have any autonomy regarding making decisions. Very few of them replied in Yes that they have autonomy regarding decisions that is 25%. Most of the women said that they never used to take anything of their own choice, cannot go anywhere, not even to the grocery shop.

Table: 5.18

### Reasons for inferior status of married women in our society

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Male dominating society	123	61.5	61.5
2.	Sex discrimination policy	23	11.5	73.0
3.	Illiteracy	12	6.0	79.0
4.	Domestic problems	1	0.5	79.5

5.	All of the above	41	20.5	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

To know from the women themselves about why they became the victims of domestic violence and even to know what do they think why domestic violence is such a common but major social problem of India this attempt was made in the present study and a question was asked from the respondents that what do they think what is the reason for the inferior status of women in our society. Majority of respondents 61.5% pointed that it is because India is a patriarchal society or mainly male dominating one. A Patriarchy literally means "the rule of the father and comes from the Greek (πατριάρχης (*patriarkhēs*), "father of a race" or "chief of a race, patriarchy which is a compound of πατρία (*patria*), "lineage, descent (from πατήρ - *patēr*, "father") and ἄρχω (*arxō*), "I rule". Historically, the term patriarchy was used to refer to autocratic rule by the male head of a family. However, in modern times, it more generally refers to social systems in which power is primarily held by adult men. It is always said to a girl that she has to obey her husband when she will get married, obey whatever he says, husband is your lord, god. She should always keep her husband happy. Then the second reason given was is the sex discrimination policy being responsible for this condition of women in Indian society. In Indian society sex discrimination is very commonly seen. In other words we can call it gender discrimination that is again is responsible in increasing domestic violence. Many respondents (11.5%) said that the reason of inferior status of women is because of sex discrimination policies which are prevailing in Indian society. Many respondents upto 6% also said that illiteracy is another reason for their inferior status because most of the girls do not receive higher education or even primary education that is why they are always dependent on their husbands and they had to tolerate whatever their husbands say or do whether it is physical torture, mental or sexual etc. They tolerate because they do not have any other option left. They are helpless. As women who are not having proper education, depend on their husbands for each and every thing and that again lead them to tolerating violence. Education is one of the most important characteristics that might affect the person's attitudes and the way of looking and understanding any particular social phenomena. In a way, the response of an individual is likely to be determined by his/her educational status and therefore it becomes imperative to know the educational background of

the respondents. Hence the variable 'Educational level' was investigated by the researcher and the data pertaining to education is presented in 0.5%. Such respondents said that Domestic problems are also responsible for the inferior status of the women. Many respondents 20.5% even said that all the reasons are valid reasons for the inferior status of married women like male dominating society where husbands are called as *pati parmeshwar* whatever he do it's the duty of every wife to tolerate and be at his service, sex discrimination is also responsible as well as illiteracy is one main and major important reason for inferiority.

Table: 5.19

### Starting of the domestic violence after marriage

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Immediately	97	48.5	48.5
2.	Within 6 months	49	24.5	73.0
3.	Within 1 year	22	11.0	84.0
4.	Within 2 years	18	9.0	93.0
5.	After 2 years	14	7.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The above mentioned table is clearly suggesting that in majority of the cases the violence got started soon after marriage. Marriage is an important institution in Indian society. A girl has so many big dreams when she gets married. But it is seen that the majority of women saying that soon she gets married all type of tortures begins. Majority of women respondents that is 48.5% said that violence started soon or immediately the next day of her marriage. Some 24.5% respondents said that domestic violence started within the duration of 6 months due to some silly reasons. Other 11% respondents pointed that domestic violence started within 1 year of marriage. Cases of violence starting within period of 2 years of married life were very few only about 9% and others who said it started after 2 years of good married life was only 7%. All the respondents said that emotional violence started immediately after marriage but physical violence started



after 1 year or so. Some said immediately physical violence got started. They even mentioned many different reasons for violence that is mentioned in Chapter 6. Domestic violence is most commonly seen in newly married couples.

Table: 5.20

**Response with regard to a husband  
who beats his wife  
is an ideal husband**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Yes	44	22.0	22.0
2.	No	156	78.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The above mentioned table reveals the response with regard to a husband who beats his wife is an ideal husband. Majority of the respondents that is 78% said that No, that a husband who beats his wife is not an ideal man. In Indian society in many parts people have a thinking that husbands have full right to beat his wife and the husband who does not beat has an affair with somebody else. Very few respondents said Yes for this and that is only 22%.

Table:5.21

**Types of advises given by informal sources**

Sr.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Advised to patch up	134	67.0	67.0

2.	Advised to seek formal help	25	12.5	79.5
3.	Advised to break off	25	12.5	92.0
4.	Showed no interest	16	8.0	100.0
Total		200	100.0	

The above mentioned data shows that various types of advices are given by the informal sources. Majority of the respondents that is 67% said that they were advised to do patch up and forget everything and start from a new thought. 12.5% respondents said that they were advised to take some formal help like going to police. Another 12.5% women said that they were advised to break off with the husband and not to tolerate such violence and humiliation. Only 8% respondents said that nobody was interested and they said that whatever according to them is correct do that.

### ➤ Conclusion

The socio-cultural background of the women respondent is very important for current research. Culture is defined as a learned behavior which has been socially learned and in other words it is the learned and organized body of customs, skills, ideas and values which are transmitted socially from one generation to another. In our society domestic violence is considered as a normal phenomenon and a private matter. The socio-cultural backgrounds of the respondents are also essential and it reflects the knowledge about the cultural background. Culture also plays an important role in human societies. It lays down norms of behavior and provides mechanism which secures for an individual, personal and social survival. Culture includes everything which one generation can tell, convey or hand down to the next generation. In Indian society cultured girl or wife is the one who follows her husband on every path, obeys his command. She is always told these things from early childhood. In her socialization itself her mother tries to transmit what she got from her parents. She is always asked to be ready to give her services. She is always told to guide her action, she should never show her reaction, and she should be patient, calm, and tolerant. Even when she gets married a mother always transmits her own values and beliefs to the daughter and then she has to live with all that.

Tolerating domestic violence is more culturally learned behavior. Age of the respondents at the time of marriage and domestic violence is very closely related to each other. Lower the age more the domestic violence. It is assumed that lower the age the more will be the domestic violence and the present study also shows that lower the age at the time of marriage then more domestic violence is there because if the girl is married at the age of 18 then it is said that she is not matured enough, she has less education so she is always a dependent member in the family. She always has to depend on her husband or parent-in-laws for small things. In the present study when researcher was going to field even it was noticed that most of the girls are married at the age of 15 or 16 but legally the marriage age for a girl is 18 years but nobody bothers for that. Qualification and domestic violence also are related as it is seen that lower the qualification then more domestic violence and more qualified the girl is, then less domestic violence.

Less Qualified Girl-----→ More Family Violence

More Qualified Girl-----→ Less Family Violence

It's because if the girl gets married at an early age then she is not able to complete her education then after marriage it is said to a girl handle the family and she decides to leave studies she becomes a dependent member and for small-small things she has to ask from husband or parent-in-laws and its observed that it gives rise to emotional and economical violence.

In short, inquiries regarding occupations, marital status, family structure etc. also suggest influence of parents, relatives, peers and society. Some scholars have laid emphasis on patriarchal society. In respect of these researchers it would now be interesting to know how patriarchal values, beliefs operates in the tolerance of domestic violence in Baroda city. Further, it would make an interesting part to understand the patriarchal society, its values, ideas, beliefs, norms etc. and how caste, religion, education, social class, marriage serve as factors which influence domestic violence.

The purpose of this inquiry would be to focus more on the present condition of women and their background, their values and beliefs about themselves and about the society. Hence, the next chapter intends to deal with domestic violence, various types, and causes of violence in the family and consequences on the women and society.

