

CHAPTER – VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION



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Domestic violence against women is one of the important mental, Socio-physiological problem that not only damages the state of its most important resources but also it ruins most of the individual lives in the families. The victimized women are conditioned by society to accept violence silently. An Indian girl child is taught to believe that it is all right to be violated. The perpetrator is usually the male spouse, against whom she rarely speaks. There is an urgent need for women to recognize abuse and stand up for themselves. The patriarchal form of society in human civilization and the economic subordination of women also went long way in making her vulnerable to domestic violence all over the globe.

The term domestic violence is neutral, but it has been found that it is usually a crime perpetrated by men against women. Violence against women persists in all places of the world as a blatant and pervasive violation of human rights and dignity. Violence against woman is a major deference to attaining the ideal of gender equality. It is important to identify the forms and manifestations of violence against women in different regions, and formulate effective strategies to prevent it. The plans of action need to be effective in terms of implement ability.

Domestic Violence against women is a wide spread problem. However, its actual extent is difficult to measure. It may be very much higher than that the



reports indicate because many instances of Domestic Violence against women are not reported. The research studies and surveys conducted by individuals generally produce higher estimates of violence than official records. However, they are also assumed to underestimate the actual extent of Domestic Violence against women. For a variety of reasons, women may fail to report violence that takes place in the family. According to available statistics from around the world, about 33 percent of the women have experienced violence in one form or the other in their intimate relationship at some point in their life.

6.1 Population base Survey (1999) *reveals

1. 10% over 50% women experienced physical assault
2. Among them 1/3 to ½ reported sexual abuses
3. 40 to 75% women in the world with physical abuses from their partners
4. one out of 4 women were physically or sexual abuses doing pregnancy

6.2 About 70% of women between 15 to 49 years of age are victims (Rape of forced sex) by their husbands according the united nations population found report 2005

In India- According to nations family health servey-11, 1998-99

1. 50% of women were accepted wife beating
2. 40% for negligence of house of children
3. 7% for dowry



4. 25-37% for other reasons
5. 37.2% married women subjected to violence and abuses
6. State of Bihar tops-58%
7. Himalaya Pradesh reports less in domestic violence
8. Due to Economics dependent also the cause for Domestic Violence

This is an average based on available national surveys across industrialized and developing countries published in the report of the World Health Organization in 1997. In India, the actual prevalence of Domestic Violence against women is scant.

International research has shown that spousal violence is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women. Hence, violence perpetrated by the husband is measured in more detail than violence by other perpetrators. Specifically, violence by husbands is measured by using a greatly shortened and modified Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) (Strauss, 1990). The CTS has been found to be effective in measuring domestic violence and can be easily adapted for use in different cultural situations. In NFHS-3, spousal physical and sexual violence is measured using the following set of questions:

Asking about the experience of specific acts of violence, rather than about the experience of violence in general, has the advantage of removing



from the measurement of violence the effect of variations in the understanding and interpretation of what constitutes violence. A woman has to say whether she has, for example, ever been slapped, not whether she has ever experienced any violence. Most women would probably agree on what constitutes a slap, but what constitutes a violent act or is understood as violence, may vary among women, as it does across cultures. In fact, summary terms such as 'abuse' or 'violence' were also avoided during the NFHS-3 training of interviewers, and not used at all in the title, design, or implementation of the module. This approach of inquiring about a wide range of acts has the additional advantage of giving the respondent multiple opportunities to disclose any experience of violence and of allowing an assessment of the severity of violence.

Women's experience of the different types of violence varies greatly by state. In all states, however, physical violence alone tends to be the most common form of violence. Sexual violence rarely occurs without physical violence. Any sexual violence (with or without physical violence) ranges from one percent in Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya to 16 percent in Tripura, 17 percent in Bihar and Rajasthan, and 18 percent in West Bengal. In our state Andhra Pradesh also some of the cases were recorded recently about sexual violence against women, but they have not come to light.

Although the use of a CTS-type approach in the measurement of domestic violence is generally considered to be optimal, the possibility of underreporting of



violence, particularly of sexual violence, cannot be entirely ruled out in any survey. Caution should always be exercised in interpreting both the overall prevalence of violence and differentials in prevalence between subgroups of the population. While a large part of any substantial difference in prevalence of violence between subgroups is likely to reflect actual differences, differential under reporting across subgroups can also contribute to exaggerating or narrowing the differences in prevalence to an unknown extent.

6.3 Need and significance of the study

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

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



Similarly, earlier studies on domestic violence focused more on the root causes and veracity of domestic violence would enable the society to present before the judiciary, legislature and executive on the gravity of the problem and thereby influence them to formulate and execute laws that would uphold the dignity of women in a manner that would give them justice. This would also assist the local bodies at the grass root levels to be vigilant against the menace and chalk out meaningful and effective measures to create a blockage to domestic violence against them by empowering them through the efforts of SHG.

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

6.4 Objectives

2. To study the socio-economic profile of women under study.
3. To study the services which address domestic violence in terms of availability, and effectiveness and to suggest measures for improving them.
4. To analyze the existing types of domestic violence in terms of socio-economic characteristics.
5. To analyze the causative factors for violence
6. To suggest suitable measures for reducing the occurrence and



prevalence of domestic violence.

7. To find out the different types of domestic violence prevalent in the state
8. To find out the consequences/impact of violence on women in terms of personal, familial, social and cultural levels
9. To have a situational analysis of domestic violence against women in Visakhapatnam.

6.5 Major findings of the study

1. Violence against women and girls continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures, and maims – physically, psychologically, sexually and economically. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women and girls towards equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms.
2. Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though most societies prescribe violence against women, the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the garb of cultural practices and norms, or through misinterpretation of religious tenets. Moreover, when the violation takes place within the home, as is very often the case, the abuse is effectively condemned by the tacit silence and the passivity displayed by the state and the law-enforcing machinery.



3. Most of the data from the study on violence against women are believed to be not only conservative, but unreliable. Studies are vary in the sample size of women chosen, and the ways in which questions have been posed. It is difficult to compare these studies because of inconsistency in the definition of domestic violence and in the parameters used, which can range from physical abuse alone, to physical, sexual and psychological abuse.
4. The study has also linked a rise in violence to the destabilization? of economic patterns in society. Macro-economic policies such as structural adjustment programmes, globalization, and the growing inequalities they have created, have been and linked to increasing levels of violence in several reasons.
5. Increases in poverty, unemployment, hardship, income inequality, stress, and alcohol abuse – has led to increased violence in society in general, including violence against women. These factors also act indirectly to raise women's vulnerability by encouraging more risk-taking behaviour, abuse, the breakdown of social support networks, and the economic dependence of women on their partners.
6. The study noticed that the physical punishment of wives has been particularly sanctioned under the notation of entitlement and ownership of women. control of the family wealth by male inevitably places decision-making authority in the hands of male, leading to male dominance and proprietary rights over women



7. Informed consent for the survey was obtained from the respondent with individual interview. In addition, at the start of the domestic violence section, each respondent was read a statement informing her that she was now going to be asked questions that could be personal in nature because they explored different aspects of the relationship between couples. The statement reassured the respondent that her answers were completely confidential and would not be told to anyone else and that no one else in the household would be asked these questions.
8. The impact of violence on women's mental health leads to severe and fatal consequences. Battered women have a high incidence of stress and stress-related illnesses such as post-traumatic stress syndrome, panic attacks, depression, sleeping and eating disturbances, elevated blood pressure, alcoholism, drug abuse, and low self-esteem. For some women, fatally depressed and demeaned by their abuser, there seems to be no escape from a violent relationship except suicide.
9. The domestic violence module was specially designed to allow the interviewer to continue the interview only if privacy was obtained. If privacy could not be obtained, the interviewer was instructed to skip the module, thank the respondent, and end the interview. In India, less than one percent of women selected for interview with the module can not be interviewed because of privacy considerations.
10. Children, who have witnessed domestic violence or have themselves been abused, exhibit health and behaviour problems, including problems with



their weight, their eating and their sleep. They may have difficulty at school and find it hard to develop close and positive friendships. They may try to run away or even display suicidal tendencies.

11. There is a significant difference between age of the respondents and their spouse. It shows that there is notable age difference among women respondents and their spouse.
12. There is a significant difference between caste of the respondents and their spouse. It shows that there is caste difference among women respondents and their spouse. A significant number of respondents were identified inter-caste marriage.
13. There is a significant difference in religion of the respondents and their spouse. It inferred that there is notable religion difference among women respondents with their spouse.
14. There is a significant difference between literacy levels of the respondents and spouse. It shows that there is literacy difference between women respondents and their spouse.
15. There is no significant difference of age at marriage of respondents and their spouse.
16. There is a significant difference between the occupation of respondents and their spouse. It shows that there is a difference among women respondents and their spouse in occupation.



Although most women interviewed do not ask for help, some abused women may ask the interviewer for assistance. To prepare for this possibility, all field organizations involved in the implementation of NFHS-3 were required to put together a list of organizations in their state that, assist women in distress. This list was provided to interviewers and interviewers were specially trained to provide this information in a confidential and safe manner when asked by respondents.

6.6 Conclusions

There is no single factor to account for violence perpetrated against women. Increasingly, research has focused on the inter-relatedness of various factors that would improve our understanding of the problem within different cultural contexts.

Several complex and interconnected institutionalized socio-cultural factors have kept women particularly vulnerable to the violence directed at them. All the manifestations of historically unequal power relations between men and women. Factors contributing to these unequal power relations include: socio-economic forces, the family institution where power relations are enforced, fear and control over female sexuality, belief in the inherent superiority of males, and legislation and cultural sanctions that have traditionally denied women and children an independent legal and social status.

Lack of economic resources underpins women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves from a violent relationship. The link



between violence and lack of economic resources and dependence is circular. On the other hand, the threat and fear of violence keeps women from seeking employment, or compels them to accept low-paid, home-based exploitative labour. The other, without economic independence, women have no power to escape from an abusive relationship.

Women who want to speak about their experiences of domestic violence may find it difficult to do so because of the feelings of shame or fear. They need to establish report with the respondent and ensure confidentiality and privacy during the interview. It is important for all parts of the survey, but it is especially-critical in ensuring the validity of domestic violence data. Complete privacy is also essential for ensuring the security of both interviewer and respondent. Asking about violence or reporting violence, especially in households where the perpetrator may present at the time of interview, carries the risk of further violence.

Differentials in prevalence by women's education are substantial. A significant number of women with no education have experienced violence at some time since the age of early, and highest percent have experienced violence. These proportions decline steadily with education and the corresponding proportions for women who have completed secondary or more education are above twenty percent. The percentage of women often experiencing violence in the past one year also declines with education, from six percent for women with illiterates to five percent for women who have the high



level of education. However, among women who have experienced violence since the early age, there is much less variation in the experience of violence in the past one year across educational levels. Women who were employed at any time in the past 12 months have a much higher prevalence of violence percent) than women who were not employed, although the corresponding differential in the experience of violence in the past one year is much smaller.

Two-thirds of currently divorced, separated, or deserted women have experienced violence at some time since early age, twice the national average. Currently married women and widowed women have a much higher prevalence of violence than never married women or women whose gauna has not yet been performed. This is not surprising since spousal violence for women age 15-49 is the most common form of domestic violence. The prevalence of violence does not vary by household structure.

Differentials by religion and caste/tribe status are large. Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist women report the highest level of violence, followed by Muslim and Hindu women, and Sikh and Christian women. Prevalence of violence is also much higher among women belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes than among women not belonging to these categories. While there is a variation in violence in the past 12 months by religion and caste/tribe has a similar pattern, the differentials are much smaller.

Differentials across wealth quintiles are also large. The prevalence of the experience of physical violence since the age of 15 declines sharply and steadily



with increasing wealth status from 45 percent for women in the lowest wealth quintile to 19 percent for women in the highest wealth quintile. The corresponding decline in the experience of violence in the past 12 months is from 27 percent among women in the lowest quintile to 9 percent among women in the highest quintile. Notably, among women who have experienced violence since the age of 15, the proportion that have experienced violence in the past 12 months does not vary as much by wealth talus. Sixty-two percent of women in the lowest quintile who have experienced violence since the age of 15 have experienced violence in the past 12 months, and this proportion declines lowly to 45 percent among women in the highest quintile. Thus, it is evident that even among the wealthiest groups, one of every five women has ever experienced physical violence, and among those who have experienced violence, almost half have experienced violence in the recent past.

Among women who reported having experience any physical violence at some time since the early age, the study identifies who committed the violence by providing the nature of the relationship between the perpetrator of the violence and the respondent. Data are shown separately by current marital status of the respondent, although the violence being reported by ever married women may have occurred before or after having been married. Since women could have experienced violence at the hands of more than one person, the percent ages do not sum to 100.

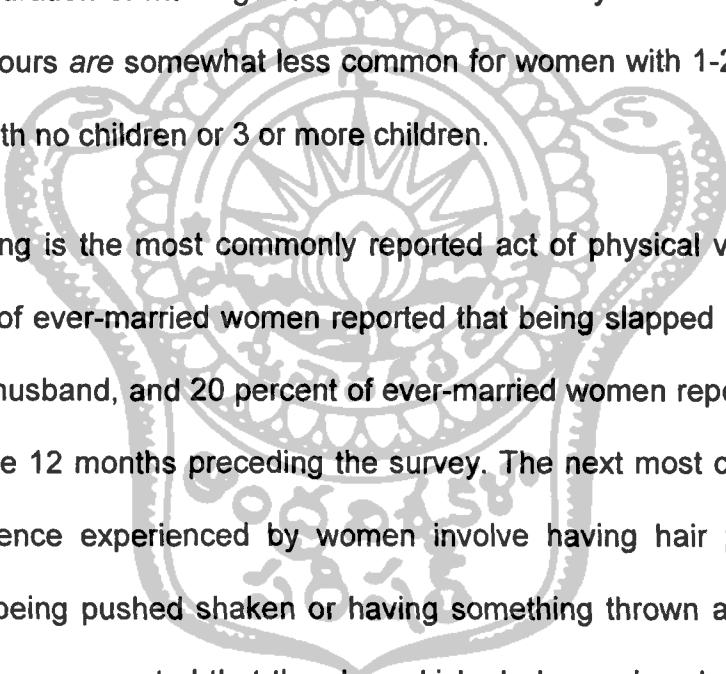


As expected, almost all ever-married women who have experienced violence reported that current or former husband as the person who inflicted violence. Eighty-five percent of ever-married women who have experienced violence since the age of 15 and experienced it from their current husband. Only 2 percent mentioned that a mother-in-law as the perpetrator. Never married women and women whose gauna has not been performed mainly report family members, particularly mothers, as the person committing the violence. Notably, about one in seven of these women reported that violence at the hands of a teacher.

The proportion of women whose husbands show three or more controlling behaviours declines with age. Husbands of the youngest married women appear to be the most controlling, with 34 percent reporting that their husbands are jealous or angry when they talk to other men; 21 percent reporting that their husbands do not trust them with money; and 19 percent reporting that their husbands do not permit them to meet their female friends. While rural women are more likely to report controlling behaviours by their husbands than urban women, the differentials tend to be relatively small. The proportion of women experiencing controlling behaviours also tends to decline with increasing education and wealth, and is higher for women who are employed, particularly if employed for cash, than if they are not employed. Differentials by religion and caste/tribe are also evident.



Most of the behaviours asked about are most evident for women who have been married more than once or who are currently divorced, separated, or deserted. Only 11 percent of currently married women who have been married only once reported that their husbands display three or more of the behaviours asked about, compared with 21 percent of women who have been married more than once, and 40 percent of women who are divorced, separated, or deserted. The proportion of women reporting controlling behaviours by their husbands do not vary by duration of marriage for women married only once. In general, most of the behaviours are somewhat less common for women with 1-2 children, than for women with no children or 3 or more children.



Slapping is the most commonly reported act of physical violence. Thirty-four percent of ever-married women reported that being slapped by their current most recent husband, and 20 percent of ever-married women report having been slapped in the 12 months preceding the survey. The next most common acts of physical violence experienced by women involve having hair pulled or arms twisted and being pushed shaken or having something thrown at them. Twelve percent of women reported that they been kicked, dragged, or beaten up, and 2 percent report that their husbands tried to choke or bum them in purpose. Overall, 35 percent of women report having experienced physical violence at the hands of their current husband.

Prevalence by religion shows that the rates are highest for Christian women, women belonging to the 'other' religion category, Muslim women, and



Hindu women experienced the lowest levels of violence. By caste/tribe, rates of violence are highest for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women. However, even though women not belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, or other backward classes have a lower prevalence, nearly one out of three of these women have experienced spousal physical or sexual violence. Prevalence of spousal physical or sexual violence declines sharply with the wealth index from a high of 49 percent for women in the lowest wealth quintile to a low of 18 percent for women in the highest wealth quintile.

The contextual and intergenerational aspect of spousal violence is clear from the fact that women whose mothers were beaten by their fathers are twice as likely to report all forms of violence as women whose mothers were not beaten by their fathers. In fact, women reported that their fathers beat their mothers have a higher prevalence of physical or sexual violence than women in any other population subgroup.

Habituated alcoholic husband have significantly higher rates of violence than women whose husbands do not drink at all; emotional violence is three times as high, physical violence is more than two times as high, and sexual violence is four times as high for women whose husbands are frequently drunk, compared with women whose husbands do not drink. Notably, the prevalence of emotional, physical, or sexual violence, at 72 percent, of women whose husbands are frequently drunk is also much higher than for women whose husbands drink alcohol but are either never or only sometimes drunk. The high



prevalence of spousal violence even among women whose husbands do not take alcohol indicates that alcohol consumption is not only explanation for the high prevalence of spousal violence in India.

The prevalence of spousal violence does not vary much with spousal age difference: however, prevalence does vary greatly by spousal educational difference. Couples in which both husband and wife are equally educated have the lowest prevalence of physical or sexual violence and couples in which neither the husband nor the wife is educated have the highest prevalence. Couples in which the husband is better educated than the wife have a somewhat higher prevalence than couples in which the wife is better educated. As expected, the number of marital control behaviours exhibited by husbands is strongly and positively associated with the prevalence of violence. Twenty-six percent of women stated that husbands none of the six marital control behaviours asked about report experiencing physical or sexual violence, compared with 81 percent of women whose husbands display five to six of these behaviours.

Women who have experienced both physical and sexual violence are at the highest risk of injury; more than fifty percent of them report one or more types of injury. Among women who report having experienced both physical and sexual violence in the past one year, around sixty percent suffered one or more types of injury. The proportions who report having one or more types of injury is higher among women who report ever experiencing sexual violence than those who report ever experiencing physical violence. The data attest to



the very high incidence of injuries resulting from domestic violence and show that at least one in seven ever-married women between the age 15-49 in India have suffered injury resulting from acts of spousal violence.

6.7 Suggestions

Accordingly, in the study, interviewers had provided information about the domestic violence based on characters of the individuals specially developed to enable the investigator to collect violence data in a secure, confidential and ethical manner. The main goals of this investigation were to sensitize society to the issues of gender violence and to teach the accused for preventing and built self confident among respondents rapport and confidence in order to maximize disclosure to manage safety and ethical concerns that are specific to domestic violence, including ways of obtaining privacy and handling interruptions; and to achieve solution for maintaining strict confidence.

Despite the differentials by wealth, data suggested that high rates of all forms of violence in even the wealthiest households.

The relationship between gender and domestic violence is a controversial topic and continues to be debate about the rates at which each gender is subjected to domestic violence and whether abused men should be provided the same resources and shelters that exist for women victims. In particular, some studies suggest that men are less likely to report being victims of domestic



violence due to social stigmas.¹²⁸ Other sources, however, argue that the rate of domestic violence against men is often inflated due to the practice of including self-defense as a form of domestic violence.¹²⁹

What is also particularly striking about help-seeking behaviour among women who have ever experienced violence is the virtual lack of differentials by most background characteristics, including education and wealth. Overall the data suggest that neither education nor wealth imply a greater likelihood that women will seek help against violence. There is even some indication that the most educated women and women in the highest wealth quintile are less likely to seek help than less educated or less wealthy women. The largest differentials by background characteristics are found by religion. Muslim women (who are least likely to report experiencing any violence) and Christian women (who are most likely to report experiencing violence) are the least likely to seek help. Christian women are most likely to seek help.

There is an urgent need for women to recognize abuse and stand up for themselves. The patriarchal form of society in human civilization and the economic subordination of women also go a long way in making her vulnerable to domestic violence all over the globe.

¹²⁸ Carney M, Buttell F, Dutton D (2007). "Women who perpetrate intimate partner violence: A review of the literature with recommendations for treatment". *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 12 (1): 108–15.

¹²⁹ Neil S. Jacobson and John M. Gottman, "When Men Batter Women: New Insights into Ending Abusive Relationships", New York, Simon & Schuster (1998)



A Canadian study by Mark W. Lehman¹³⁰ suggests similarities include frequency (approximately one in every four couples); manifestations (emotional, physical, financial, etc.); co-existent situations (unemployment, substance abuse, low self-esteem); victims' reactions (fear, feelings of helplessness, hyper vigilance); and reasons for staying (love, can work it out, things will change, denial). At the same time, significant differences, unique issues and deceptive myths are typically present.

"Dutton has suggested a psychological profile of men who abuse their wives, arguing that they have borderline personalities that are developed early in life.¹³¹ However, these psychological theories are disputed: Gelles suggests that psychological theories are limited, and points out that other researchers have found that only 10% (or less) fit this psychological profile. He argues that social factors are important, while personality traits, mental illness, or psychopaths are lesser factors.¹³²

To meet the challenge of increasing domestic violence Criminal Acts were amended in 1983 and 1986 to create special categories of offences to deal with cruelty to wives, dowry harassment and dowry deaths. Some special laws for example Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and Sati Prevention Act, 1987 were enacted. But laws to prevent violence against women have proved inadequate

¹³⁰ Lehman, Mark (2007). "At the End of the Rainbow: A Report on Gay Male Domestic Violence and Abuse" (PDF). Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse. <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/rainbow/At%20The%20End%20Of%20The%20Rainbow.pdf..>

¹³¹ Dutton, D. G., A. J. Starzomski (1993). "Borderline Personality in Perpetrators of Psychological and Physical Violence". *Violence and Victims* 8: 327–37.

¹³² Straus MA (1980). "A Sociological Perspective on the Causes of Family Violence". In Green MR. *Violence and the Family*. Westview.



and new forms of violence are coming to light such as child abuse and violence against elderly women, which point out that totally new approach, is needed to deal with the situation.

The police and judicial authorities are also not very sensitive to gender issues; they often dismiss domestic violence as a private matter. The police are often reluctant to register the case of domestic violence, they also refuse to arrest men who beat their wives and in some cases even intimidate women into withdrawing complaints of spousal abuse. Besides this the tendency is to link day-to-day cruelty and humiliation either to dowry and property-related matters or divorce and legal separation.

All the authorities who deal with the violence against women—the police, public prosecutors and judges—are all products of this society, which propagates anti-women values. Any effort by the legislature to bring about justice to women becomes redundant as it is not supported by the attitude of police and judiciary.

6.8 Suggestions for Policy Implications

1. The reasons for separation/ disturbance in the family or with spouse, male point of view can be undertaken in micro-level.
2. For further studies both women and men view and their arguments can be documented.
3. The members of families of both female and male in violence complaint can be obtained through focus group discussion.
4. Focus group discussion with suffered and violence instigated person



- explanation also be help to find out the causes of violence.
5. Studies can also suggested to examine the truth factors of violence with neighbours and local community eluders/ leaders/ self-help group members/ women leaders.
 6. Research studies involving men should be taken up, in orders to know the point of view of the men.

6.9 Suggestions for the further research

The study has done within a confined area limited to Visakhapatnam city. Therefore, it may be extended the area in entire district or few district or total state for further research.

The present study has investigated some of the limited dimensions of the domestic violence on the women. It may be extend some more dimensions for investigation to effective research in depth on the factors influencing more on domestic violence towards women in India.

The investigator has touch only one category of respondents i.e. urban women. Therefore, there is a need of studying women from not only urban areas but also women from rural and tribal areas who are facing domestic violence.

