

MARRIED WOMEN'S VIEW ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RELATION TO THEIR AGE AND SOCIAL CATEGORY: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF KANDAGHAT BLOCK OF DISTRICT SOLAN

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (Trained Graduate Teacher in Non Medical),
Department of Elementary Education, H. P., India.

ABSTRACT

Violence within home is widespread and affects women throughout the society across all religious, class and caste boundaries. Domestic violence refers to any act of violence in the house. It includes differential treatment of girls, wife beating and abuse, torture of daughters-in-law and neglect of widowed women in the family. Domestic violence is one of the crimes against women which is linked to their disadvantageous position in the society. Therefore, domestic violence is recognized as the significant barriers of the empowerment of women, with consequences of women's health, their health-seeking behaviour and their adoption of small family norm. However, an attempt has been made by the researcher to study married women's view about the domestic violence against them. The present study has been conducted in the developmental block Kandaghat of district Solan in Himachal Pradesh. The analysis shows that the most of the married women belonging to reserved category are likely to agree with all five reasons in the study for justifying the violence. Again domestic violence is more among women belonging to reserved categories. The reason I was reported as the minimum reason for the domestic violence by ever married women of the age group 20-30 years. The women of the age group 40-50 years viewed the reason II as the minimum cause for domestic violence and the women of the same age group recorded the reason III as least cause for the domestic violence against them. The more such views were recorded by the ever married women of the region who agree with one specific reason for justifying the domestic violence against them.

Key Words: *Violence, domestic violence, age-group, social category.*

Introduction: Violence against women is a serious problem in India. Overall, one-third of women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 10 has experienced sexual violence. In total, 35 percent women have experienced physical or sexual violence. It is reported by NCRB (2015) that women are being exploited at every two minutes. 9.09 lakh are exploited by their husband and family members, 4.70 lakh women are attacked by intention of insult, 2.43 lakh are raped and 88000 are murdered for dowry in a decade. 337922 cases of crime against women were reported in 2014 which were found 11.9% of the total crimes and rate of crime against women was 56.3%. This figure translates into millions of women who have suffered, and continue to suffer, at the hands of husbands and other family members. Physical, sexual and psychological violence strikes women in epidemic proportions worldwide. It crosses every social and economic class, every religion, race and ethnicity. From domestic abuse to rape as a weapon of war, violence against women is a gross violation of their human rights. Not only does it threaten women's health and their social and economic well-being, violence also thwarts global efforts to reduce poverty. Violence is, however, preventable. Although no silver bullet will eliminate it, a combination of efforts that address income, education, health, laws and infrastructure can significantly reduce violence and its tragic consequences. First and foremost, abusive behavior towards women must be viewed as unacceptable. Communities need to have an important role in defining solutions to violence and providing support to victims. And men must be engaged in the process too, as agents of change standing alongside women to end violence. If the world does not address the issue, it stands to suppress the enormous potential of women and girls. When they feel safe, when they are empowered,

women and girls can be game-changers: The catalyst for the next great innovation, the leaders of a more just world. The driving force behind stronger economies (icrw.org/).

Violence against Women: The phrase ‘violence against women’ is a technical term used to collectively refer to violent acts that are primarily or exclusively committed against women. The United Nations General Assembly defines ‘Violence against Women’ as ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.’ The **1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** noted that this violence could be perpetrated by assailants of gender, family members and even the ‘State’ itself and states that “*violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men*” (unhchr.ch). Article 2 of the UN Declaration clarifies and lists some forms of violence as, “Violence against women should encompass, but not be limited to, acts of physical, sexual and psychological violence in the family and the community. These acts include spousal battering, sexual abuse of female children, dowry related violence, rape, including marital rape, and traditional practices harmful to women, such as female genital mutilation. They also include non-spousal violence, sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in educational institutions, trafficking of women, forced prostitution, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state as rape in war.”

The World Health Organization reports that violence against women puts an undue burden on health care services with women who have suffered violence being more likely to need health services and at higher cost, compared to women who have not suffered violence. Several studies have shown a link between poor treatment of women and international violence. These studies show that one of the best predictors of inter and intra-national violence is the maltreatment of women in the society (who.int). For example, when police officers misuse their power as agents of the state to physically and sexually harass and assault victims, the survivors, including women, feel much less able to report the violence. It is standard procedure for police to force entry into the victim's home even after the victim's numerous requests for them to go away. Government agencies often disregard the victim's right to freedom of association with their perpetrator. Shelter workers are often reduced themselves contributing to violence against women by exploiting their vulnerability in exchange for a paying job. But, instead of all this Worldwide Governments and Organizations are actively working to combat violence against women through a variety of programs. A United Nations resolution designated **25th November** as **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** (un.org).

Domestic Violence against Women: Domestic violence that is any act of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society. The perpetrators of domestic violence have often been found to be the males and the victims, their sexual partners. Internationally, one in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in their lifetime by a member of her own family (Heise et al. 1999). Violence with in home is widespread and affects women throughout the society – in wealthy urban households as much as the poorest rural households, across all religious, class and caste boundaries. Domestic violence refers to any act of violence in the house. It includes differential treatment of girls, wife beating and abuse, torture of daughters-in-law and neglect of widowed women in the family. Domestic violence is generally part of a pattern of abusive behaviour and control rather than an isolated act of physical aggression. Physical violence in intimate relationships is almost always accompanied by psychological abuse and, in 1/3rd to over ½ of cases, by sexual abuse (Kumar, S. and Dhiman, R. K., 2013).

Figure A shows the distinct forms of violence against women and girls in different stages of life ranging from discrimination at one end to overt physical and sexual violence at the other. The domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship, such as marriage, dating, family, or cohabitation. It is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, and intimate partner violence (IPV). Women are more likely to be victimized by someone that they are intimate with, commonly called ‘Intimate Partner Violence’ or (IPV). Keats, C. (2009) found that domestic violence is an emotive and complex issue and it will be critical that schools are able to draw upon the expertise of qualified staff (other than teachers) who are best able to deliver specific advice and knowledge. An increase in education on domestic violence and abuse may also lead to an increase in students disclosing violence in their homes. It will be important that appropriate training and support is provided for school staff to be able to deal with this.

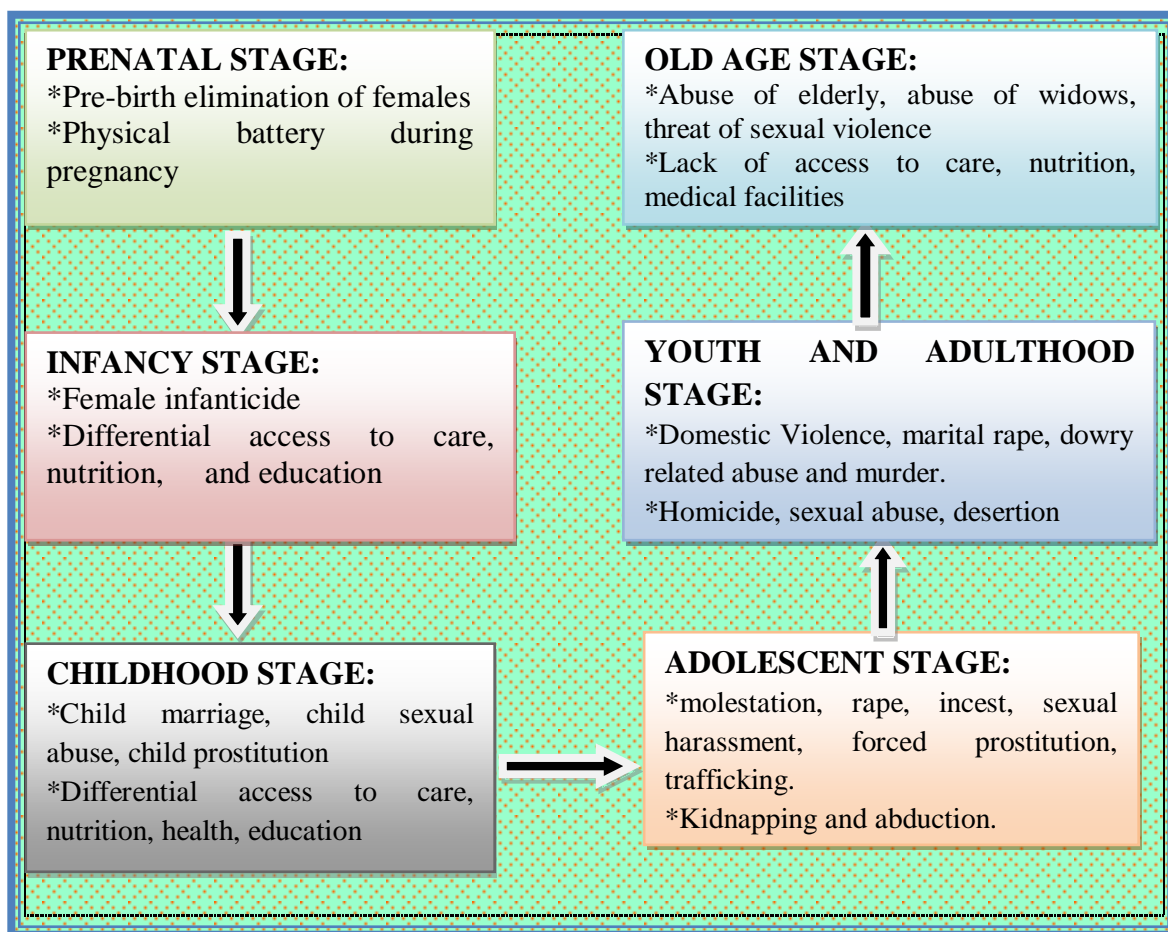


Figure A: Domestic Violence against Women in Different Stage in Life Cycle.

Domestic violence tends to repeat itself down the generations. Today's announcement from the government is a welcome and important opportunity to break this cycle of abuse and ensure future generations are better equipped to resist the misery that domestic violence inflicts on all those caught up in it.

Review of Related Literature: The researcher revisited the related literature in order to find the gap and relationship in studies in the interested field. In view of the prevalence as well as the pervasiveness of domestic violence, many researchers in the past have attempted to assess the situation besides exploring its possible cause and subsequent consequences for society in general and women in particular. Kaur, R. and Garg, S. (2009) conducted study on domestic violence against married women in the age group 18-35 in a rural India and found that women had to suffer even in pregnancy by their alcoholic husbands. Husbands' relatives instigating wife beating was also found common in the study. It is surprising that most of the women preferred to remain silent despite being victimized. Kumar, S. (2015) found that domestic violence is more among women belonging to low educational qualification. It was reported in the study that 63.5% highly educated wives go out without telling their husband is the main reason for the domestic violence against them. The reason II 'wife shows disrespect for in-laws' was recorded as maximum by 52.3% married women and 63.5% women of high educational level were highly agree with the reason III 'wife goes out without telling husband' for justifying the domestic violence against them. But, 12.1% married women having low educational level recorded their minimum view about the reason IV 'wife neglect house/children' for justify the domestic violence against them. 69.7% married women of average educational level reported agree with at least one reason for justifying domestic violence against them. Semahegn, A. et. al. (2013) conducted study on 682 married women and found that the prevalence of domestic violence was 78.0% and about 73.3%, 58.4% and 49.1% of women reported different forms of psychological, physical and sexual violence respectively. Alcoholic nature of husbands, decision making power annual household income and being pregnant were found some of the predictors of domestic violence against women. Sabri, B. and Campbell, J. C. (2015) in a

study of married women in India residence in areas characterized by high violent crime rates was found to be significantly associated with perpetration of both physical and sexual intimate partner violence against women. In the study conducted by Indupalli, A. S. and Giri, P. A. (2014), the lifetime prevalence of sexual partner violence reported by women in the age group of 15-49 years. The majority of women tend to avoid reporting these experiences due to associated shame, reprisal or gender inequity. Rocca, C. H. et. al. (2009) revealed in their study that 56% women experienced physical domestic violence, 27% reported violence in the past 6 months.

It is observed in the review of the related literature that very limited studies were found which concerned with the women's view about domestic violence as justified with specific reasons. Therefore, in the present paper, an attempt has been made to study the view of ever-married women with respect to their age group and social category about domestic violence as justified with some specific reasons or situations in one particular block of Solan district in Himachal Pradesh.

Need and Significance of the Study: The present study is concerned with the domestic violence against women in Kandaghat block of district Solan of Himachal Pradesh. This block is well known for its tomatoes, mushrooms and ginger not in Himachal but other areas also. In Himachal 'BALIKA GAURAV DIVAS' is celebrated to honour the women. According to H. P. Govt. statistics, there are 36026 women in Govt. sector in which 34604 are working on non gazetted posts, 2400 are teachers 1500 are health workers and 1200 are doctors. But, beyond these factors women in HP are daily exploited and domestic violence exists not only in villages but city areas also. In order to develop effective intervention programme and policy, it is vital to know the attitude and perception of the women towards the issue in-depth. Most of the studies conducted in the past reflect the regional picture that might not be a true picture of a particular region. In view of the above discussion, it seems essential and significant to understand the women's viewpoint with respect to their social category in the particular block Kandaghat of district Solan regarding the domestic violence.

Objectives of the Study: The study has the following objectives.

1. To study the Panchayat – wise view of married women of block Kandaghat about agree with specific reasons for justifying the domestic violence against them.
2. To study the ever married women's view about agree with specific reasons for justifying the domestic violence against them with respect to their age.
3. To examine the ever married women's view about agree with specific reasons for justifying the domestic violence against them with respect to their social category.

Materials and Methods:

Type of Study: Community based qualitative study.

Place of Study: The present study of married women view about domestic violence against women was undertaken in a community development block, Kandaghat of district Solan of Himachal Pradesh, India.

Duration of the Study: Ten months, 05.04.2014 to 15.02.2015.

Methodology of the Study: The present study is based on the descriptive research method. Descriptive research studies are designed to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of any phenomena. The researcher collected and provided the type of information of what exists with respect of variables or conditions in a situation. The survey is said to be more realistic than the experiment, in that it investigates phenomena in their natural setting. The researcher preferred and used the method keeping in view the objectives and nature of the study.

Sampling: The present study was carried out on 54 women of one developmental block of district Solan of Himachal Pradesh. The multistage sampling method was used by the investigator. At the first stage the four Panchayats (Jadhana, Kanair, Srinagar and Syri,) from 24 Panchayats of the Block Kandaghat, District Solan were selected randomly. Secondly, two villages per Panchayat were selected by systematic random sampling method and eight villages in total were taken to select the sample. Then, two or three women from each village were included in the sample by their age group (20-30, 30-40 and 40-50 years) conveniently. 09 Open and 09 reserved category women of every specified age group were included. Six or seven women of each category were selected conveniently from each village. The break – up of the total sample is given in Figure B as follows.

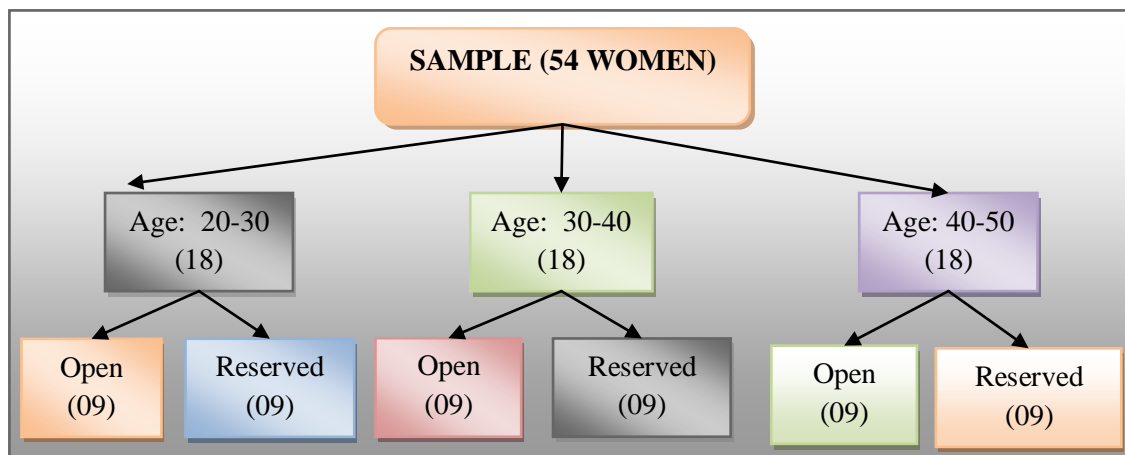


Figure B: The break-up of the stage wise selected sample.

Definitions of Technical Terms: The technical terms used in the study along with their definitions are given as follows.

Age: The age refers to the age of selected women for the interview in the study. The three groups were made as Age (20-30), Age (30-40) and Age (40-50) years.

Social Category: In the study, social category belongs to open and reserved categories. Open category refers to purely general category women according to norms of the State Government. Reserved category women belong to Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) as per the rules of the State Government.

Tool: The investigator has used self developed questionnaire to collect the requisite data in the field. The study is focused on the four basic reasons of domestic violence against women, viz., (I) husband suspects wife, (II) wife shows disrespect for in-laws, (III) wife goes out without telling husband and (IV) wife neglect house/children, from which women (V) agree at least one reason for the violence selected in the study.

Data Collected Technique: Semi structured interview technique is used in the study. The view of married women regarding the domestic violence against them is recorded in the form of four basic reasons each comprised of five simple items. The items were selected after taking the expertise view and administered to the target population personally and perfect rapport was maintained during the process.

Statistical Technique Used: All the data tabulated categorically and the simple percentage technique is used to analyze the collected data keeping in view the qualitative approach of the study.

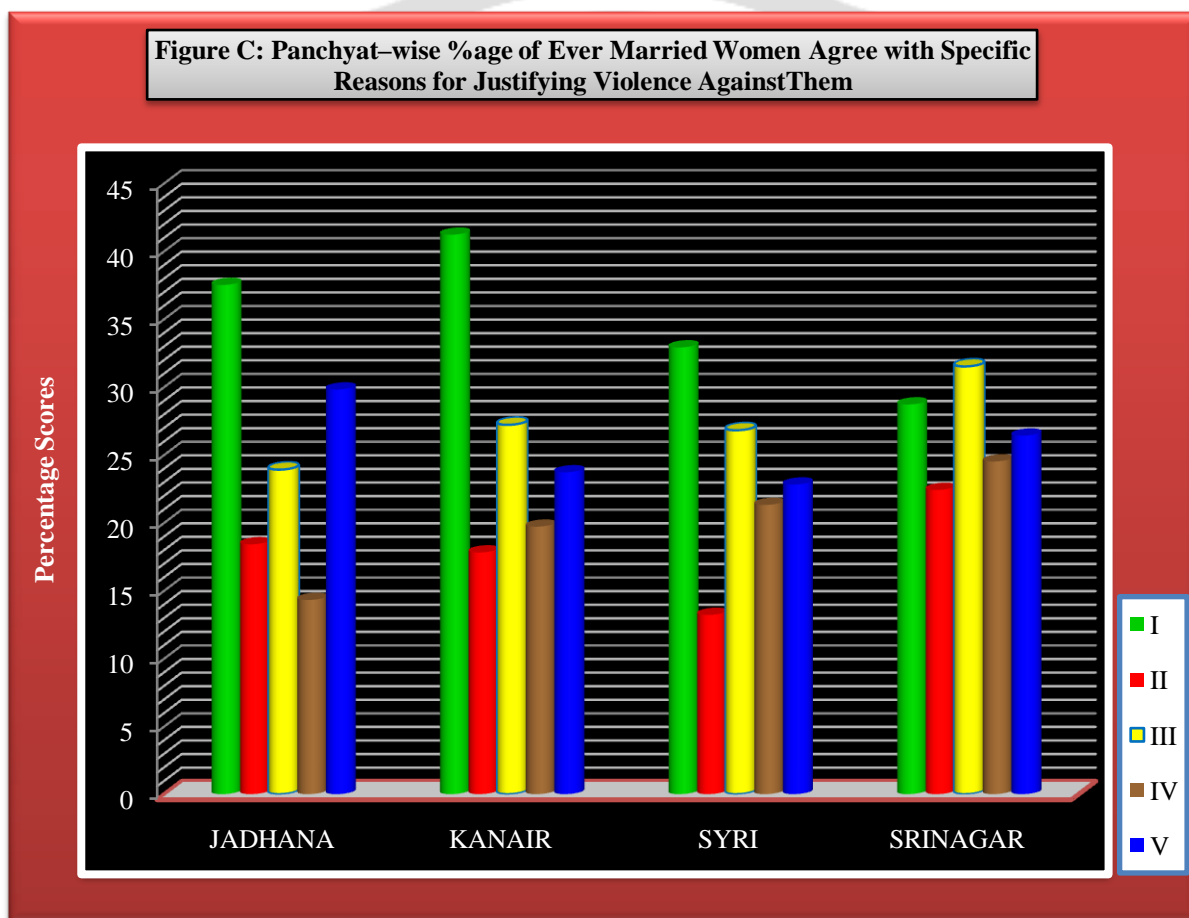
Results of the Study: The data is analyzed and results were formed by the researcher with respect to age of married women and their social category. The Panchayat – wise percentage scores of ever married women who agree with specific reasons for justifying the violence against them is given in the Table 1 as follows.

TABLE 1: PANCHAYAT – WISE PERCENTAGE SCORES OF EVER MARRIED WOMEN AGREE WITH SPECIFIC REASONS FOR JUSTIFYING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM

Panchayat of Block	Husband Suspects Wife Unfaithful (I)	Wife Shows Disrespect for in-laws (II)	Wife Goes out Without Telling Husband (III)	Wife Neglect House/Children (IV)	Agree with at Least One Reason (V)
Jadhana	37.5%	18.4%	23.9%	14.3%	29.8%
Kanair	41.2%	17.8%	27.2%	19.7%	23.7%
Syri	32.9%	13.2%	26.8%	21.3%	22.8%
Srinagar	28.7%	22.4%	31.5%	24.5%	26.4%

From the Table 1 it is clear that the highest 41.2% ever married women of Kanair Panchayat reported that ‘husband suspects wife unfaithful’, view I is the main cause of domestic violence against them and this view is lowest with 28.7% women of Srinagar Panchayat of block Kandaghat of district Solan. Women of Srinagar Panchayat highly reported the reason II ‘wife shows disrespect for in-laws’ with 22.4% for their domestic violence and least reported by the women of Syri Panchayat with 13.2%. 31.5% women of Srinagar Panchayat reported highly the reason III ‘wife goes out without telling husband’ and 23.9% women of Jadhana Panchayat reported this of domestic violence against them as least. The reason IV ‘wife neglect house/children’ is highly recorded by the 24.5% women of Srinagar Panchayat and 14.3% as lowest by the ever married women of Jadhana Panchyat. 29.8% married women of Jadhana Panchyat agreed highly with at least one reason for the justifying domestic violence against them. These situations become clearer with the comparison of all the four reasons shown in the Figure C as follows. Hence, objective no. 1 ‘to study the Panchayat-wise view of married women of block Kandaghat about agree with specific reasons for justifying the domestic violence against them’ is achieved by the researcher.

The Table 2 shows the age – wise percentage scores of view of ever married women of block Kandaghat of district Solan of Himachal Pradesh who agree with selected specific reasons for justifying the violence against them.

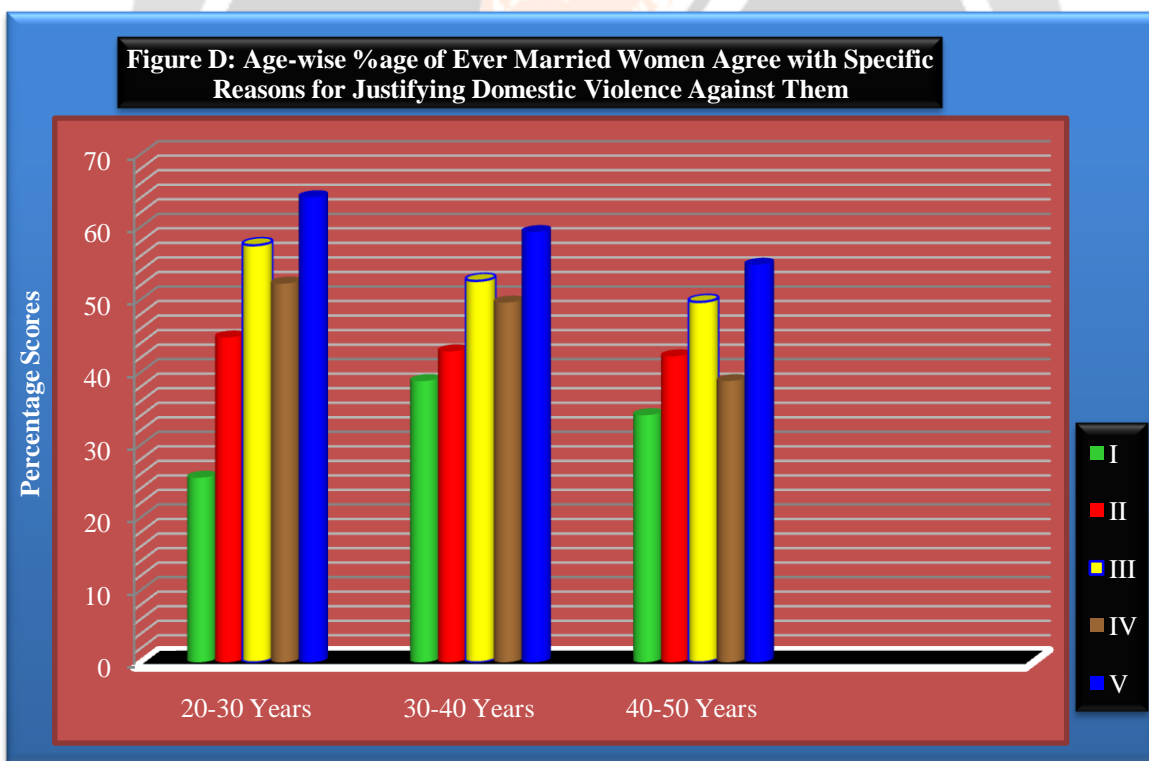


The reason III ‘wife goes out without telling husband’ is reported highly by the 57.4% ever married women of the age group 20-30 years and agreed with at least one reason justifying the violence against them. The 52.5% married women of the age group 30-40 years and 49.6% ever married women of the age group 40-50 years viewed the reason III for the domestic violence as shown in Figure D as follows.

TABLE 2: AGE-WISE %AGE SCORES OF EVER MARRIED WOMEN AGREE WITH SPECIFIC REASONS FOR JUSTIFYING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM

Age (Years)	Husband Suspects Wife Unfaithful (I)	Wife Shows Disrespect for in-laws (II)	Wife Goes out Without Telling Husband (III)	Wife Neglect House/Children (IV)	Agree with at Least One Reason (V)
20-30	25.4	44.7	57.4	52.1	64.0
30-40	38.7	42.8	52.5	49.5	59.2
40-50	34.0	42.1	49.6	38.7	54.7

It is clear from the same table and Figure that reason I ‘husband suspects wife unfaithful’ was reported as the minimum reason for the domestic violence by the 25.4% ever married women of the age group 20-30 years. The 42.1% women of the age group 40-50 years viewed the reason II ‘wife shows disrespect for in-laws’ as the minimum cause for domestic violence and the 49.6% women of the same age group recorded the reason III as least cause for the domestic violence against them. Hence, the objective no. 2 ‘to study the ever married women’s view about agree with specific reasons for justifying the domestic violence against them with respect to their age’ of the study has been achieved by the researcher.



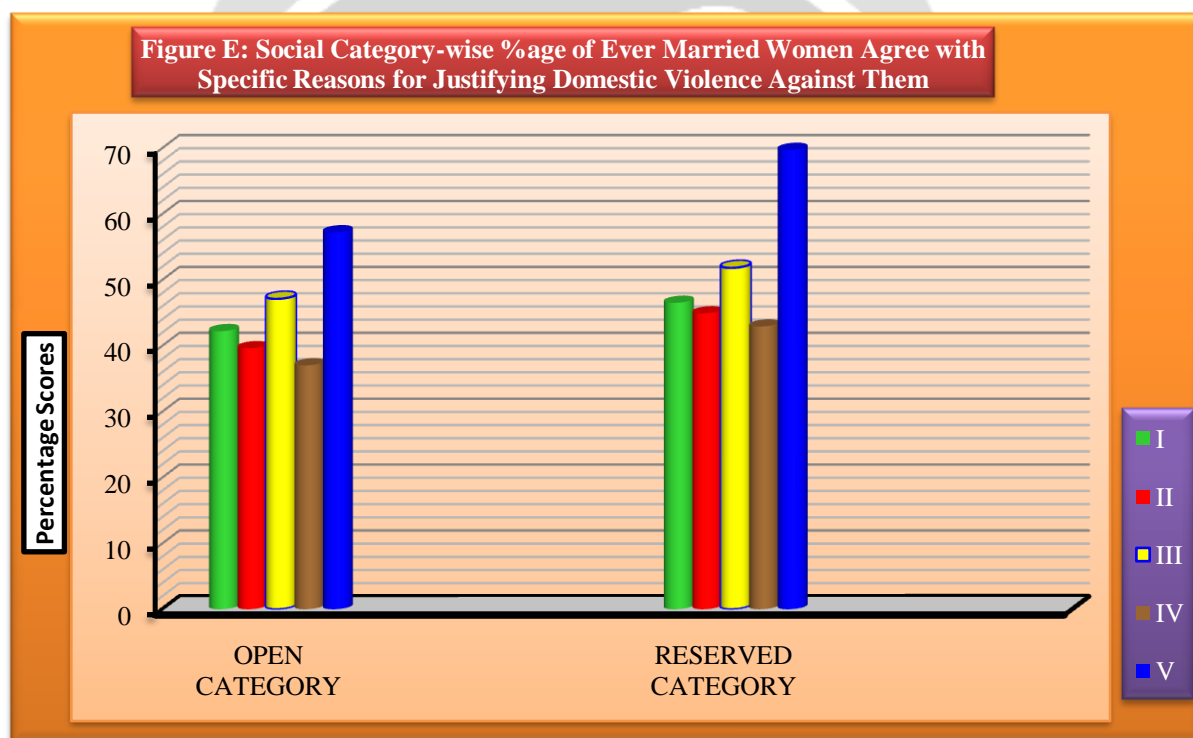
The Table 3 shows the social category-wise percentage scores of ever married women who agree with specific reasons for justifying the domestic violence against them.

TABLE 3: SOCIAL CATEGORY-WISE %AGE SCORES OF EVER MARRIED WOMEN AGREE WITH SPECIFIC REASONS FOR JUSTIFYING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM

Social Category	Husband Suspects Wife Unfaithful (I)	Wife Shows Disrespect for in-laws (II)	Wife Goes out Without Telling Husband (III)	Wife Neglect House/ Children (IV)	Agree with at Least One Reason (V)
Open Category	42.2	39.6	47.1	37.0	57.2
Reserved Category	46.5	44.9	51.8	42.9	69.7

It is interpreted from the table that 47.1% women belong to open category and 51.8% women belong to reserved category highly agree with the reason III ‘wife goes out without telling husband’ for justifying the domestic violence against them.

39.6% open category married women were reported their minimum view about the reason II ‘wife shows disrespect for in-laws’ for justify the violence as shown in Figure E.



But, 42.9% married women belong to reserved category recorded their minimum view about the reason IV ‘wife neglect house/children’ for justify the domestic violence against them. Hence, the objective no. 3 ‘to study the ever married women’s view about agree with specific reasons for justifying the domestic violence against them with respect to their social category’ is achieved by the researchers.

Conclusion: Violence against women has serious, social, economic, and health consequences. It not only affects women as individuals, but also their families including children, their entire communities, economic conditions and overall development. The entire community including all government and police officials should publically condemn violence against women and accept it as a grave offence. It is noteworthy to mention in the end that a lot of variables like age, social category of women, work status of women and standard of living besides place of residence contribute significantly to the prevalence of domestic violence. Nevertheless, it is the husbands who are reportedly the perpetrators of violence showing one reason or another. The experience of violence undermines the empowerment women and certainly is a barrier to the socio-economic and demographic development of the country. In the study, the married women of the age group 20-30 years highly reported at least one specific reason for

justifying the domestic violence. The reserved category married women highly reported at least one reason for justifying the domestic violence against them. In view of the prevalence of the problem, it is suggested to have programmes that take into account involvement of the community and especially the males for effective as well as fruitful amelioration of the issue. It can again be suggested that education of the girls should be encouraged, which will undoubtedly work as deterrent to domestic violence. So, from the above discussion it can be concluded that violence against women is an very important and sensitive issue which needs a careful planning to combat and a strong and concrete action to be enforced on the criminal and culprits so that nobody can think of committing such crimes against women especially and men as well.

References:

- Amer Ujala (8 September, 2015). हर दो मिनट में एक अपराध. NCRB, p. 12.
- Heise, L., Ellsberg, M. and Gottemoeller, M. (1999). *Ending Violence Against Women*. Population Reports, Series L, No. 11. Baltimore, John Hopkins University School of Public Health, Population Information Program, December.
- [icrw.org](http://www.icrw.org/what-we-do/violence-against-women-on-24/04/2013). *The Issue: Violence Against Women*. Retrieved from <http://www.icrw.org/what-we-do/violence-against-women-on-24/04/2013>.
- Indupalli, A. S. and Giri, P. A. (2014). Sexual violence among married women: an unspoken sting. *International Journal of Research in Medical Sciences*. 2014; 2(4): 1248-1252. doi:10.5455/2320-6012.ijrms20141109.
- Kaur, R. and Garg, S. (2009). Domestic Violence Against Women: A Qualitative Study in a Rural Community. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 22, No, 2, 242-251. Doi: 10.1177/1010539509343949.
- Keats, C. (2009). *What role should teachers have in preventing domestic violence?* Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/education/mortarboard/2009/nov/25/role-teachers-domestic-violence-on-23/05/2012>.
- Kumar, Sanjeev. and Dhiman, R. K. (2013). *Domestic and Honour based Violence against Women*. In ICSSR sponsored national seminar *Violence against Women* at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla in August, 2013.
- Kumar, Sanjeev (2015). Married women's view about domestic violence: A qualitative study of Kandaghat block of district Solan. *International Journal of Applied Research*, Vol. 1 (7), Part A, (June, 2015), pp. 01-07. Assessed from the web <http://www.allresearchjournal.com/vol1issue6/PartA/pdf/1-5-38.1.pdf-on-07/05/2015>.
- NCRB (2015). *Figures at a Glance – 2014*. National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Retrieved from <http://www.ncrb.gov.in/> on 25/05/2015.
- Rocca, C. H.; Rathod, S.; Falle, T.; Pande, R. P. and Krishnan, S. (2009). Challenging assumptions about women's empowerment: social and economic resources and domestic violence among young married women in urban South India. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 38 (2), pp. 577-585. Doi: 10.1093/ije/dyn226.
- Sabri, B. and Campbell, J. C. (2015). Intimate partner violence against women in slums in India. *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, Vol. 141, pp. 757-759. Doi: 10.4103/0971-5916.160693. retrieved from <http://www.scielo.br/pdf/reeusp/v49n1/0080-6234-reeusp-49-01-0022.pdf-on-25/09/2015>.
- Semahegn, A. et. al. (2013). Domestic violence and its predictors among married women in reproductive age in Fagitalekoma Woreda, Awi zone, Amhara regional state, North Western Ethiopia. *Reproductive Health*, Vol. 10. Doi: 10.1186/1742-4755-10-63. Retrieved from <http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content/10/1/63-on-05/10/2014>.
- [unhcr.ch](http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridocda.nsf-on-05/06/2013). *United nations general assembly declaration on the elimination of violence against women (1993)*. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridocda.nsf-on-05/06/2013>.
- [un.org](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/vawd.html-on-03/07/2013). *UN Resolution 54/134-International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/vawd.html-on-03/07/2013>.
- [who.int](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/index.html-on-23/03/2013). WHO factsheet violence against women. *World Health Organization*. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/index.html-on-23/03/2013>.