

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An executive summary of the final report on the minor research project of Ms Prema Dsouza entitled, “Domestic Violence Against Women Among Christian Community: A Case Study Of Mangalore” sanctioned by UGC, vide sanction letter No: UGC Reference No. 1450-MRP/14-15/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO dated 25-February-2015 .

Domestic Violence against women is a global phenomenon. Women occupy a distinctive position in the society due to the significance in the reproduction of the human race. Women generally face exploitation and discrimination in silence both domestically or socially. Women in India particularly the married ones, irrespective of their position, see themselves primarily as mother and consider this role as the most momentous. The present study explores the nature, types, causative factors, consequences and coping mechanisms adopted by Christian married women to counter domestic violence.

The topic chosen for the minor research is “Domestic Violence against Women among Christian Community: A Case Study of Mangalore”. The universe will consist of all domestic violence cases that has been reported in Ngo’s, counseling centers, churches and there are number of women’s organizations run for the welfare of the women in crisis by using snow ball sampling. The data was collected through interview schedule from a total of 50 respondents. The respondents include married women who are the victims of domestic violence. Data was collected through both Primary and secondary sources of Data. Primary data was collected through the personal interview method with the tool of interview schedule and questionnaire; case studies also are added in this study. Secondary source of data

was collected through books, journals, articles published in various books and magazines. The objective of the study was –i) To know the Demographic Profile of Domestic Violence of Christian Woman victims in Mangalore city. ii) To identify the nature, different types and causative factors of domestic violence. iii) To study the consequences of domestic violence on woman victims. iv) To examine the help seeking behavior and other coping mechanisms adopted by women to counter domestic violence. v) To understand the available legal remedies to help the violated women and suggest various measures.

A good number of the respondents 30 (60 percent) belonged to the age group between 30 and 40 years, 30 (60 percent) respondents were graduates and postgraduates, Marital status of the respondents indicates that majority, i.e., 34 (68 percent) of the respondents were staying with spouse, whereas 14 (28 percent) separated and 02 (4 percent) divorced. Majority of the respondents, i.e., 26 (52 percent) were married for approximately 6–10 years. 48 (96 percent) of the total number of respondents started facing the ordeal in the beginning of their marital life, i.e., from 0 to 5 years. The first episode of violence in marital life occurred over some household issues and negative reactions from in laws.

Of the total 50 respondents, 42 (84 percent) accepted that they were victims of physical abuse. Psychological violence is the most commonly reported form of violence experienced by all 50 (100 percent) respondents. Approximately 46 respondents experienced financial or economic violence in the family. 35 (70 percent) said that they were abused sexually by their spouses. The data shows that majority, i.e., 42 (84 percent) of the respondents were of the view that husband was responsible for domestic violence. 36 (72 percent) respondents said that the main person responsible for the violence in their family was their mother-in-law. The major causes for the domestic violence i.e., 38(76 percent) of the victims' husbands were alcoholics, 16 (32 percent) respondents were the victims of violence only

because of their partners' extra-marital affairs, 36 (72 percent) respondents were the victims of suspicion.

More than half of the respondents, i.e., 42 (84 percent) were injured physically by their husbands several times, 19 (38 percent) respondents actually tried to commit suicide. According to the data 32 (64 percent) respondents, demeaning was the most common mode of psychological violence almost afflicted daily, 34 (68 percent) respondents said that they were threatened daily by their counterparts, 42 (84 percent) experienced abandonment by their husbands daily, 50 (100 percent) respondents said that their husbands were not faithful to them. 37 (74 percent) respondents children were present always when the respondent was beaten, 47 (94 percent) children were angry with their fathers for being inhuman towards their mothers. 40 (80 percent) children were helpless due to violence. 45 (74.5 percent) respondents said that the violence that took place in the family had adversely affected the education of children.

Nearly more than half of the respondents, i.e., 44 (88 percent) were in unhealthy condition. After the marriage when woman face any violence in their husband house, it is very common that they share immediately with their family members. When being tortured by their husbands, 42 (84 percent) respondents tried to get help from family members to stop the violence. With regard to seeking of assistance from their close relatives, 15 (30 percent) of them said that they had sought assistance. More than half of the respondents, 42 (84 percent) had lots of trust in their friends and neighbours. 50 (100 percent) said that they had tried to contact the religious leaders for support at the time of violence. More than half, i.e., 34 (68 percent) respondents said that they wanted to tolerate and remain silent for all the harm that was done to them. The others 14 (28 percent) respondents said that they wanted to be separated from their life partners as this was the only solution for all their problems.

The outcome of the study will help in understanding the problem of women who are victims of domestic violence and also help in formulating better policy and strategy through NGOs, Counsellors, social workers, health care workers, educators and so on.

Key Words: women, domestic violence, abuse