

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF MARITAL DISPUTES AMONG RURAL FAMILIES IN PUNJAB

Thesis

**Submitted to the Punjab Agricultural University
in the partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of**

MASTER OF SCIENCE in SOCIOLOGY

(Minor Subject : Extension Education)

DUPLICATE

**By
Parampal Kaur
(L-2003-HSc-245-M)**

**Department of Human Development and Sociology
College of Home Science
PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
LUDHIANA-141 004
2005**

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Gift

*Sharing is making people,
as thankful and grateful as can be*

..... The parents

*Affectionately Dedicated
To
My Respected Parents*

Thesis

*..... Sharing is showing their true ,
deepest self, just like they have
really shown to me*

6/2/05

CERTIFICATE-I

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, "**Causes and Consequences of Marital Disputes Among Rural Families in Punjab**" submitted for the degree of **Master of Science**, in the subject of **Sociology** (Minor subject: **Extension Education**) of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, is a bonafide research work carried out by **Parampal Kaur** (L-2003-HSc-245-M) under my supervision and that no part of this thesis has been submitted for any other degree.

The assistance and help received during the course of investigation have been fully acknowledged.

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(Dr. A.K. Gupta)

 19/7/05

Major Advisor

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Professor of Sociology

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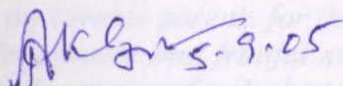
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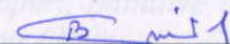
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CERTIFICATE-II

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, "**Causes and Consequences of Marital Disputes Among Rural Families in Punjab**" submitted by **Parampal Kaur** (L-2003-HSc-245-M) to the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **Master of Science**, in the subject of **Sociology** (Minor subject : **Extension Education**) has been approved by the Student's Advisory Committee along with Head of the Department after an oral examination on the same.


Head of the Department
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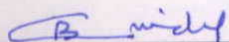
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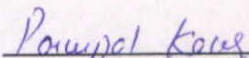
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ABSTRACT

Marital dispute/separation or gender based violence has emerged as a global issue extending across regional, social, cultural and economic boundaries. Marital dispute is widely prevalent in India too due to undesired habits of husband, dual responsibilities of wives, dowry and interference of in-laws in family matter etc. The present study was undertaken in Amritsar and Gurdaspur district of Punjab by taking a sample of 80 victim women, in order to know the socio-economic background of the victim respondents, to analyse various causes and consequences of marital disputes and to suggest the remedial measures for improving the marital relations of women. The respondents were personally interviewed on structured and pretested schedules. Data were analysed through various statistical tools such as percentages, mean score and z-test etc. The study revealed that majority of the respondents of rural area got married at the age of 17-24 years. Majority of the respondents belonged to nuclear family and general category. The results highlighted that the main causes of marital disputes were undesired habits of husband, her working career due to which she can't fulfill the dual responsibilities as a working woman and as a house wife and also interference of in-laws. The major consequences of the marital disputes as evidenced in the study have been feeling lonely, irritating behaviour, children feel neglected for proper care, family members feel neglected due to her working career. For the amelioration of the problems faced by respondents, the study suggested the marriage counselling, organisation of seminars and workshops to eradicate alcoholism, mass media can play an important role to eliminate the problem of marital disputes and also impart moral education as well as sex education and to launch legal/social campaigns against dowry etc.

Key words : Marital dispute, marital conflict, marital breakdown, marital disruption, marital dissolution,


Signature of the major advisor


Signature of the student

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5	Suggestions to overcome the marital disputes as perceived by the respondents

Chapter – I

INTRODUCTION

Marriage and family are ancient institutions and around them have grown up deep and powerful sentiments and traditions. Married life was intended to promote mutual good understanding both have and it was meant to serve humanity. When inner cohesive forces, an inner unity, harmony and compatibility between the partners breakdown, it is marital conflict.

Conflict in a married life is generally a malaise which runs through longer than expected. In marriage conflict, speechlessness between husband and wife when they are living under one roof adds fuel to fire. One spouse begins to hate some actions of other spouse. Even if the hurter is not the spouse but a relative or a friend of the spouse, the fault shall be regarded as that of spouse. If therefore, the relations between the husband and wife are strained, no step may be taken by either spouse which may in any way harm the other. Once the harm stands proved, it is an act of cruelty and divorce is only consequence.

There are many social, psychological, biological and economic factors influencing the conflict. Around the world at least one woman in every three has been beaten or otherwise abused in her life time. Half of the women experiencing physical violence, also reported physical abuse

during pregnancy (Yasmin 2001). The various important reasons responsible for marital disputes as cited in the literature have been alcoholic habits of husbands, non cooperative attitude of husbands towards different family responsibilities, dual responsibilities of women i.e. as a housewife as well as working women, unco-operative attitude by their in-laws, extra martial affairs of both spouses, and dowry related issues etc. Alcohol abuse is a high risk-aggression and there is positive relationship between high rate of martial violence and drinking. Four typical problems prevalent in alcoholics families i.e. involve role difficulties, poor sexual interaction, aggressive behaviour and erratic communication patterns. It has revealed that pressure of violence, emotional problems, a stressful domestic violence and manifestation of communication deficits in the marital relationships (Selvin 2001).

Non-cooperative attitude of husbands towards different family responsibilities is the contributing factor towards conflict with husband. The main cause of the martial separation was harassment and non co-operative attitude of husbands as well as in-laws in different household chores and also did not give due recognition to their dual responsibilities (Marwalikare 2001). One of the causes behind marital conflict is her working career due to that woman can't perform their dual responsibilities properly. There are some personal, familial and occupational constraints faced by rural and urban working women. The dual value created additional

strain on the employed women. They had to face criticism and opposition from family members and society (Yadav *et al* 1998). Extra marital affairs of both spouses is also an important factor leading to conflict and it is very serious deliberate bad action. Dowry related issues were major causes for wife beating among the non-working women, normally not reported to the police for fear of being harassed by the family members later (Thilagaraj *et al* 1999).

There are different problems of marriage that arise out of violence like marital disharmony, conflict, maladjustment, cruelty, adultery, separation of wife, divorce etc. Due to alcohol abuse, working women were more prone to verbal aggression, which could be due to the strain of both at home and work place, and also, due to demands of husbands who asked their wives for money to spend on alcohol and got violent if the wives did not comply. Due to her working career, the important consequences were lack of companionship activities, high role segregation between spouses, status competition between spouses, female work role strain (Philip 2002). Most of them experienced many problems soon after their separation like feeling lonely and insecurity, become short-tempered and dependent in meeting their basic needs (Marwalikar 2001). However, the girls aged 12-17 who were exposed to and experienced violence did experience more behavioural problems. Violence causes more deaths, disability than various illnesses put together. Children are forgotten

victims of a marriage breakdown. The family is a system of interdependent and reciprocal relationships. Thus in a family where a couple is in marital conflict or is in the process of separation or divorce, the impact of marriage breakdown of ties between the spouses, also disturb parent-child, sibling-sibling, and man/woman in-law relationships drastically. Parental conflict was detrimental to well being of children and had a profound effect on children's overall development throughout their formative years (Kashyap 2003).

Families in the process of marital disruption are characterized by a deficit economic and social resources at various time points of this process. Divorce often constituted a dramatic transformation of a close, personal and usually harmonious relationship into one that is deeply antagonistic and bitter. A set of marital problems involving infidelity, spending money foolishly, drinking or drug abuse or both, jealousy, moodiness and irritating habits mediated moderate proportions of the associations between demographic and life course variable and divorce (Hopper 2001).

Limitations The problem is so widespread and so ugly that it requires a concerted and multipronged approach. But in past, very less work has been done related to marital dispute. No comprehensive study on the subject has been found in literature especially conducted in Punjab. Therefore, it was felt to undertake systematic study on this crucial social dimension. The

present study is therefore an attempt in this direction. The specific objectives of the study were :

1. To know the socio-economic background of the respondents.
2. To analyse various causes and consequences of marital disputes and
3. To suggest the remedial measures for improving the marital relations of women on the basis of suggestions gathered from the respondents.

Significance of the study

A women's role in building the nation is no doubt extremely vital. The present study has brought out various socio-economic-psychological factors causing marital unrest in the families having multifacet ill-effects on all the members of families including innocent children. The suggestions can go a longway to avoid tensions arising out of marital disputes/conflicts for peaceful/happy family life.

So the present study will hopefully serve a useful format for the social policy makers, social scientists, women welfare organisations and would also work as an eye-opener for the women to get higher education for their family life and also for living standards.

Limitations

The present study was subject to the following limitations :

1. This is a single student work and therefore had usual limitation of time and resources.
2. The findings of the study are only based on the expressed opinion of

female respondents who are victims of marital dispute.

3. The investigator could not collect the data from large population as the study was limited to two districts Amritsar and Gurdaspur of Punjab. It is felt that the value of the study could have been further enhanced if a sample from a wider region had been taken

Ravanshi (1994) observed that intelligent and educated working women manage to achieve both the responsibilities for family members' happiness as well as their career goals without getting fatigued children. The study revealed that the children of working women were more indifferent and confident. Women feel satisfied with job when they get due reward.

Donald et al (1995) examined the consequences of marital dissolution for children's behavioural problems. The analysis begins with assessment of 1,123 children whose parents' marriages were ended in 1986. Results showed that even before pre-disruption characteristics are introduced in the model, there is little effect on boys when prior family characteristics are controlled.

Egley and Szinovacz (1995) found the facts reporting bias on spouses' answers to questions concerning sensitive marital issues by comparing one partner and couple's data on marital violence. The results revealed considerable under reporting of violence. The findings further

Chapter - II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter presents the review of related studies, conducted earlier on the subject with a view to provide a glimpse of the problems faced by the respondents in different circumstances.

Rajvanshi (1994) observed that intelligent and dedicated working women manage to achieve both the responsibilities for family members' happiness, as well as their career grow without getting fatigued children. The study revealed that the children of working women were more indifferent and confident. Women feel satisfied with job when they get due reward.

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Egley and Szinovacz (1995) found the facts reporting bias on spouses' answers to questions concerning sensitive marital issues by comparing one partner and couple data on marital violence. The results revealed considerable under reporting of violence. The findings further

indicated that data collection method significantly influences reporting of violence.

Rogers (1997) investigated the extent to which reports of marital problems in 1980 predicted divorce between 1980 and 1992, the extent to which these problems mediated the impact of demographic and life course variables on divorce, and gender differences in reports of particular marital problems and the extent to which these reports predicted divorce. Wives reported more marital problems than husbands did, although this was due to husbands' tendency to report relatively few problems caused by their spouses. A parsimonious set of marital problems involving infidelity, spending money foolishly, drinking or drug use or both, jealousy, moodiness and irritating habits mediated moderate proportions of the associations between demographic and life course variables and divorce.

Hiromi (1998) found that a wife's resources were positively related to marital dissolution, whereas the husbands' resources were inversely related to dissolution. Using data from the panel study of income dynamics, a discrete time event history analysis identified modifications required of both hypothesis. First, wife's earnings have a nonlinear, U-shaped relationship to the risk of marital dissolution. Second, the impact of husbands' earning varies as a function of wife's earnings. Finally, results failed to support the hypothesis that better economic prospects for a wife,

measured by education and time worked, increase the risk of marital dissolution separately from her actual economic standing, measured by her earnings.

Yadav *et al* (1998) attempted to make an enquiry into the personal, familial and occupational constraints faced by rural and urban working women. The dual value created additional strain on the employed women. They had to face criticism and opposition from family members and society.

Kristan and Malik (1999) collected a diverse sample of 113 families and studied marital functioning and its relationship with parenting in a family setting. Results indicated relations between destruction forms of marital conflicts and father's negative parental behaviours. Results also indicated moderation by either distress or ethnicity on many of the relations between parenting and the balance of power suggesting complex and varied links between functioning in the marital subsystem and the family system.

Reena *et al* (1999) studied the marital conflict occurs when inner cohesive forces, an inner harmony, unity and compatibility between partners breakdown. Conflicts in the families may arise either on flimsy grounds or on account of factors which have deeper roots. The study highlighted the personal factors creating a conflicted situations.

Rizwana (1999) has studied that time against women has been

a specific feature of criminology all over the world. Women have been vulnerable and hence the victims, of course, due to their comparatively low physical strength and their subordinate positions in various societies across the globe. Further the legal enforcement is increasingly becoming unsatisfactory, litigation costing, providing cumbersome and convictions, uncertain.

Thilagaraj *et al* (1999) interviewed 30 women of each category drawn from a shelter home in Chennai, found a high rate of emotional abuse among them. Dowry was the major cause for wife beating among the non-working women. It was found that the battered women normally did not report such incident to the police for fear of being harrassed by the family members later.

Amato (2000) found that many divorced mothers had a history of depression that predated the marriage. These mothers also reported high levels of adversity in their families of origin, including weak attachment to parents and parental depression. The study estimated effect of divorce on adult depression, although the association between divorce and depression remained significant.

Gottman and Levenson (2000) have found that predictability of divorce both early and later in marriages in a longitudinal sample. Based on literature on marital satisfaction over the life course, it is reasonable to suggest that there are two periods critical to the survival of a marriage. The

first 7 years of marriage during which half of all the divorces occur and at middle, when people often have young teenage children. The later period has been suggested by some investigators as perhaps the lowest point in marital satisfaction during the life course.

Jenkins (2000) examined the relationship between anger-based conflict and the development of an anger organisation in children between the ages of 4 and 8 years old. Seventy one children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, their mothers and their teachers participated in the study. Mothers completed questionnaires on anger-based marital conflict and children's aggression based marital conflict was also associated with short-term anger expressions, but not with short term expressions of sadness. The author argued that children develop an emotional organisation in which anger predominates when they are exposed to high levels of anger based marital conflict.

Lohakare and Daver (2000) studied 'Disaster Management' and looked at instances where there has been an extreme elevation or extreme depression of women's space. The study emphasized that how women are located within the social matrix and determined how they will be affected by the situation from women's points of view.

Middleton *et al* (2000) studied meta-analytic procedures to examine the relationship between growing up in a violent home and subsequently becoming part of a violent marital relationship. The findings

of this meta-analysis suggested that there is weak-to-moderate relationships between growing up in an abusive family and becoming involved in a violent marital relationships.

Purewal and Ganesh (2000) investigated that psychological trauma arising from gender violence is a significant life situation in Indian women lives. A statistical correlation between trauma and mental illness has not been achieved yet, a close relationship is extrapolated from significantly high rates of violence and mental illness. The perceptions and practice of main-stream mental health professional and about gender violence fails to recognise the psychological trauma women are exposed to. Post-traumatic stress disorder is a useful diagnosis to be used in the measurement, assessment and management of trauma from gender violence.

Interpelson Stith *et al* (2000) studied the role of socialization plays in women's violence is especially unclear, as well as controversial. That is, because some domestic violence researchers see women's violence as primarily defensive, the idea that women, like men, learn to be perpetrators of violence from their family of origin is disputed.

main cause Amy and Richard (2001) tested the hypothesis that children who both experience and are exposed to domestic violence suffer from a 'double whammy' in terms of significant detrimental impacts. The hypothesis was tested by a secondary analysis of data collected for the second national family violence survey in the United States. There was no

general support for the 'double whammy' hypothesis. However, girls aged 12-17 who were exposed to and experienced violence did experience more behavioural problems.

Anjalidave *et al* (2001) found that main cause of violence against women stems from their status and role in the family and society and the unequal power structure. Women holds an inferior and subordinate position in the society. This understanding of family violence has serious implications for social workers and social work educators. They come in contact with a large number of abused women and abusive man. Therefore, they are in a better position than many other professionals to take constructive action, especially since they are trained to look for concealed problems, to understand issues in a wider social context, to offer interpersonal support to achieve personal change overtime and to harness a range of forms of practical and emotional help.

Chaudary (2001) studied 100 cases of battered women that were registered at various police stations and Mahila police in the city of Bhopal. The author brought out that in 40 per cent cases alcohol was the main cause of violence. The association between alcohol and violence is well documented.

Gandhi (2001) examined the concern for violence against women has been a recent phenomenon. It is now recognised as a violation of women's human rights. The paper examined the theoretical models

explaining gender-based violence and demonstrates, through case illustrations. In particular, it analysed the enactments of 498A and 304B, Indian Penal code, and their utility for Indian women subjected to violence.

Hopper (2001) studied that divorce often constituted a dramatic transformation of a close, personal and usually harmonious relationship into one that is deeply antagonist and bitter. Explanation among family researches typically focus on opposing marital interests, the adversarial nature of the legal system, patent or manifest conflict in marriage or psychological reactions to pain of divorce.

Marwalikar *et al* (2001) studied with a random sample of hundred separated female spouses selected from eight identified slum areas of Parbhani town of Maharashtra state. The main causes of the marital separation were harassment by their husbands and in-laws, extra marital efforts and bad habits of their husband. Most of them experienced many problems soon after their separation like feeling lonely and insecurity, become short-tempered and dependent in meeting their basic needs.

Thakur (2001) found that around the world at least one women in every 3 has been beaten or otherwise abused in her life time. Most often the abuse is a member of her own family. Researcher studied the inter-relationship between husbands violence and educational level of wives, husband's violence and occupational status of wives with various types of tortures and causes of violence against women. It was observed through

obtained data from the Ajmer city of Rajasthan that education and occupation played an important positive role, which suggests that women development, reproductive rights and empowerment were main key factors to reduce gender based violence.

Viswanathan (2001) conducted a study that the systematic underestimation of women's work and its value remains a core developmental issue. Despite the attempt by leading women economists to develop an alternate set of indicators that would focus on women's economic, political and professional participation, such measures remain inadequate in countries where class differentials remain acute and women remain mute victims to a subverted solid system.

Buehler (2002) found that ineffective parenting explained part of the association between marital conflict and children's maladjustment, independent effects of marital conflict remained in the families with target children aged 2 through 11. With a few exceptions, this pattern of finding, was consistent for mothers and fathers reports for daughters and sons, for families with various ethnic background and for families living in and but of poverty.

Joshi (2002) examined that gender based violence has only recently emerged as a global issue extending across regional, social, cultural and economic boundaries. According to state statistics, about 18 per cent of women are being sexually abused in the U.S. The UN

rapporteur on violence against women regretted that even countries such as Denmark, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, among others, could not provide accurate documentation and statistics on domestic violence. The available data on wife abuse is even more appalling. In the US the department of justice reported that every year 3-4 million women are battered by their husband or partners.

King (2002) observed that residential mobility following divorce may disrupt children's friendships as can custody arrangements in which children spend substantial time living in different communities. Children's friendship may also be undermined by their friend's parents. In particular, married couples, who were friends with the child's parents before the divorce may sever these ties because they find it difficult to remain friends with both partners after the divorce.

Philip (2002) found qualitative changes in dual earner couples. High career commitment of spouses, high role segregation between spouses, lack of companionship activities, increased independence of women, status competition between spouses, wife's occupational superiority, female work-role strain have been implicated as important consequences of marital disputes.

Sundaram (2002) conducted a study on rural women in India that showed the extent of domestic violence could be as high as 76 per cent. According to WHO, gender violence causes more deaths and

disability than various illnesses put together. Solutions to the problems are strict, punishment, public awareness and special family courts to dispose off such cases speedily.

Singh (2002) found that the expression of domestic violence can be demand for more dowry, divorce, bride burning and conflicts in the family life. The increased economic insecurity, unemployment and poverty in families may result in alcoholism, lack of status and mutually satisfying relationships, lack of a sense of belonging and fulfillment of basic needs and this may affect women directly in the form of increased domestic violence.

Stears and Khan (2002) studied that institution of marriage is a universal phenomenon suggest that the causes leading to its breakdown are likely to be similar. This study suggests that the causes of marital breakdown amongst a select group of minority South African Indian Muslims in the Durban Metropolitan Area (DMA), is no different to that experiment by married couples elsewhere in the world. The attitudes of 80 respondents towards the causes of marital breakdown were measured using the likert scale, and analysed against the independent variables of age, gender, education, occupation and income.

Chauhan (2003) found that crime against women is a gross violation of their human rights. Gender based violence is manifested in many forms and has several reasons for its incidence. It is a many headed

hydra which is hard to control because of the culture of silence and surrounds this category of crimes. Women are threatened by partner violence, psychological abuse and dowry burning.

Debra *et al* (2003) conducted a daily diary study of a 22 with a history of domestic violence and a matched comparison group of 23 men with no known history of domestic violence. Each day, respondents completed a daily diary questionnaire on relationship dynamics, stress and emotion state. This research design allowed us to examine relationship dynamics and emotion state as they unfolded over 14-day period. In the world today, fear of violence is a cause of women's lack of participation in activities beyond the home as well as inside it. In recent years, there has been an alarming rise in atrocities against women in India.

Joshi (2003) studied that family violence against women is being increasingly recognised as an important health issue with serious health and social consequences. Further stated the reasons for domestic violence and attempts to analyze the causes of increase in incidence of such violence in recent years taking the example of the hill communities of Uttranchal.

Kashyap (2003) described that children are the forgotten victims of a marriage breakdown, inspite of the fact that they too go through extreme trauma. It then highlights the reactions and behaviour patterns that children exhibit. Lastly, it discusses the areas of direct

intervention with children as well as interventions needed for parents and other social system for obtaining their cooperation and support in the interest of these children.

Liana and David (2003) observed that by using perspective longitudinal data from Christ Church health and development study (HDS), the effects of parental separation on the quality of adolescents attachment to parents and their perception of parental care and over protection during childhood. When examined in relation to the developmental timing of first separation, a linear relationship between the age at first separation and later parental attachment and perceived parent child relations was found. Results supported that importance of early childhood years for the development of a secure and enduring attachment relationship between children and their parents.

Muzumdar (2003) attempted the paper to look at newly developing service and the family counselling centers. It was observed in Gujarat that what is allowed is controlled expression under the constraints of family prestige and compromise skills development, hence, has to be oriented question who is client – The women or the family ? The counsellors working alliance that also has to resolve the question of differing power potentials between the counselor and the women client, than is fraught with technical problems that highlight the need for continued training.

Patil (2003) studied that marriages in India mostly take place according to the parents wishes and only in some cases based on couples own choices. Many times, conflicts are due to lack of understanding of role expectations, apart from the greed of for money and service; objective of sharing each others emotions, feelings, dreams, ambitions and alignment with family members for achieving their goals is sub-merged. Conflicts also takes place due to wing beliefs one has about the marriage.

Tondon (2003) conducted a study on 500 socially and economically backward people of the slum areas of Kanpur city revealed that men battered and humiliated their wives regularly and it was universally prevalent and a common feature among these people. 30 per cent of the women stated that it was a daily occurrence. Having being be socialised in this manner, being kicked, slammed or dashed against the wall was reckoned by them as normal behaviour, customary and of minor nature.

Gulati and Dutta (2004) found from the study of 245 poverty-stricken rural families in Ludhiana district of Punjab that a majority of the sampled families were susceptible to a high degree of verbal and psychical marital conflict. This was as expected, given the evidence of the chronic strain and distress that is induced by financial hardship. Overall, men were far more aggressive and violent as compared to women. Alcohol abuse in men was found to be the factor most strongly correlated with all measures

of marital discord. Working women were more prone to verbal aggression, which could be due to the strain of both at home and workplace, and also, due to the demands of husbands who asked their wives for money to spend on alcohol, and got violent if the wives did not comply.

Raju and Venketeshwarlu (2004) observed that the crimes against women in 1999 reported an increase of nearly 102 per cent over the year 1989. In absolute terms there was an increase of 68699 cases in 1999 over 1989. There was an increasing trend in crimes such as torture, molestation, sexual harassment, immoral traffic and indecent representation of women. Among the crimes committed against women, torture by husband and relatives recorded 278 per cent increase during period 1989-1999. Dowry death increased from 4836 in 1990 to 6699 in 1999.

Shaljan (2004) studied that despite impressive human development in the past few decades, Maldives faces enormous economic and environmental challenges. Although Maldivian women enjoy a relatively high status in society, several factors constrained them from full and unfettered participation in national development. There is a need for a gender mainstreaming approach that operates effectively and expeditiously to bring about change in the socio-economic status of women.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The most important criterion for judging the value of any scientific study is undoubtedly the method and procedure followed for investigating the problem. The research methodology includes the manner of collection of data both from primary and secondary sources alongwith its problems/limitations and analysis etc. This chapter describes the methods and procedure used for conducting this study and the description has been presented under the following headings.

- 3.1 Locale of the study
- 3.2 Selection of block
- 3.3 Selection of respondents
- 3.4 Construction of research instruments
- 3.5 Pretesting of the schedule
- 3.6 Collection and tabulation of data
- 3.7 Analysis of data

3.1 LOCALE OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted in purposively selected two districts i.e. Amritsar and Gurdaspur of Punjab state for convenience of the researcher and to remove constraints, regarding data collection. A systematic procedure was adopted for conducting the study keeping in view

the specific objectives.

3.2 SELECTION OF BLOCK

Multistage random sampling technique was used to draw a sample for the study. Out of total blocks (16) of Amritsar, two blocks Chogavan and Baba Bakala were selected randomly. Similarly out of total blocks (15) of Gurdaspur, two blocks namely Kalanaur and Dhariwal were selected randomly.

3.3 SELECTION OF RESPONDENTS

Victims of marital disputes were identified in each block in consultation with the key informants. Of them a sample of about 20 female respondents were randomly chosen from each block. The total sample thus constituted 80 female respondents from two districts i.e. 40 from each district.

3.4 CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

An interview schedule was prepared to get reliable information. Some of the respondents were having low literacy level, therefore, interviewing the respondents was thought to be best method of data collection. The interview schedule consisting of structure as well as open-ended questions was prepared. Keeping in view the objectives of the study the schedule was administered to the respondents and they were requested to respond to each question as per explanation given by the investigator as and when required. The responses were obtained from one

female respondent at a time. The respondents were explained the purpose of the study and were assured the confidentiality of data. Rapport was established to elicit responses on the most intimate and personal questions. Many respondents discussed their family affairs openly.

3.5 PRETESTING OF THE SCHEDULE

The interview schedule so developed was pretested in sample area on 5 families, to obtain the clarity of the statement, consistency in response and to find out any ambiguity in the language of questions. This pretesting was very helpful and changes were incorporated in the interview schedule. The final draft of interview schedule was discussed after pretesting and on the basis of experience gained and information obtained through pretesting and discussion with experts, necessary modifications were made in the interview schedule.

3.6 COLLECTION AND TABULATION OF DATA

The responses of the respondents were collected and coded from the interview schedule to the master sheet for tabulation.

Analysis of data

The different areas in which quantification has been done are as under:

Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

1. Education of respondents : It is level of formal education of the respondents. The respondents were classified into following educational categories.

Illiterate

Primary

High/Secondary

Graduate and above

2. Caste : It was divided into the following categories :

General : Jat Sikh, Brahmins, Baniyas

Backward class : Nai, Kamboj, Tarkhan, Tailors etc.

Scheduled caste : Harijan, Majhbi Sikh

3. Religion

Sikh, Hindu, Christian

4. Family type

Joint

Nuclear

5. Family size (Members)

Small (Upto 4)

Medium (5-8)

Large (9 and above)

6. Housing Type

Kutchha - Houses which are made up of mud

Mixed - These are made up of mud and bricks

Pucca - These types of houses are made up of bricks and cement

7. Number of living rooms

One

Two

Three

More than three

8. Size of land holdings

Landless

Small (Less than 5 acres)

Medium (5-10 acres)

Large (>10 acres)

9. Family income

The respondents were categorised into low, medium and high groups on the basis of their family income per annum by applying the cumulative cube root frequency method. The categories, thus formed are

as under :

Category	Income range (Rs. per annum)
Low	Upto 50,000
Medium	50,001 – 1,60,000
High	1,60,001 and above
Overall	24,000-6,00,000

10. Type of marriage

- Love marriage
- Arranged marriage
- Love-cum-arranged marriage

11. Age at marriage (years)

- Early - Upto 16
- Timely - 17 - 24
- Late - > 24

The data were subjected to simple tabulation. Thus, frequency distribution, percentage and averages were worked out to analyse the data.

Mean score

Scoring was given to responses 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 and their mean scores have been calculated : Scoring

Always	-	2
Sometimes	-	1
Never	-	0
Excellent	-	4
Good	-	3
Fair	-	2
Poor	-	1

Strongly agreed -	3
Agree -	2
Disagree -	1
Strongly Disagree -	0
Regularly -	3
Sometimes -	2
Occasionally -	1
Never -	0

Arithmetic mean

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}{n}$$

\bar{X} = Arithmetic mean

n = Number of respondents

A.M. =- Addition of all recorded observation divided by the number of respondents.

Percentage

Percentages are calculated to show the distribution of the sampled individual's attributes.

Number of individual possessing a particular attribute

$$p = \frac{r}{n} \times 100 = \frac{\text{Number of individual possessing a particular attribute}}{\text{Total number of individuals in the sample}} \times 100$$

Total number of individuals in the sample

Z-test

Z-test was used to test the equality of proportion of an attribute in two populations, when the sample size is large.

$$Z = \frac{|p_1 - p_2|}{S.E.(p_1 - p_2)}$$

Where $S.E. = \sqrt{PQ\left(\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}\right)}$

$$P = (p_1 n_1 + p_2 n_2) / (n_1 + n_2)$$

$$Q = 1 - P$$

Where

n_1 = Sample size of 1st population

n_2 = Sample size of 2nd population

p_1 = Proportion of individuals possessing the attribute in the sample from 1st population

p_2 = Proportion of individuals possessing the attribute in the sample from 2nd population

Operational definitions

1. Marital dispute

Marital dispute is defined as violence between marriage partners.

2. Nuclear family

Nuclear family consists of husband, wife and their unmarried children. It is an independent unit.

3. Joint family

It is a type of social grouping where parents and their married and unmarried children live under one roof, eat food-cooked at one hearth, hold property in common and participate in common worship.

4. Family income

It refers to the approximate annual gross income in terms of rupees from all family sources of the respondents.

5. Family size

Family size is the total number of persons living together, sharing a common kitchen and common purse.

6. Occupation

The term occupation implies as specific activity with a market value which an individual continuously possess for the purpose of obtaining a steady flow of income to earn a living.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the present study have been discussed under the following heads :

- 4.1 Background information of the respondents
- 4.2 Causes and consequences of marital dispute
- 4.3 General Questions
- 4.4 Remedial measures

4.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

4.1.1 Education level

Education play an important role in determining a persons' socio-economic status. Education as a powerful weapon, brought a lot of changes in the status of women in society. For this reason, the education level of women is of great importance.

The respondents had different level of education. They were grouped into five different categories i.e. illiterate, primary, upto high/secondary, graduate and above.

Table 4.1 brings out that maximum number of respondents (27.50 per cent) were graduates followed by 25.00 per cent high/secondary, 12.50 per cent above graduation and 8.75 per cent as primary educated. About 13.75 per cent were found to be illiterate.

Table 4.1 Socio-economic background of the respondents

Economic characteristics		Number	Percentage
Education of respondents			
Low	Illiterate	11	13.75
Medium	Primary	7	8.75
High	High/Secondary	20	25.00
	Graduate	22	27.50
	Above graduate	20	12.50
Caste			
	General	53	66.25
	Backward class	19	23.75
	Scheduled caste	8	10.00
Religion			
	Hindu	15	18.75
	Sikh	59	73.75
	Christian	6	7.50
Family type			
	Joint	22	27.50
	Nuclear	58	72.50
Family size			
	Small (Upto 4)	30	37.50
	Medium (5-8)	44	55.00
	Large (9 and above)	6	7.50
Housing Type			
	Kutcha	6	7.50
	Mixed	18	22.50
	Pucca	56	70.00
Number of living rooms			
	One	1	1.25
	Two	13	16.25
	Three	18	22.50
	More than three	48	60.00
Size of land holdings			
	Landless	33	41.25

Small (Less than 5 acres)	10	12.50
Medium (5-10 acres)	23	28.75
Large (>10 acres)	14	17.50
Family income		
Low Upto Rs. 50,000	19	23.75
Medium Rs. 50,001 – 1,60,000	28	35.00
High Rs. 1,60,001 and above	33	41.25

4.1.2 Caste

Caste is the most important institution of the Indian social structure.

Thus, the respondents were classified into three categories on the basis of caste.

The data furnished with regard to caste revealed that majority (66.25 per cent) of respondents belonged to general category, followed by backward class (23.75 per cent) and scheduled caste (10 per cent).

4.1.3 Religion

Majority of the respondents i.e. 73.75 per cent were attached to Sikh religion, 18.75 per cent to Hinduism and 7.5 per cent were Christian.

4.1.4 Family type

Table 4.1 further indicates that majority (72.5 per cent) of the respondents belonged to nuclear family and the remaining 27.5 per cent to the joint family. This indicates that majority of the respondents were from a single family who become victims of marital dispute.

4.1.5 Family size

The size of the family which is an important criterion to determine the actual situation of the respondents. Family size is the total number of persons

living together, sharing common kitchen and a common purse. The respondents were classified into three family size categories viz. small, medium and large .

The data shows that only 7.50 per cent respondents belonged to large sized family i.e. (9 members and above). About 55 per cent belonged to medium sized families i.e. (5-8 members) and 37.50 per cent to small sized families i.e. upto 4 members.

4.1.6 Housing Type

About 70 per cent families lived in the pucca house, 22.50 per cent in mixed type of houses (Katcha and Pucca) and only 7.50 per cent families lived in katcha type of houses (Table 4.1).

4.1.7 Number of living rooms

The people living in small areas had different type of dwelling. Some had made different rooms and others only one big room to adjust each and every thing at one place. Majority of the respondents (60 per cent) had more than 3 rooms followed by 22.50 per cent with 3 living rooms and only 16.25 per cent of the respondents had two living rooms.

4.1.8 Size of land holding

As depicted in the table, maximum number of respondents (41.25 per cent) were landless. In the total sample, about 28.75 per cent were medium land owners i.e. between 5-10 acres, 17.50 per cent were large land owners i.e. more than 10 acres and only 12.50 per cent were small farmers i.e. having land upto 5 acres.

4.1.9 Family income

Family income is an important parameter to measure the economic status which determines the attitude of the individual. In order to determine the economic strength of the respondents the income variable was studied. The respondents were categorised into different income group categories viz. small, medium and large.

Maximum number of the respondents (41.25 per cent) were earning between Rs. 1,60,001 and above falling in high income group and about 35 per cent respondents fell in medium income group (Rs. 50,001-1,60,000) while 23.75 per cent were low income earners i.e. upto Rs. 50,000 per annum.

4.1.10 Average annual family income/expenditure pattern of different categories of respondents

Table 4.2 indicates that majority of the respondents were from low income group, 55.24 per cent of respondents have expenditure on food followed by 53.92 per cent of the respondents from medium income group followed by 44.16 from high income group. About 15.35 per cent from low income group have expenditure on clothing, from medium income group, about 21.76 per cent of expenditure on clothing and from high income group, it was found to be 21.38 per cent. About 5.50 per cent was expenditure on housing from low income group respondents followed by 5.13 per cent of expenditure from the medium income group respondents and only 6.98 per cent of the expenditure from higher income group. From low income group, 12.77 per cent of the expenditure was on

education followed by 8.82 per cent from the medium income group respondents and about 13.74 per cent from high income group.

Table 4.2 Average annual family income/expenditure pattern of different categories of respondents

Particular	Category			Rs./annum
	Low	Medium	High	Overall level
Food	11047.37 (55.24)	21946.43 (53.92)	35939.39 (44.16)	25130.00 (47.81)
Clothing	3068.42 (15.35)	8857.14 (21.76)	17396.97 (21.38)	11005.00 (20.94)
Housing	1100.00 (5.50)	2089.29 (5.13)	5681.82 (6.98)	3336.25 (6.35)
Education	2552.63 (12.77)	3589.29 (8.82)	11181.82 (13.74)	6475.00 (12.32)
Medicine	1021.05 (5.11)	1178.57 (2.90)	3121.21 (3.84)	1942.50 (3.70)
Fuel	957.89 (4.79)	2017.86 (4.96)	4912.12 (6.04)	2960.00 (5.63)
Recreation/ Entertainment	105.27 (0.53)	446.43 (1.10)	1745.45 (2.15)	901.25 (1.71)
Socio-religious ceremonies	142.11 (0.71)	575.00 (1.41)	1393.94 (1.71)	810.00 (1.54)
Total expenditure (A)	19994.74 (100.00)	40700.01 (100.00)	81372.70 (100.00)	52560.00 (100.00)
B) Family income	42421.05	100535.70	271060.61	15705.00
c) Disposable income (B-A)	22426.31	59835.69	189687.89	104515.00

Note : Figures in parentheses are percentage to total expenditure.

On medicine, about 5.11 per cent of the expenditure was from low income group followed by 2.90 per cent from medium income group and finally 3.84 per cent from higher income group. The fuel expenditure found to be 4.79 per cent from low income group, about 4.96 per cent from medium income group and 6.02 per cent from high income group.

Table 4.3 Half per cent was the expenditure on recreational/entertainment by low income group respondents, about 1.10 per cent by medium income group respondents and 2.15 per cent by high income group respondents. The low income group spent 0.71 per cent on socio-religious ceremonies followed by 1.41 per cent by medium income group and about 1.71 per cent by high income group.

From overall data, it is revealed that the maximum number of respondents having expenditure Rs. 52560 per family per annum lying in the income group of Rs. 50,001-1,60,000. In case of total family income, majority of the respondents earned income upto Rs. 1,57,075 which lies between Rs. 1,60,001 and above and belonged to high income group category.

4.1.11 Average annual per capita income/expenditure pattern of different categories of respondents

The data in table 4.3 shows that the per capita/annum expenditure on food by low income group respondents was Rs. 2528.92, Rs. 3964.52 by medium income group and Rs. 5930.00 by high income group. The low category spent Rs. 702.41 on clothings, medium Rs. 1600 and high category respondents spent Rs. 2870.50 on clothings. The housing expenditure by low category was Rs. 251.81, by medium category was Rs. 377.42 and by high category was Rs. 937.50.

The low category respondents spent Rs. 584 on education, medium spent Rs. 648 and Rs. 1845 was spent by high category respondents on education.

The medicine expenditure was Rs. 233.73 in low category, Rs. 212.90 in medium category and Rs. 515 by high category. On fuel, the low

Table 4.3 Average annual per capita income/expenditure pattern of different categories of respondents

Particular	Category			Rs./annum
	Low	Medium	High	Overall level
Food	2528.92	3964.52	5930.00	4589.95
Clothing	702.41	1600.00	2870.50	2010.05
Housing	251.81	377.42	937.50	609.36
Education	584.34	648.39	1845.00	1182.65
Medicine	233.73	212.90	515.00	354.79
Fuel	219.28	364.52	810.50	540.64
Recreation/ Entertainment	24.10	80.65	288.00	164.61
Socio-religious ceremonies	32.53	103.87	230.00	147.95
Total expenditure (A)	4577.12	73.52.27	13426.50	9600.00
B) Family income	9710.84	18161.29	44725.00	28689.50
c) Disposable income (B-A)	5133.72	100809.02	31298.50	19089.50

category spent Rs. 219.28, medium spent Rs. 364.52 and high category spent Rs. 810.50. The recreational entertainment expenditure by low category was Rs. 2410 followed by Rs. 80.65 by medium and Rs. 288 by high income category. The low income category spent Rs. 32.53 on socio-religious ceremonies and Rs. 103.87 by medium category and Rs. 230 was spent by high income category. From overall data, it is revealed that overall expenditure by maximum number of respondents was Rs. 9600 per capita per annum from low income group category i.e. income group upto Rs. 50,000.

4.1.12 Material possession by the respondents

Data presented in table 4.4 indicate the possession of material by the respondents at present. A close look at the data reveals that large number of (96.25 per cent) were married through arranged system and only 2.54 per cent

respondents had cycle, scooter, TV, and radio. Only 30 per cent had cable or dish TV and 35 per cent had the car, 63.75 per cent had mixer grinder, mobile phone and 65 per cent had tape recorder and 58.75 per cent had telephone and 55 per cent had washing machine and only 48.75 per cent had VCR. So data shows that majority of the respondents had possessed almost all the materials.

Table 4.4 Material possession by the respondents

Material items	(Multiple Response)	
	Number	Percentage
Cycle	66	82.50
Scooter/Motor cycle	64	80.00
Car/Jeep	28	35.00
Radio	56	70.00
Tape Recorder	52	65.00
T.V. Set	74	92.50
VCR	39	48.75
Cable/Dish TV	24	30.00
Telephone	47	58.75
Mobile phone	51	63.75
Mixer/Grinder	51	63.75
Washing Machine	44	55.00

4.1.13 Marital related characteristics

Type of marriage

The table 4.5 indicates that the type of marriage of respondents was also taken into consideration and it was found that majority of the respondents (96.25 per cent) were married through arranged system and only 3.75 per cent

were married through love/love-cum-arranged marriage system.

Table 4.5 **Distribution of respondents according to type and age of marriage**

Type of marriage	Number	Percentage
Love marriage	1	1.25
Arranged marriage	77	96.25
Love-cum-arranged marriage	2	2.50
Age at marriage		
16 years	1	1.25
17-20 years	39	48.75
21-24 years	36	45.00
>24 years	4	5.00

Age at marriage

More and more women are now taking up education. As a result they have developed a self consciousness in them. Their views about marriage age have become more pragmatic than before. Age at marriage is significant as it determines the level of fertility and maturity. In our society 18 years age is the legally prescribed age at marriage of a girl.

Table 4.5 shows that 48.75 per cent respondents were married between 17-20 years and 45 per cent between 21-24 years and only 5 per cent respondents were married in age more than 24 years. Early marriage i.e. under sixteen were found to be just 1.25 per cent. As the education level of respondents increased the age for marriage also increases. Therefore, education is the major factor for the delaying age at marriage of the respondents.

4.2 CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF MARITAL DISPUTE

General factors responsible for marital separation/divorce

Table 4.6 delineates the various factors which are responsible for marital separation. Most of respondents encountered the difficulties with regard to undesired habits of husband and intolerable harrassment by husband and in-laws. Seventy five per cent respondents complained about undesired habits of husband and 62.5 per cent complained regarding the intolerable harrassment by husband and in laws followed by 53.75 per cent complained the extra marital affairs and about 40 per cent complained of demand of cash and other materials from in-laws. About one-third (32.5 per cent) complained about the women liberation issue and 30 per cent of the respondents complained that there was a lack of sex education.

Table 4.6 General factors responsible for marital separation/divorce

Factors	Multiple response	
	Number	Percentage
In sufficient income of spouse	16	20.00
Intolerable harassment by husband and in-laws	50	62.50
Undesired habits of husband (gambling, drinking etc.)	60	75.00
Extra marital affairs of husband	43	53.75
Demand of cash and other materials from inlaws	32	40.00
Suspicious nature of husband	23	28.75
Not conceiving a baby	16	20.00
Chronic illness of husband	3	3.75
Given birth to a female baby/foeticide	5	6.25
Lack of sex education	24	30.00
Women liberation issue	26	32.5

This was followed by 28.75 per cent of the suspicious nature of husband and about 20 per cent complained of not conceiving a baby and insufficient income of spouse. The main reason for encountering the marital dispute was bad habits of husband. About 19 per cent said that giving birth to a female baby/foeticide was one of the general factor responsible for marital separation/ divorce.

For better clarification, major factors responsible for marital separation have also been presented diagrammatically (Fig. 1).

Sharing home with older people and grown-up children

Table 4.7 indicates that majority of respondents were preferring to share their homes with older people and grown up children which was significant at 1 per cent level.

Table 4.7 Preference of respondents regarding sharing home with older people and grown up children

Preference	Number	Percentage
Yes	61	76.25
No	19	23.75
Z-value		6.64***

Personal factors responsible for marital separation/divorce

Taking up the dual role of a home maker and a wage earner, the working woman found herself trapped in a tangle of problems. The problems are mainly due to dual commitment and concern at a practical level combining work with the home.

Fig. 1 : General factors responsible for marital separation as perceived by respondents

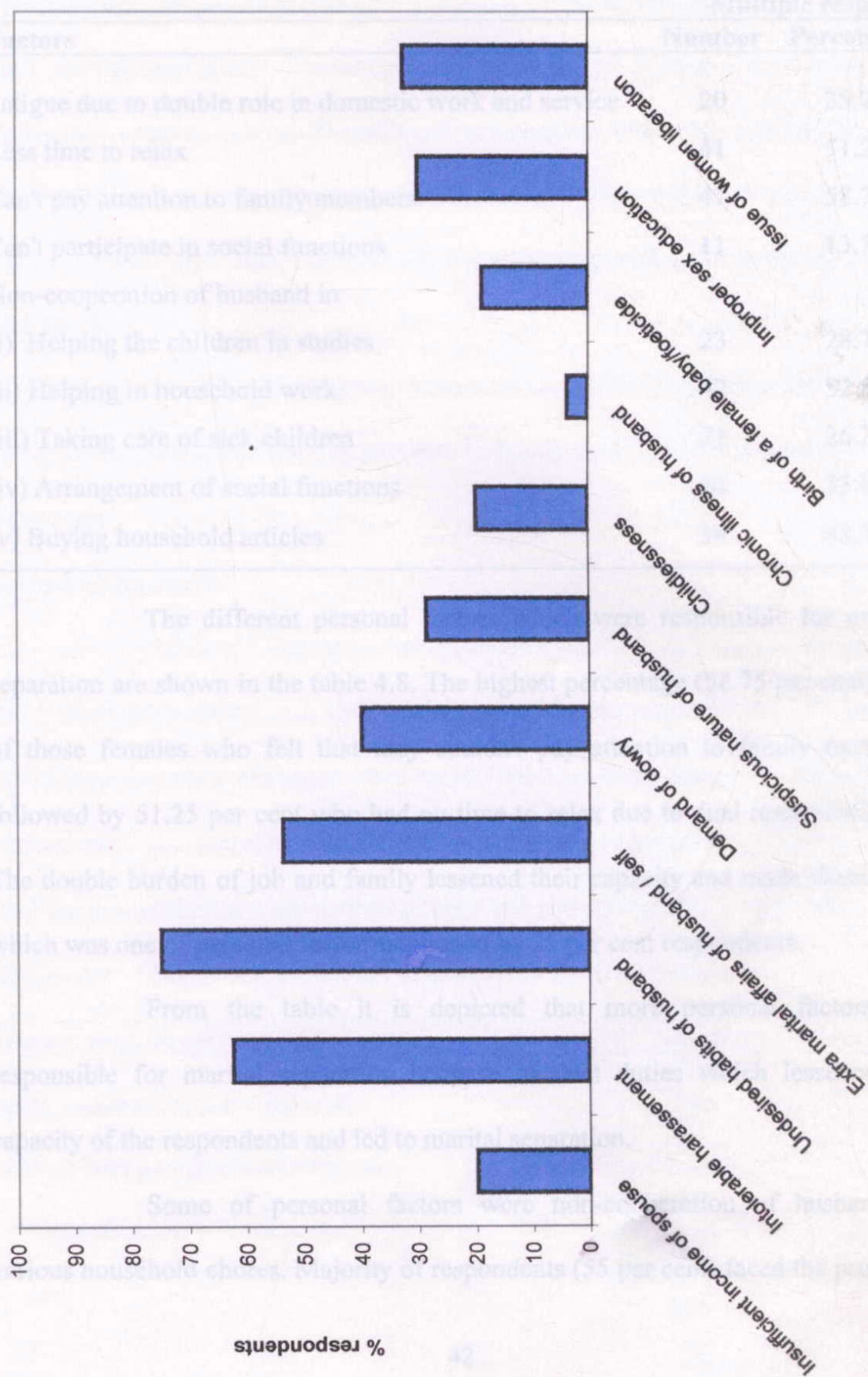


Table 4.8 Personal factors of respondents responsible for marital dispute/separation

Factors	Multiple response	
	Number	Percentage
Fatigue due to double role in domestic work and service	20	25.00
Less time to relax	41	51.25
Can't pay attention to family members	47	58.75
Can't participate in social functions	11	13.75
Non-cooperation of husband in		
(i) Helping the children in studies	23	28.75
(ii) Helping in household work	42	52.50
(iii) Taking care of sick children	21	26.25
(iv) Arrangement of social functions	44	55.00
(v) Buying household articles	39	48.75

The different personal factors which were responsible for marital separation are shown in the table 4.8. The highest percentage (58.75 per cent) was of those females who felt that they couldn't pay attention to family members followed by 51.25 per cent who had no time to relax due to dual responsibilities. The double burden of job and family lessened their capacity and made them tired which was one of personal factor mentioned by 25 per cent respondents.

From the table it is depicted that more personal factors are responsible for marital separation because of dual duties which lessened the capacity of the respondents and led to marital separation.

Some of personal factors were non-cooperation of husband in various household chores. Majority of respondents (55 per cent) faced the problem

of non-cooperation of husband in arranging the social function and 52.5 per cent complained non-cooperation of husband in house hold work and 48.75 per cent complained about non-cooperative attitude of husband in buying any household articles. About 29 per cent respondents cited the problem of non-cooperation of husband in helping the children in studies and 26.25 per cent of the respondents set that their husband did not cooperate with them in taking care of sick children.

So all above personal factors led to marital separation. But the main factor is that they could not pay attention to family members due to working career of women.

Nature of husband

Table 4.9 indicates that husband's nature was depicted in terms of the various personality traits that were specified by the respondents. The females mentioned that their husbands were narrow minded, short tempered, authoritative jealous and also suspicious in nature. Majority of the respondents (75 per cent) said that the husbands were narrow minded and short tempered, 60 per cent

Table 4.9 Nature of husbands as perceived by their wives

Nature/attitude of husband	Multiple response	
	Number	Percentage
Narrow minded/short tempered	60	75.00
Jealous/irresponsible/authoritative	48	60.00
Suspicious/harsh with children	12	15.00

reported them as jealous, authoritative and irresponsible and only 15 per cent said that they were suspicious in nature.

Behaviour of husbands towards their spouses

Table 4.10 shows the behaviour of husbands in relation to their wives. About 84 per cent of the female respondents did not receive proper behaviour as husbands beat and abuse their wives after drinking. This was followed by 11.25 per cent who had received good behaviour and only 5 per cent received very good behaviour from their spouse. Majority of respondents did not receive good behaviour of husbands due to their undesired habits.

Table 4.10 Behaviour of husbands towards their spouses

Behaviour	Number	Percentage	Z-value
Very good	4	5.00	
Good	9	11.25	8.54***
Not good	67	83.75	

Arrangement of both the spouses on different aspects

The questions were got answered through interview schedule and the distribution of responses is given in table 4.11.

Majority of women usually agreed with their husbands on different matters like sexual indulgence, handling family income, ways of dealing with in-laws and also in matters of education of children which was 45 per cent, 42.50 per cent, 53.75 per cent and 23.75 per cent respectively. Only 5 per cent of the female

Table 4.11 Arrangement of respondents with their husbands on different aspects

Aspects	Multiple Response	
	Number	Percentage
Handling family income	34	42.50
Matters of education	19	23.75
Sexual indulgence	44	55.00
Ways of dealing with in laws	43	53.75
Ways of children brought up	12	15.00
Number of children and preference for male issue	4	5.00

respondents had no agreement on the number of children and for the preference of male child.

Behavioural characteristics causing conflict

Table 4.12 shows that conflict between husband and wife occurred due to their behavioural characteristics. The majority of respondents had the problem that their husbands did not consult them in family affairs, were egoistic in

Table 4.12 Behavioural characteristics of husband causing conflict

Characteristics	Multiple response	
	Number	Percentage
Does not give due recognition to job	11	13.75
Does not consult in family affairs	40	50.00
Jealous about professional status	15	18.75
Does not want the wife to spend earned income according to own wishes	34	42.50
Egoistic	43	53.75
Does not share enough love and affection	30	37.50
Harsh with children	3	3.75

nature and did not share enough love and affection and did not let wife to spend the earned income according to their own wishes and such respondents were 50 per cent, 53.75 per cent, 37.5 per cent, 42.50 per cent respectively.

This depicts that conflict occurred due to some behavioural characteristics which led to marital separation.

Prevalence of undesired habits of husbands

Table 4.13 shows that now-a-days, society has remained unchanged for habits of drinking, gambling etc. Though the style differs from the past but it has increased rather than decreasing. Almost 75 per cent of our population is taking drugs of some kinds.

Table 4.13 Prevalence of undesired habits among husbands – wives' view point

Extent	Habit		
	Smoking	Drinking	Gambling
Regularly	16(20.00)	54(67.50)	6(7.50)
Sometimes	35(43.75)	19(23.75)	52(65.00)
Occasionally	4(5.00)	7(8.75)	8(10.00)
Never	25(31.25)	-	14(17.50)
Mean score	1.52	2.59	1.62

Note : Figures in parentheses are percentages

The data show that 67.5 per cent husbands were drinking, 20 per cent were smoking and 7.5 per cent were habitual of gambling regularly. About 43.75 per cent were smoking, 23.75 per cent were drinking and 65 per cent were gambling sometimes and only 5 per cent were smoking and 8.75 per cent were drinking and 10.00 per cent were gambling occasionally, 31.25 per cent were not

smoking and 17.5 per cent never played gambling and overall mean score of smokers was 1.52, drinkers was 2.59 and gamblers were 1.62.

It is clear from the table that most of husbands were taking liquor regularly. So, the habits of drinking was the main cause behind marital separation/divorce. In figure 2, the mean score is shown for smoking, drinking and gambling. The figure depicts the highest mean score is of drinking habits of the husbands which shows that the husbands drink regularly.

Money spent on alcohol and drugs by spouse

Table 4.14 depicts that about 26.25 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands spent Rs. 501-1000 on alcohol and drugs, 25 per cent spent more than Rs. 2001 and 13.75 per cent of the respondents said that their husband spent Rs. 1001-2000 on alcohol and drugs per month.

Table 4.14 Money spend on alcohol and drugs per capita, per month

Money spend (Rs./month)	Number	Percentage
Nil	9	11.25
Upto 500	19	23.75
501-1000	21	26.25
1001-2000	11	13.75
≥ 2001	20	25.00

Impact on husband

Table 4.15 shows the effect of drink on the husband and family. The majority of the respondents (68.75 per cent) were having the problem of aggressiveness followed by the problem of mentally blackened after drinking (37.50 per cent) and 21.25 per cent showed sadness after drinking.

Fig. 2: Prevalence of undesired habits of husbands - wives' viewpoint

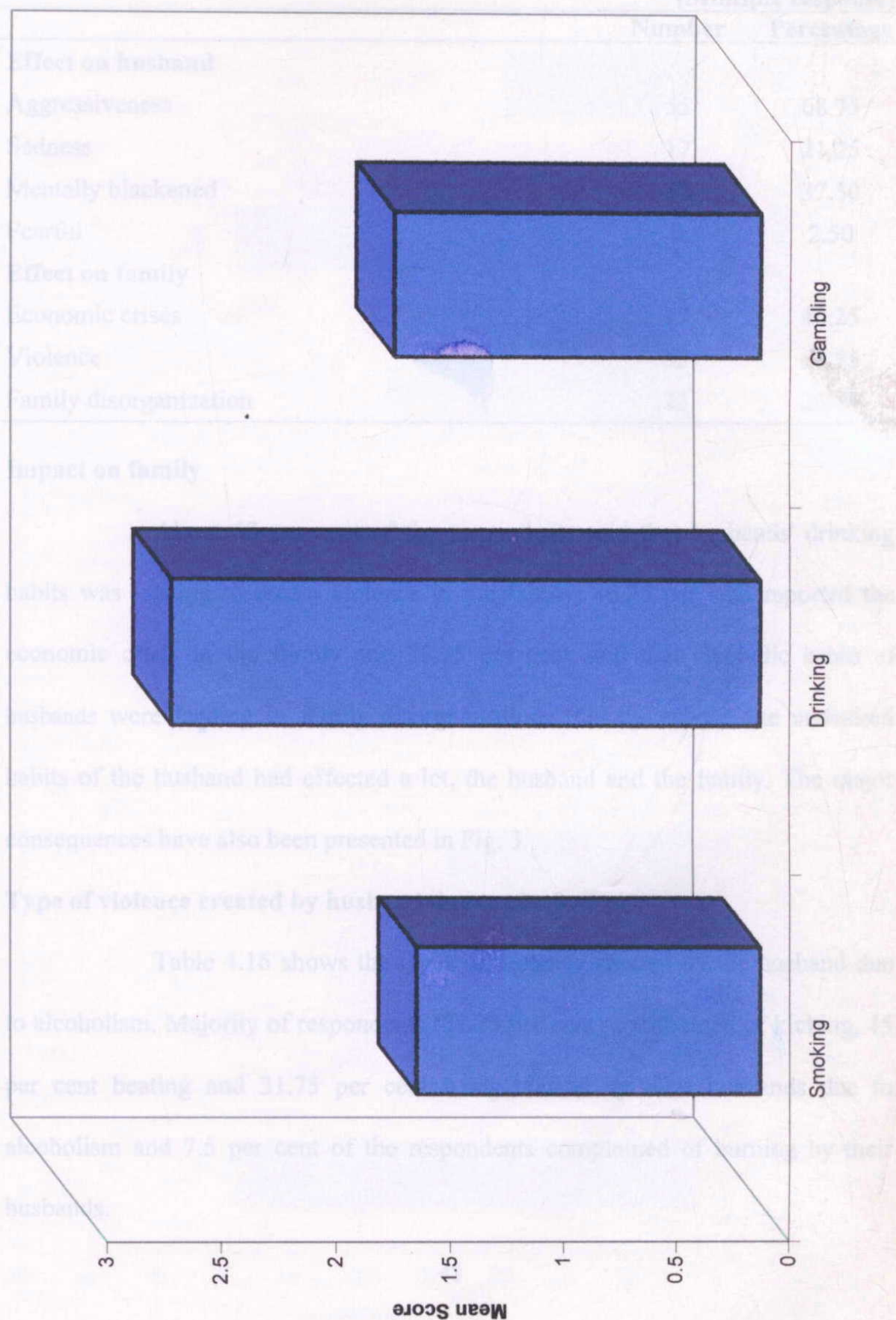


Table 4.15 Impact of drinking on the husband and family before separation/divorce

	(Multiple response)	
	Number	Percentage
Effect on husband		
Aggressiveness	55	68.75
Sadness	17	21.25
Mentally blackened	30	37.50
Fearful	2	2.50
Effect on family		
Economic crises	37	46.25
Violence	55	68.75
Family disorganization	23	28.75

Impact on family

About 69 per cent of the respondents said that husbands' drinking habits was leading to create violence in the family, 46.25 per cent reported the economic crisis in the family and 28.75 per cent said that alcoholic habits of husbands were leading to family disorganisation. On the whole, the undesired habits of the husband had effected a lot, the husband and the family. The major consequences have also been presented in Fig. 3.

Type of violence created by husband due to alcoholism

Table 4.16 shows the types of violence created by the husband due to alcoholism. Majority of respondents (51.25 per cent) complained of kicking, 45 per cent beating and 31.75 per cent being abused by their husbands due to alcoholism and 7.5 per cent of the respondents complained of burning by their husbands.

Fig. 3: Impact of drinking on husband and family before separation

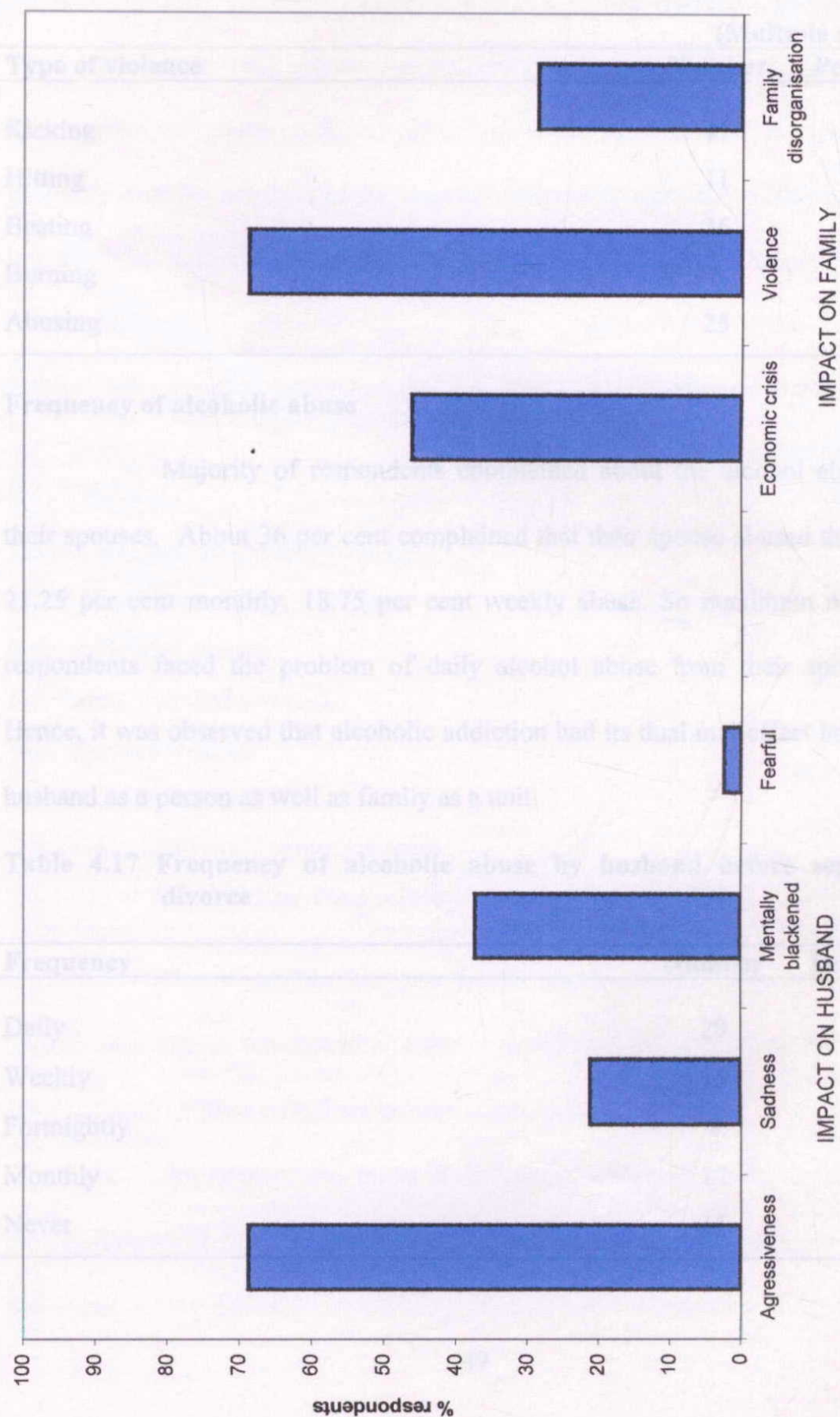


Table 4.16 Type of violence created by the husband due to alcoholism before separation/ divorce

Type of violence	(Multiple response)	
	Number	Percentage
Kicking	41	51.25
Hitting	11	13.75
Beating	36	45.00
Burning	6	7.50
Abusing	25	31.25

Frequency of alcoholic abuse

Majority of respondents complained about the alcohol abuse from their spouses. About 36 per cent complained that their spouse abused them daily, 21.25 per cent monthly, 18.75 per cent weekly abuse. So maximum number of respondents faced the problem of daily alcohol abuse from their spouse side. Hence, it was observed that alcoholic addiction had its dual mal-effect both on the husband as a person as well as family as a unit.

Table 4.17 Frequency of alcoholic abuse by husband before separation/ divorce

Frequency	Number	Percentage
Daily	29	36.25
Weekly	15	18.75
Fortnightly	8	10.00
Monthly	17	21.25
Never	11	13.75

Problems be faced as working women

It is clear from table 4.18 that the main problems encountered by 53.75 per cent working women was conflict with in-laws. About 52 per cent cited the problem that they could not look after their children due to their working career. About 49 per cent of the female respondents were having the problem of too much of responsibilities because of dual duties i.e. household chores and service career.

Table 4.18 Type of problems faced by the respondents as working women before separation/divorce

Problems	(Multiple response)	
	Number	Percentage
Job not accepted in the family/society	17	21.75
Unsatisfactory working conditions	24	30.00
Can't look after children	42	52.50
Too much of responsibilities	39	48.75
Conflict with in-laws	43	53.75
Conflict with husband	32	40.00
Difficult to fulfill dual responsibilities	57	71.25
Not difficult to fulfill dual responsibilities	23	28.75

Due to double job, respondents could not pay much attention to all their duties towards family and also due to unsatisfactory working conditions, they always found conflict with their husbands and in-laws.

An attempt was made to find out the respondents opinion regarding the fulfillment of dual responsibilities. About 71 per cent respondents said that they were having difficulty in fulfilling the dual responsibilities and the remaining

about 28.75 per cent said that they were not having any difficulty to fulfill the dual responsibilities.

General image of married working women

In ancient times, women's life was confined to home only. No importance was given to her views and ideas. Her wishes used to be slaughtered and thus she lost her self confidence and became a puppet in the hands of man. With the spread of education, more and more women are now taking up different jobs. India is a developing country, where the image of working women especially after marriages is yet to be fully assessed.

Table 4.19 General image of married working women in the society

General image	Number	Percentage
Excellent	3	3.75
Good	17	21.25
Socially respectful	8	10.00
Socially undesirable	52	65.00

Table 4.19 shows the distribution of respondents according to their views on the general image of married working women in the society. About 65.00 per cent respondents said that the general image of married working women was socially undesirable followed by 21.25 per cent who said that the general image of married working women was good.

Problems created by in-laws in family affairs

Table 4.20 indicates that majority of the respondents have the

adjustment problems because of the interference of in-laws. In this, out of 80, 53.75 per cent had problem of interference by in-laws in money matters, 48.75 per cent had the problem of interference by in-laws in marital matters, 26.25 per cent were having problem of interference in children's career. Hence, the respondents have the major problem of interference by in-laws.

Table 4.20 Problems created by the interference of in-laws in the family affairs as perceived by respondents

Type of problems	(Multiple response)	
	Number	Percentage
In children's career	21	26.25
In money matters	43	53.75
In marital matters	39	48.75
Other matters	7	8.75

Type of conflicts with in-laws

About 70 per cent of the respondents faced the problem of uncooperative attitude of family members regarding household chores and 35 per cent faced the problem of misunderstanding due to lack of interaction with them (Table 4.21).

Table 4.21 Type of conflicts by the respondents with the in-laws

Type of conflict	(Multiple response)	
	Number	Percentage
Uncooperative attitude of family members regarding household chores	56	70.00
Don't recognise your dual roles	13	16.25
Misunderstanding due to lack of interaction with them	28	35.00

4.2.2 Consequences of conflicts

The various consequences of conflicts as perceived by respondents have been presented in Table 4.22.

Irritating behaviour

Most of the respondents (68.75 per cent) said or agreed that they found irritating behaviour in themselves like aggressiveness, rudeness, short temperedness, anxious in nature. After separation or divorce every one feel alone leading to irritating behaviour.

Feeling fearful

It was found that about 65 per cent of the respondents were fearful sometimes and 25 per cent were fearful always and only 10 per cent of the respondents who never felt any type of fear. Table 4.22 further shows that majority of the respondents were bold in nature. Overall mean score was 1.15 and % score was 57.50. Table 4.22 further shows that majority of respondents felt fearful sometimes.

The table further indicates that large number of respondents i.e. about 55 per cent were guilty in their relationship with others and remaining about 45 per cent did not feel any type of guilt in their relationship with other. About 79 per cent respondents felt disturbances in self perception and self-efficacy and remaining 21.25 per cent did not feel any type of disturbances in self perception and self-efficacy.

Table 4.22 Consequences of conflicts as perceived by respondents

Consequences of conflicts	Number	Percentage
Irritating behaviour	55	68.75
Independence	59	73.75
Physical violence/decreased productivity	47	58.75
Feeling fearful		
Always	20	25.00
Sometimes	52	65.00
Never	8	10.00
Mean score	1.15	
% score	57.50	
Feeling of guilt in your relationship with others	44	55.00
Disturbances in self perception and self-efficacy	63	78.75
Feeling to attempt suicide		
Always	2	2.50
Sometimes	29	36.25
Never	49	61.25
Mean score	0.41	
% score	20.63	
Feeling emotional reactions		
Anxiety	50	62.50
Anger	36	45.00
Aggressiveness	30	37.50
Guilt	16	20.00
Humiliation	14	17.50
Fear regarding physical injury	20	25.00
Suffering from any type of phobia		
Fear of crowd	36	45.00

Fear of travelling	11	13.75
Walking alone and being followed	23	28.75
Children feel neglected for		
Proper care	33	41.25
Love and affection	31	38.75
Studies	11	13.75
Children remain upset		
Emotionally	29	36.25
Socially	27	33.75
Mentally	24	30.00
Family violence affected children in performing		
Co-curricular activity	34	42.50
Social activity	26	32.50
Physical activity	17	21.25
Marital Activity	19	23.75
Neglect by family member due to spouses working career	42	52.50
Husband abuse you	72	90.00

Feeling to attempt suicide

The table further shows data related to attempt to suicide by respondents. The data indicate that about 61 per cent of respondents never felt to attempt suicide and 36.25 per cent felt to attempt suicide sometimes and only 2.5 per cent of the respondents were felt about suicide always. Overall mean score was 0.46 and per cent score was 20.63 which means that respondents never felt to attempt suicide.

The data reveal that today's women are more bold and they can

always prepared themselves for any type of accidents in their life and never take any type of decisions which can lead them towards any wrong results.

Feeling emotional reactions

Table 4.22 also shows that due to violence or marital dispute, respondents found many problems. Due to this, they felt many type of emotional reaction. About 62 per cent felt anxious and about 45 per cent felt angry, 37.5 per cent felt aggressiveness. About 25 per cent felt fear regarding the physical injury and all these problems were faced by the respondents due to divorce or marital separation .

Phobics

Table further shows that due to family violence about 45 per cent of the female respondents were suffering from phobia of crowd and about 28.75 per cent suffered from the phobia walking alone and phobia of being followed by someone and about 14 per cent felt the fear of traveling, they never travel alone. So due to this, they always depend upon others.

Children feel neglected

A family is just like our body. If something happens to one part, our whole body is affected because the different parts of body are inter dependent and inter-related. Similarly, a change in the role of a family members has a deep influence on other members of the family.

The table also shows that adjustment problems are like to occur when there is a clash between two thoughts in a family. The majority of the

respondents faced the conflict from family. About 41.25 per cent of the respondents said that their children feel neglected for proper care, 38.75 per cent said that children feel neglected for love and affection and 13.75 per cent said that children feel neglected for studies. All above factors affected the children's overall well-being.

Children remain upset

About 36.25 per cent respondents said that their children remained upset emotionally and 33.75 per cent said that children upset socially and only 30 per cent said that children remained upset mentally.

Family violence-affected children in performing different activities

About 42.5 per cent respondents said that family violence-affected children did not perform in co-curricular activities, 32.5 per cent social activities and 21.25 per cent said that children did not perform well in physical activities while 23.72 per cent said that children did not perform well in their marital activities after their marriage.

Husband abuses you

As husbands' behaviour is not proper and he quarrels with his wife and beats children after drinking is creating hurdles in adjustment for women with them. Educated women have more problems than illiterate because illiterate even after having quarrel with spouse does not say anything and live in the same manner and become habitual whereas educated does not remain silent which sometimes create adjustment problems with husband.

Table 4.23 Table further shows that about 90 per cent of the respondents complained that their husbands abused them and only 10 per cent did not have any type of abuse by their husband.

4.3 GENERAL CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS AFTER DIVORCE/ SEPARATION

Loneliness

Every individual in society have some expectations from other individuals. This society cannot survive without cooperation. This cooperation is expected by every individual from the other. Especially in family, husband and wife both have expectation from each other to live a happier life and when these type of expectations are not fulfilled, then they are expected to separate from each other and this separation creates many types of problems for both husband and wife.

Table 4.23 shows that about 52 per cent of the respondents always felt isolated or alone after divorce or separation and 47.5 per cent sometimes feel isolated or alone.

Emotionally close relatives

Every one is expected that they share their separation, loneliness with ones who were more close to them. Table 4.23 indicates that 51.25 per cent respondents said that there was only one close relative with whom they discussed their problems and 33.75 per cent said that two close relatives to whom they were emotionally attached, 11.25 per cent said that they were emotionally attached

Table 4.23 General condition of respondents after divorce/isolation

Condition/statements	Number	Percentage	Z-value
Loneliness			
Sometimes	42	52.50	
Always	38	47.50	
			0.63 ^{NS}
Emotionally close relatives (Number)			
One	41	51.25	
Two	27	33.75	
Three	9	11.25	
More than three	3	3.75	
Present mental status			
Unhappy	30	37.50	
Nervous	19	23.75	
Irritable	20	25.00	
Depressed	18	22.50	
Present feeling about divorce			
A good event	6	7.50	
A bad event	74	92.50	
			10.75***
Health status			
Excellent	10	12.50	
Good	25	31.25	
Fair	26	32.50	
Poor	19	23.75	
Mean score	2.33	58.44	

Improvement in situation after divorce/separation

<i>Social contacts</i>			
Improved	13	16.25	
Worsened	67	83.75	
			8.54**
<i>Economic status</i>			
Improved	12	15.00	
Worsened	68	85.00	
			8.85***
<i>Peace of mind</i>			
Improved	23	28.75	
Worsened	57	71.25	
			5.38***
<i>Parent's/relative's support</i>			
Improved	52	65.00	
Worsened	28	35.00	
			4.62***

**Significant at 5% level

***Significant at 1% level

NS - Non significant

situation has worsened after divorce and 16.25 per cent said that their social situation has improved. Test of significance (Z-test) of difference in proportion showed significant difference in improved and worsened social situation.

Present mental status

About 37 per cent respondents were feeling extremely unhappy and about 25 per cent were feeling nervous and 23.75 per cent were feeling extremely irritable and 22.5 per cent were feeling depressed (Table 4.23).

Health status

Table further reveals that 12.50 per cent respondents had excellent health, 31.25 per cent good health, 32.5 per cent fair health and about 23.75 per cent had poor health.

Present feeling about divorce

The impact of divorce on family members' relationship quality and psychological well-being has also been examined. About 92 per cent of the respondents said that divorce was a bad event while only 7.5 per cent said it was a good event. Test of significance (Z-test) of difference in proportion showed significant difference in good and bad event regarding the divorce.

Improvement in situation after divorce/separation

Social contacts

Distribution of respondents according to the situations of respondents after divorce has been studied and put in table 4.23. It is found in the study that majority of the respondents (83.75 per cent) said that their social situation has worsened after divorce and 16.25 per cent said that their social situation has improved. Test of significance (Z-test) of difference in proportion showed significant difference in improved and worsened social situation.

Economic status

Data presented in table reveal that about 85 per cent respondents said that their financial situation worsened due to separation/divorce and 15 per cent said that it has been improved. Test of significance (z-test) of difference in

proportion showed significant difference in improved and worsened economic status.

Peace of mind

Table further indicates that about 71.25 per cent of the respondents said that due to divorce, their peace of mind has worsened and 28.75 per cent said that it has been improved after divorce. So there is also significance difference between worsened and improved situation with regard to peace of mind.

Parents/Relatives support

About 65 per cent of the respondents said that their condition improved after divorce because of the parental as well as relatives support and 35 per cent said that it was worsened.

Fig. 4 also shows the improvement in situation after divorce/separation. More than 50 per cent respondents received the parents/relatives support after divorce/separation. The economic condition, peace of mind and social contacts have worsened.

4.4 SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE MARITAL RELATIONS OF WOMEN

Many females gave the suggestions for the amelioration of their problems. Suggestions given by them are given in table 4.24. About 97 per cent respondents suggested that work shops and seminars should be organised for the eradication of alcoholism and drug addiction. About 81 per cent suggested that marriage counselling should be given by counsellor at village level and 75 per cent

Fig. 4: Improvement in situation of respondents after divorce/ separation

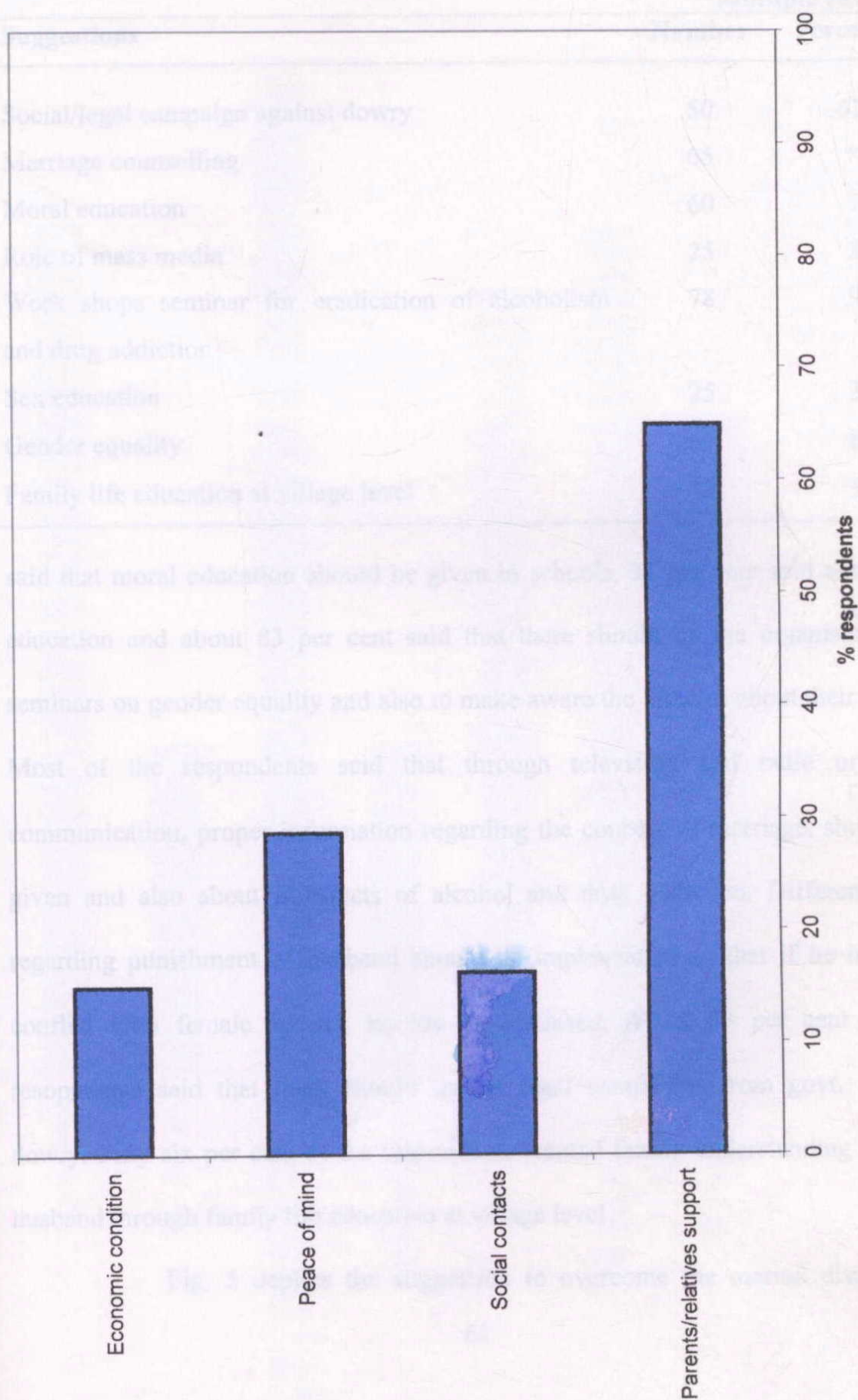


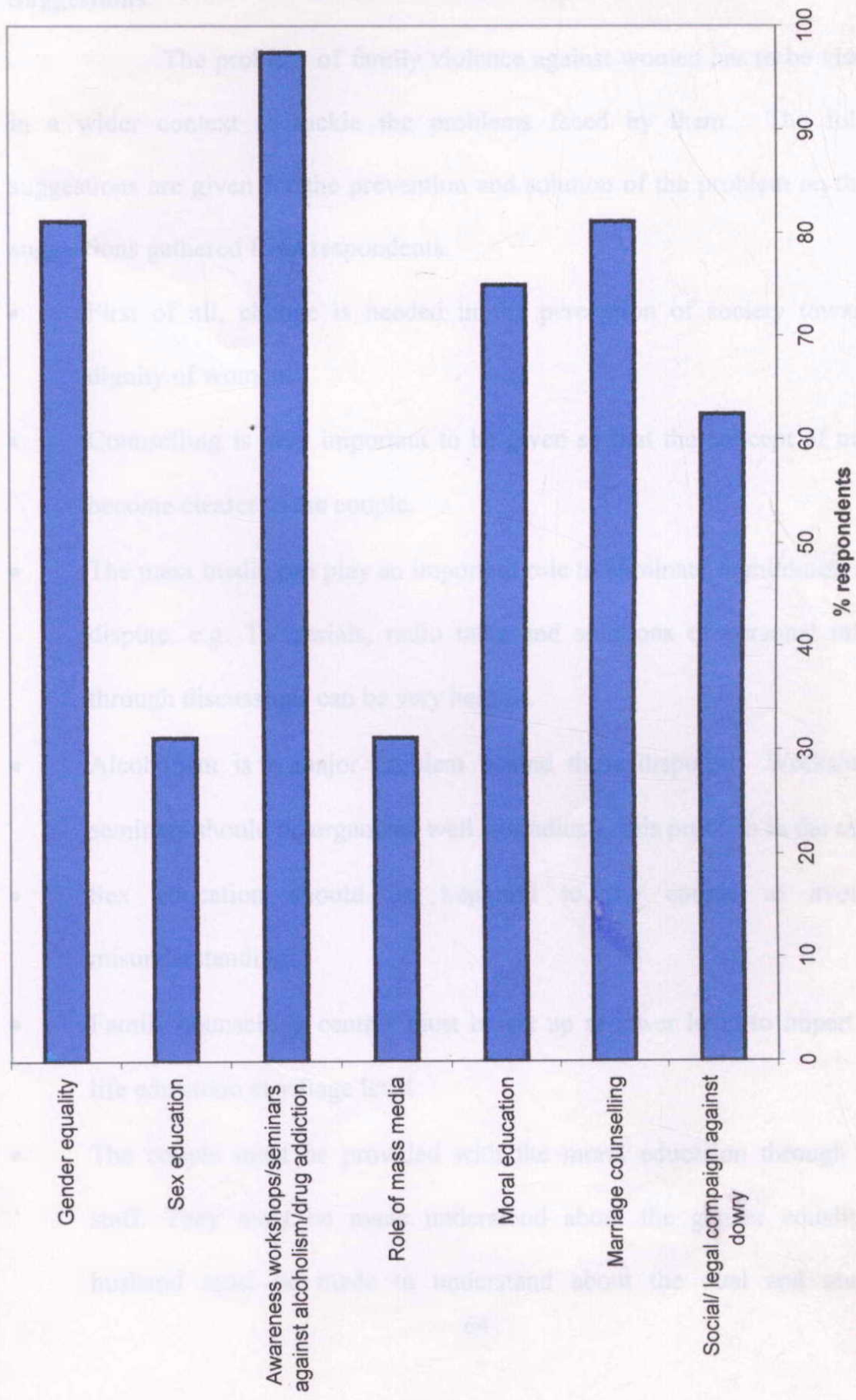
Table 4.24 Suggestions to overcome the marital disputes as perceived by the respondents

Suggestions	Multiple response	
	Number	Percentage
Social/legal campaign against dowry	50	62.5
Marriage counselling	65	81
Moral education	60	75
Role of mass media	25	31
Work shops seminar for eradication of alcoholism and drug addiction	78	97
Sex education	25	31
Gender equality	65	83
Family life education at village level	45	56

said that moral education should be given in schools, 31 per cent said about sex education and about 83 per cent said that there should be the organisation of seminars on gender equality and also to make aware the females about their rights. Most of the respondents said that through television and radio or mass communication, proper information regarding the concept of marriage, should be given and also about ill-effects of alcohol and drug addiction. Different laws regarding punishment of husband should be implemented so that if he has any conflict with female spouse, he can be punished. About 63 per cent of the respondents said that there should be the legal campaigns from govt. against dowry. Fifty six per cent of the respondents wanted family understanding for the husband through family life education at village level.

Fig. 5 depicts the suggestion to overcome the marital dispute as

Fig. 5: Suggestions to overcome the marital disputes as perceived by the respondents



perceived by the respondents through the bar graph.

Suggestions

The problem of family violence against women has to be visualized in a wider context to tackle the problems faced by them. The following suggestions are given for the prevention and solution of the problem on the basis suggestions gathered from respondents.

- First of all, change is needed in the perception of society towards the dignity of women.
- Counselling is very important to be given so that the concept of marriage become clearer to the couple.
- The mass media can play an important role to eliminate or minimize marital dispute. e.g. TV serials, radio talks and solutions of personal problems through discussions can be very helpful.
- Alcoholism is a major problem behind these disputes. Workshop and seminars should be organized well to eradicate, this problem in the society.
- Sex education should be imparted to the couple to avoid any misunderstanding.
- Family counselling centres must be set up at lower level to impart family life education at village level.
- The couple must be provided with the moral education through trained staff. They must be made understood about the gender equality. The husband must be made to understand about the dual and multiplied

responsibilities of their wives. Both should be prepared to be wise to each other and to avoid extra marital relationships.

- The govt. should give the counsellings through govt. counsellor against dowry by organising campaigns at village level.

- To know the socio-economic background of the respondents.
- To analyse various causes and consequences of marital dispute.
- To suggest the remedial measures for improving the marital relations of women on the basis of suggestions gathered from the respondents.

The study was conducted in rural areas of the Chandigarh and Amritsar districts of Punjab state. The study was confined to females who are the victims of marital dispute i.e. 80 rural respondents were selected from the sample area. Data were collected through semi-structured interview with the help of interview schedule.

After careful analysis of the facts collected through structured interview schedule the following findings have been arrived at:

The study revealed that majority of respondents of rural area got married in the age group of 17-24 years. A majority of respondents were found to be graduates and higher secondary education. Majority of the respondents belonged to nuclear family and general category.

As far as the annual income of respondents is concerned, it was found that the maximum number of respondents in rural areas were having the

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present study is conducted to study the marital dispute among rural families with the following objectives:

- To know the socio-economic background of the respondents.
- To analyse various causes and consequences of marital dispute.
- To suggest the remedial measures for improving the marital relations of women on the basis of suggestions gathered from the respondents.

The study was conducted in rural areas of the Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts of Punjab state. The study was confined to female who are the victims of marital dispute i.e. 80 such respondents were selected from the sample area. Data were collected through direct interview method with the help of interview schedule

After careful analysis of the facts collected through structured interview schedule the following findings have been arrived at :

The study revealed that majority of respondents of rural area got married at the age group of 17-24 years. A majority of respondents were found to be graduates and higher secondary education. Majority of the respondents belonged to nuclear family and general category.

As far as, the annual income of respondents is concerned, it was found that the maximum number of respondents in rural areas were having the

income of Rs. 160001 and above per family per annum.

Regarding the general and personal factors responsible for marital separation, it was found that bad habits of husband were foremost reason of conflict followed by intolerable harassment by husband and in-laws and in case of personal factor it was found that misunderstandings get created when they couldn't pay attention to family members followed by non-cooperative behaviour of husband in arranging of social functions/household chores.

Majority of respondents reported that their husbands' narrow-minded nature was foremost reason of conflict in the family.

As regard to arrangement of respondents with their husband, it was found that majority of respondent had a good deal of agreement for dealing with in-laws and sexual indulgence.

When husband's behavioural characteristics were taken into consideration it was found that most common reason of conflict with husband due to his behavioural characteristics included egoistic nature in the family followed by no consultation in family affairs and also not allowing the wife to spend her earned income according to her own wishes.

It was found that majority of husbands used to drink regularly and majority of respondents said that, due to drinking, her husband become more aggressive and as effect of drinking on family was concerned, it was found that majority of respondents husband's drinking habits created violence in the family.

As far as type of violence created by the husband due to alcoholism

kicking was considered the foremost abusive act performed by husband.

It was found that majority of respondents were having conflict with in-laws to their working careers followed by they could not look after their children and as far as their opinion regarding fulfilling dual responsibility, it was found that majority of respondents found difficulty to fulfill dual responsibilities.

Regarding reasons of conflict with in-laws, it was found that interference of in-laws in money matters is the foremost reason of conflict followed by interference in marital matter and also misunderstanding due to uncooperative attitude of family members regarding household chores and also due to lack of interaction with them.

Regarding the opinions of respondents about the process of divorce, it was found that majority of respondents had taken it as a difficult process and regarding the change in financial situation, majority respondents said that financial situation had not stayed the same.

As far as consequences of conflict is concerned, irritating behaviour of both husband and wife towards family members was most common effect, short tempered disturbances in self perception and self efficacy, more anxious in nature suffered from fear of crowd.

As regard to children, they feel neglected for proper care, love and affection and also most of children remained emotionally upset. It was found that a majority of respondents' children were not performing well in co-curricular activity and social activity due to family violence.

As regards to family members, the violence also affected them. It was found that family members feel neglected because of respondents being employed.

As far as the general conditions of respondents after divorce was concerned, it was found that a majority of respondents feel isolated and feeling extremely unhappy. As far as the situation after divorce was concerned, the social contacts was worsened, majority of respondents said that economic status and peace of mind was also worsened after divorce/separation.

So it may be concluded that major reasons of marital dispute were ill habits of husband, her working career due to which they couldn't fulfill the dual responsibilities as a service women and as a house wife and also interference of in laws.

It was clear from the analysis that majority of female spouses belonged to nuclear and middle sized families and most of them were educated and working women and illegal marital separation cases were found more as compared to legal cases of marital separation. The main causes of marital separation were harrassment by their husband, and in-laws, extra marital affairs and bad habits of husband. Most of them experienced many problems soon after marital separation like feeling lonely, insecurity, become short tempered. After marital, separation majority of them started living with their own parents. After a period of time the magnitude of such problems got reduced.

Recommendations

Marital dispute is a phenomenon of gender based violence which cuts across the community. Empirical results of the study confirmed that undesired habits of husband is the major explanatory factor behind the incidence of marital dispute. So keeping these points in mind following recommendations are given.

- First of all, change is needed in the perception of society towards the dignity of women. She should be treated at par with her male counterpart because threat to male authority is the main cause of domestic violence against women.
- Violence against women is primarily a gender issue. So awareness against gender biases is necessary to minimize the problem. Legal education to fight against injustice must be imparted to girls at high school or secondary school level so that they stand up and fight for their rights.
- There is a need to motivate poor families to utilize the various schemes started by the government for their welfare. The women in particular may be motivated to benefit from the on-going programmes for their economic empowerment.
- Strict legal action should be taken against those who are involved in violence related activities against women. There is also a need to strictly implement the legal provisions of the various legislations which are meant for the protection of women. Moreover there is a need for specific

legislations which make wife beating and other similar problems a criminal offence and a ground of immediate divorce.

- There is need to strengthen and increase the non-governmental organisations which would take-up individual women's problems with their in-laws and police and court etc.
- Women in general must be educated about their rights and also about the agency to be approached if they have any problem of violence in their family.
- Family counselling centres must be set up at lower levels, so that at risk families may be identified and thorough counselling, support and help may be given to such families before it takes the shape of conflict.
- Violence against women does not end by merely bestowing of judicial rights or by making women literate today but they are also the victims of domestic violence. So to check the problems of domestic violence against women, it is imperative that women must be morally strong or empowered.

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