

**STUDY ON THE POST-MARITAL ATROCITIES
ON WOMEN IN SHIMLA DISTRICT OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH**

THESIS

By

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Submitted to



**CSK HIMACHAL PRADESH KRISHI VISHWAVIDYALAYA
PALAMPUR-176 062 (H.P.) INDIA**

IN

Partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

OF

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOME SCIENCE
(HUMAN DEVELOPMENT)**

2005

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*Wherever I fly to, whatever the altitude
I attain, whatever the exilir that delits me,
I consider you 'the boons of Earth'*

**DEDICATED
TO MY
BELOVED PARENTS**

Dr. (Mrs.) Shubhangna Sharma
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CERTIFICATE- I

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "**Study on the post-marital atrocities on women in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh**", submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of **Master of Science (Home Science)** in the subject of **Human Development** of CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur is a bonafide research work carried out by **Priyanka Sood (H-2003-30-07)** daughter of **Mr. Suraj Kamal Sood** under my supervision and that no part of this thesis has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.

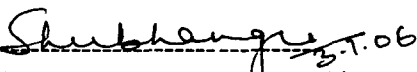
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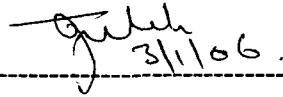

(Shubhangna Sharma)
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This is to certify that the thesis entitled, “**Study on the post-marital atrocities on women in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh**”, submitted by **Priyanka Sood (H-2003-30-07)** daughter of **Mr. Suraj Kamal Sood** to the CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of **Master of Science (Home Science)** in the subject of **Human Development** has been approved by the Advisory Committee after an oral examination of the student in collaboration with an External Examiner.



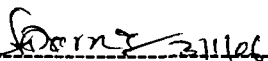
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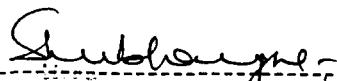
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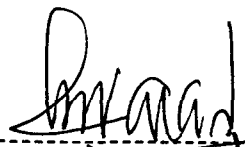
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

After an extensive research, learning and compilation of data I' am absolutely gratified to pay my heart-felt gratitude to all those inspiring people who have through their constant knowledge-input and supportive criticism made me believe in the flawlessness of my thesis.

First of all I would like to thank the divine powers of the Almighty, which gave me the courage to undertake this journey of investigating the sensitive subject of cruelty against married women. Though my Nanaji and Naniji through earthly standards are humans' still I would want to pay them the same regard as God as their presence in my life is nothing but heavenly.

I wish there could have been a more fulfilling way than words to express my deep sense of thankfulness to my loving Parents for their fruitful-advice, constant encouragement and invaluable affection. I would also like to thank my brother Mayank who has forever partnered within my family to provide me the right environment for discovering my talents.

I truly believe that no progress in any sphere is possible without the authenticity of a great teacher. So I would like to thank Dr Mrs Shubhangna Sharma, Chairperson of my Advisory Committee and Professor & Head, Department of Human Development manifold for her benevolent patronage and profound guidance.

I take this rare opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude towards the esteemed members of the advisory committee Dr H.R.Sharma, Professor Department of Agriculture Economics. Dr H.R.Sharma, Associate Professor, Food Science and Nutrition. Dr. Anup Katoch, Assistant Professor Department of Extension Education for their valuable suggestions and proper guidance.

I owe a special thanks to Dr. B. Prasad, Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Dr. Manoranjan Kalia, Dean of College of Home science for providing me all the necessary help in completing my research-work successfully.

My special thanks are also due to my teachers Dr. (Mrs) Raj Pathania, Miss Shipra Nagar , Mrs Goldy Chopra and all the members of the home science college who have played a very important role in strengthening my foundation in this socially-applicable field of Home-Science.

I would not be proving cent percent that my work is meant for social-upliftment if I miss mentioning the names of all those women who have helped in my endeavor of changing the scenario of post-marital atrocities that are committed on women in their own households.

I would fail in my duties if I don't mention the inspiration to succeed which I received from Dr.Shashi Raj Sood and Mrs Meena Sood

It is more than a mere formality that I bewrey my sincere thanks to senior Sajjad Sir, Dr Anuj and Dr Shweta for their untiring help & valuable advises

Last but not the least I'm deeply indebted to my friends Raghu, Vishal, Shikha, Shivani, Nitika, Maruti, Tabassum, Abha , Smriti priya for their co-operation and cheerful company.

I also owe deep sense of gratitude and reverences to Mr. P.C. Kapoor for computerizing and critically editing the manuscript.

In the glory of all my well-wishers, all may not have been mentioned but none is forgotten.

Needless to say errors and omissions are mine.

Place: Palampur

Dated: 17th Nov., 2005

Priyanka
(Priyanka Sood)

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

“Among all the relations, marital relationship is the most difficult aspect of life. Getting married is an easy task but to keep this bond alive forever is a work of art in which both husband and wife are required to accept and adjust with each other in order to live a happy family life” (Grewal, 1988).

“Marriage is considered as an intimate bond that provides security to women, but also on the contrary this institution makes their lives vulnerable at the hands of the worst evils of the society” (Sundaram, 2002).

All the above opinions by the great thinkers underline the purity of this sacred unionship. Therefore on the contrast to be assaulted, abused and raped by someone as intimate as a husband or lover is the most degrading experience for a woman. Not recognized as 'real' violence, abuse of this nature is experienced daily by countless women in every culture. Behind closed doors of family, custom, values, traditions that are taken for granted and never questioned in human-history are muffled voices of terror and trauma, which do not reach beyond the threshold nor attract the attention of lawmakers or redress agents (Bhattacharya, 2004).

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as "Any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life".

Violence against women is also a "manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and the prevention of women's full advancement."

Mastic Violence is not just hitting, fighting, or an occasional mean argument but it's the chronic abuse of power. The abuser tortures and controls the victim by calculated threats, intimidation and physical violence. Actual physical violence is often the end result of months or years of verbal and subtle intimidation.

In Indian societies the monster of post-marital atrocities has not just affected women of the lower strata of society but has levied its evil shadow on women in sundry. The so-called "weaker-sex" in our society has been the victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation from time immemorial irrespective of the fact that they were worshiped as Goddesses once. Women in India have been deprived of their independent identity and are looked upon as a commodity or slaves and therefore are subjected to various cruelties. They are robbed of their dignity and pride not only outside but also within the expected secure four walls of their own household.

Domestic abuse or domestic violence is ill-treatment that occurs in the home. It can include physical assault, threatening with a weapon, objects being thrown and/or verbal abuse including yelling. While physical abuse is easier to recognize i.e. often the victim has bruises, scars etc. though verbal abuse isn't as easily recognizable. However, verbal abuse can also result in the abuser constantly criticizing the victim thus; taking away her self-esteem and making her feel worthless.

Table 1.1 The last five-year record of crime against women up to May in Himachal Pradesh

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (Till May)
Murder	34	36	28	31	14
Rape	129	124	137	126	60
Dowry death	3	10	6	1	
Kidnap/abduction	97	106	119	96	55
Molestation	284	315	347	250	98
Cruelty to Women	304	326	234	221	89
Eve teasing	16	20	11	4	89

Police record (2000-2004) shows that crime against women is on rise in Himachal Pradesh as shown in Table 1.1 (Chauhan, 2004).

Therefore the objectives of the investigation are

1. To examine the prevalence and causes of domestic atrocities faced by women in their families.
2. To assess the relationship of socio-economic factors with atrocities meted to them.

Therefore through this research an effort is made to give everybody an insight into the dangerous world that a woman survives in at all times in her life cycle. Also through my study I want to help the women in kindling a thought-process, which will make them confident enough to protest against all those atrocities that are forced against them. Therefore, I have tried to make a little difference in this cruel-world by identifying the strata of society suffering due to cruelty. Affects and solutions could help us in permanently eradicating this age-old problem of atrocities committed against women by individuals whom they trust enough to be their life-partners.



*REVIEW OF
LITERATURE*

REVIEW OF LITREATURE

Before exploring the study, it is necessary to look into various aspects of atrocities on women that have already been studied, that remain to be studied and that are being currently debated and discussed. It is with this objective an attempt has been made here by to present a brief resume of available literature on issues relevant to the study, this have been done under the following heads:

- 2.1 Prevalence and causes of domestic atrocities
- 2.2 Prevalence of Dowry
- 2.3 Support system
- 2.4 Relationship with socio economic factors

2.1 Prevalence and causes of domestic atrocities

Gelles (1974) conducted some cross cultural studies of alcohol use and studies of marital violence and pointed out that men drink to have socially acceptable excuse for violent behaviour.

Ganley (1981) found that men who abuse their wives have learnt some cultural and social values about masculinity and their role in families that support their aggression and violence.

Tierney (1982) concluded that it was only in the 20th century that the law finally condemned wife abuse and considered it to be a criminal offence. It was not until the Women's liberation movement in 1970's that identified and responded to wife abuse recognizing it as a "social problem".

Gelles (1983) studied various historical circumstances that led several social scientists to explain that men abused women basically because they are permitted and encouraged to do so.

Jaffe *et al.* (1986) found that domestic violence has health effects beyond the acute injuries; battered women are more likely to suffer from somatic complaints, anxiety and depression.

Flavia (1985) concluded that a woman who does not accept the traditional role of submissiveness and subordinate needs to be tamed into accepting it and any means including battering or any form of violence is justified to achieve the goal. This is a kind of social pressure put on women.

Tondon (1988) revealed that 76 per cent of the women had to seek permission from their husband for visiting friends or relatives, 68 percent needed permission even to go to the market. Only sixty six per cent could use their earnings as they wished but had to submit account to their husbands regarding the expenses incurred. Three out of five women surveyed admitted that their husbands beat them.

Painter (1991) found that only 60 per cent of married women who were forced to have sex through the use of violence were prepared to say they were raped at the time. Considering the prevalence of domestic violence, he suggested that health-care providers should screen for domestic violence in routine practice. In addition, protocols should be developed for referral of abused women to appropriate community resources.

Hamberger *et al.* (1992) found that 23 per cent of women have been physically assaulted by their partners.

Mahajan (1992) found that most of the cases reported presence of one or the other form of violence in the relationship thus observed that violence in conjugal relation is common. In 33.5 per cent cases, there was a presence of physical violence against their wives.

Dobash and Dobash (1992) studied the relationship between alcohol and partner abuse. They argued that partner abuse results from men's enforcement of their perceived power and control over their female intimate partners, and that such enforcement is an extension of men's attempts to maintain higher social status in other arenas such as the workplace. They further reported controversially, that men were as likely to be the victim of domestic violence as were women. However, this statistic can be misleading because the impact of this violence on women is much greater than that on men.

Mooney (1994) in her North London study found a reluctance to name actions as domestic violence. While most of her respondents were prepared to label domestic violence as physical violence that resulted in actual bodily harm such as bruising, black eyes and broken bones, only 76 per cent of her respondents were prepared to label physical violence of the form of grabbing, pushing and shaking, and 68 per cent referred it to be a threatened force. This also varied by age among women. Those who aged between 55 and 64 out of them only 60 per cent were prepared to call domestic violence that resulted in actual bodily harm, and 51 per cent that which involved grabbing, pushing and shaking.

Devasahayam *et al.* (1994) observed that approximately 21 per cent admitted existence of marital violence and alcoholism was reported as a major cause of violence.

Schuler *et al.* (1996) and Koenig (2003) surveyed rural married women in 1992 and 1993 and found that 47 per cent and 42 per cent respectively reported experimental physical violence at the hands of their husbands.

Rao (1997) inferred from the statistical evidence that actual prevalence of domestic violence against women in India is scant. But few studies available indicate that physical abuse of Indian women is high, ranging from 22 per cent to 60 per cent of women surveyed.

Greenfeld (1998) concluded that two-thirds of partner abuse victims (those abused by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend) reported that alcohol had been a major factor of abuse.

Heise (1998) has proposed an ecological frame work suggesting that intimate partner violence arises from interplay, among personal, situational and socio cultural factors.

Heise *et al.* (1999) found that domestic violence has been associated with increased risk of miscarriage, preterm labour, fetal disease and low birth weight.

Thilagaraj *et al.* (1999) in a comparative study of working and non- working battered women found a higher rate of emotional abuse among them. Dowry was the major cause for wife battering among the non working women. It was also found that the battered women normally did not report such incidents to a police because of the fear of being harassed by the family members later.

Archer (2000) indicated that women were more likely than men to “use one or more acts of physical aggression and to use such acts more frequently” on the basis of meta-analysis of sex differences in physical aggression. In terms of injuries, women were somewhat more likely to be injured, and analyses reveal that 62 per cent of those injured were women.

The New Indian Express (2000) World Health Organization and United Nation public information report revealed that one in every five women face some form of physical or sexual aggression in their life time with 20 -50 per cent of the cases being those of domestic violence during marriage.

Gupta (2000) reported that between 1980-90; there was an increase of nearly 74 per cent in crimes against women. Even if the rise in numbers is read as a sign of women breaking their silence, the conviction rate against the perpetrators of violence has been decreasing. The conviction in rape cases in Delhi was 42.3 per cent in 1994. 38.6 per cent in 1995, 26 per cent in 1996 and 33 per cent in 1997.

Marwalikar *et al.* (2001) studied the sample of 100 married women and found that out of 100 female spouses, 49 got separated from their husbands within 2 years of marriage while the rest separated after 2 years. And all the sample women stated that they could not tolerate physical, sexual, verbal, emotional harassment received from their husbands and in-laws. 100 per cent including mother-in-law (mostly) father-in-law and brother-in-law which ultimately made them to separate from spouses. A higher proportion of female spouses 51- 66 per cent were not happy for not meeting the basic needs like specially food and clothing due to their husband spending most of their money on buying *desi* liquor to drink. The gambling was yet another reason for marital separation.

Jewkes *et al.* (2001) found that in South Africa too, physical emotion and sexual violence against women is prevalent which has been reported as community based prevalence.

Chaudary (2001) examined 100 cases of battered women that were registered at the various police stations including Mahila police thanas in the city of

Bhopal. Her findings brought out that in 40 per cent cases alcohol was the main cause of violence. The association between alcohol may or may not be the direct cause, yet there is an inverse association between education, income and violence.

The statesman (2002) Centre for Research on Women interviewed 10,000 victims of domestic violence in several cities in India and found that over 70 per cent of the victims of domestic violence were abused of infidelity by their husbands, 50 per cent reported that their husbands were alcoholic, 40 per cent said that their husbands belonged to semi-alcoholic families.

Pottie Bunge (2002) indicated that women were the victims in more than three-quarters of the 2,600 spousal homicides recorded in Canada between 1974 and 2000.

Singh (2002) reported that most of respondents (52%) were facing violence in their families soon after (six months) their marriages, whereas 28 per cent were facing the problem after happy marital life of two years.

Nasir and Hyder (2003) cited the prevalence of violence among pregnant women in developing countries. Also said that 4.29 per cent encompassed low income, low education and unplanned pregnancy as a risk factor.

Hindin (2003) investigated the factors associated with attitude towards wife beating among women. It was found that wife beating was justified by women when most of them neglected their children or went out without telling their husband.

Bhuiya *et al.* (2003) conducted a study in Bangladesh that revealed physical domestic violence, verbal abuse among rural women by their spouses.

Awareness measures have also been suggested to combat this evil and legal psychological consequences to prevent the violence have also been discussed.

Kar (2003) inferred from National Family Health Survey II that at least 56 per cent of the married women interviewed regarded each of the following reasons like suspicion of infidelity, failure of the brides family to abide by pre-nuptial dowry system disrespect towards in-laws, willful disobedience such as going out with out husbands consent; neglect of domestic and material obligations failure to provide palatable meals as justification for a good thrashing from their respective spouses.

Iyer and Venkateswarsulu (2003) reported that sometimes, the violence might be related to drunkenness but not always. In Indian culture, a wife rarely thinks in terms of reporting a case of battering to the police. She suffers humiliation in silence and curses her destiny. She also said that domestic violence do not include abuse of women by her husband but also by her relatives-related to her by blood, marriage adoption or with whom she is living.

Tondon (2003) highlighted that many women feel lonely, helpless, hopeless and powerless because of loss of social support and social standing in the society. Some of them even loose the desire and get suicidal tendencies. More women than men suffer from mental disorder, yet psychological distress of women has not been articulated as a distinct agenda either by academic or by the women's movement in the country.

2.2 Prevalence of Dowry

Ghadijally and Kumar (1988) revealed that the most common items of the dowry demanded was hard cash 58 per cent reported cash was not demanded not only for its own sake but usually to expand business, cover marriage expenses or

to buy expensive articles. This was followed by house hold furniture, colour television, sewing machine, Dunlop sofa, bed, radio, and cupboard. Jewellery ranked a close third 25 per cent, followed by vehicle, clothes and house hold linen.

Kumari (1989) conducted a study on the dowry victims which shows that one in every four women were murdered or driven to commit suicide and 61.3 per cent were thrown out of their husbands home after a long period of harassment and torture.

Williigen *et al.* (1991) reported that there is a striking deviation between the implication and effectiveness of the act, which says that despite implementation of dowry precipitation act; this act is least effective in reducing incidences of dowry deaths.

2.3 Support system

Dobash and Dobash (1981) observed that when women first reveal to an outsider that they are being beaten, they usually approach whom they think are most likely to give some kind of help or consolation without making their private problem any more public than necessary.

Shumarker (1983) highlighted that friends and colleagues have extended support to 9 per cent of the family community elders, relatives, social work organization whereas college students and human right group play a small role in giving support i.e. 4 per cent.

Tyler (1984) indicated that information gathered from social net work such as a friends and neighbors play a more important role than, say, mass media in estimating personal risk of victimization and a appropriate kind of action to undertake in order to avoid victimization.

Jain (1992) reported that according to the anti dowry cell set up by the police commissioner. In 1983, 690 young women died in Delhi alone, of whom 23 per cent were burnt alive.

2.4 Relationship with socio economic factors

Ahuja (1987) opined on the basis of his study on 60 battered women in the city of Jaipur that most of them were battered irrespective of the age, education and economic status.

Ahuja (1987) pointed out certain important characteristics of wife battering such as wives under the age 25 years of Have higher victimization rates, wives younger to their husbands by more than five years run a greater risk of being battered, low income women are more victimized, though family income is more difficult to associate with family victimization; family size and family composition have little correlation with wife beating though illiterate wives are more vulnerable to husband's beating than the educated ones while there is no significant relationship between beating education level of the victims.

Bhatti (1989) stated that 88 per cent of the women belonging to lower income group, were the victims of physical violence and verbal violence in contrast to 43 per cent from the middle class and 35 per cent from the upper income class.

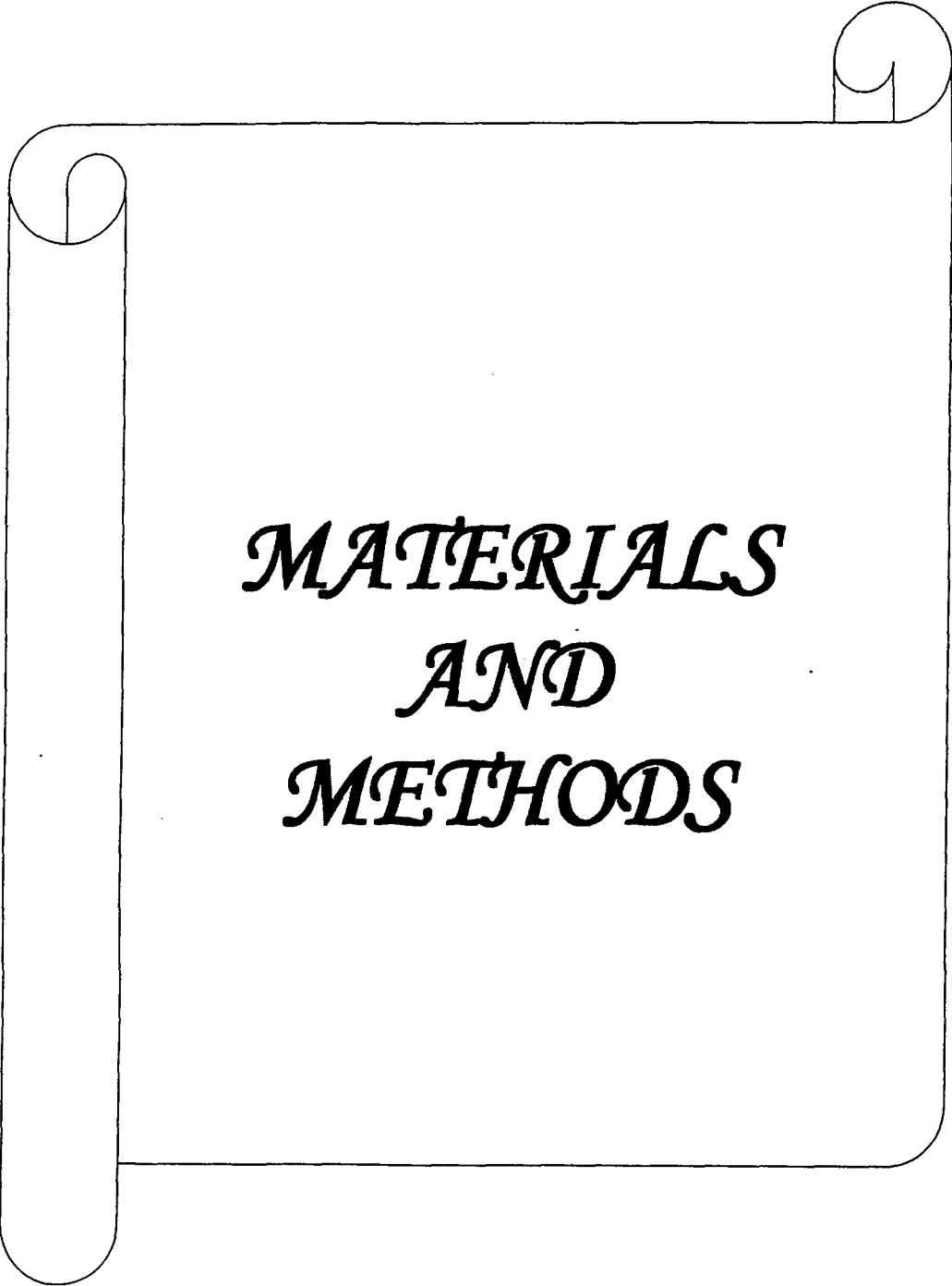
Sinha (1989) studied cases on battered women in Patna that comprised of both the categories working and non working and found that irrespective of education, caste, religion and economic status wife beating was a universal phenomena.

Kishwar (1989) on the basis of some case studies of battered women belonging to a cross section of society in Delhi. observed that almost any thing

beauty, education, employment and lack of these can become a cause for violence on women.

Gelles and cornell (1990) are of the opinion that the wife abuse is not associated with employment status of wives. It is argued that women who stay at home and do not contribute to the family income are at the greater risk of being abused.

Kochhar (1997) looked into the socio-economic profile and the dynamic of wife beating as well as the efficacy of the organization working for their cause. A total of 40 battered women in Delhi who sought help from the organization were studied, her study revealed that battering is an all case phenomena and women were battered irrespective of the fact whether they were house wives or employed, and lived in a joint or nuclear families.



*MATERIALS
AND
METHODS*

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This chapter is devoted to materials and methods adopted for the selection of the study area, sample, collection of data and statistical procedure used in light of objectives of the study. The details are given under different heads:

- 3.1 Locale of study
- 3.2 Sampling procedure
 - 3.2.1 Selection of villages
 - 3.2.2 Selection of respondents
- 3.3 Variable and there measurement
 - 3.3.1 Independent variables
 - 3.3.2 Dependent variables
- 3.4 Data collection
- 3.5 Tool description
- 3.6 Procedure of data collection
- 3.7 Analytical frame work
 - 3.7.1 Tabulation of data
 - 3.7.2 Statistical analysis

3.1 Locale of study

The study confines itself to Mashobra and Theog Blocks of Shimla district which were purposively selected as the investigator belongs to the same district and is well versed with the language and the culture of the area

3.2 Sampling Procedure

Random sampling technique was used to select the villages and the ultimate households.

3.2.1 Selection of villages

The list of the villages was obtained from the Mashobra and Theog block development office. Five villages from each block were randomly selected. Thus the total of ten villages were selected from both the blocks which at least had 25 households within a village and at least one married women in the age group of 20-40 years was selected (Figure 3.1).

3.2.2 Selection of the respondents

The present study was conducted on a sample of 250 respondents. 125 respondents from the Mashobra block and 125 respondents from the Theog block. The respondents were the married women within the age group of 20 to 40 years.

3.3 Selection and measurement of variables

There are two types of variables in the study:

3.3.1 Independent variables

They are those variables that can be controlled and manipulated to ascertain their impact on observed phenomenon. These have effective bearing on dependent variables. Independent variables are classified in the following categories:

3.3.1.1 Personal variables: Age and education

3.3.1.2 Economic variables: Occupation and family income

3.3.1.3 Familial variable: Type of family

3.3.1.4 Social variable: Caste of the family

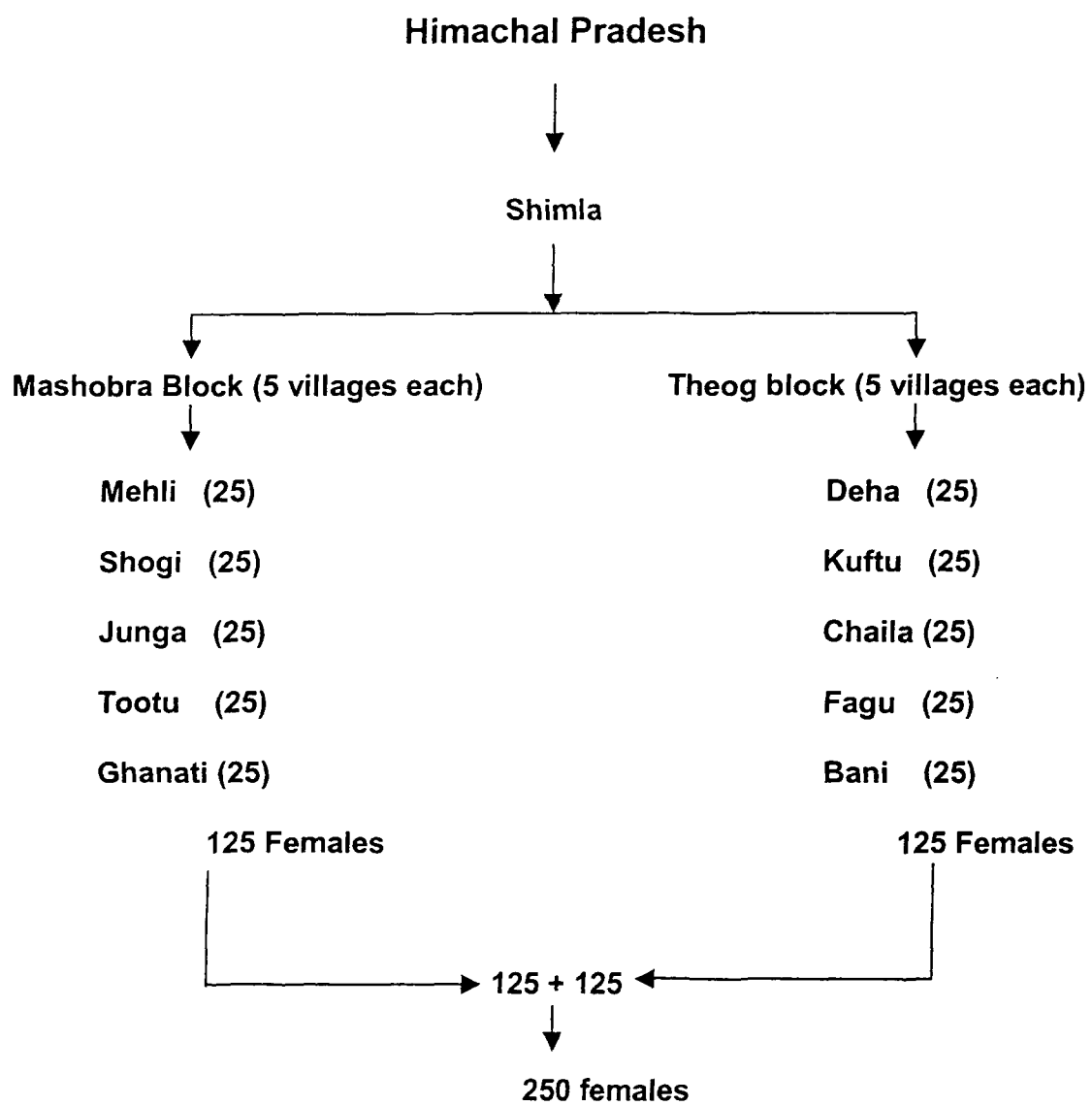


Figure 3.1 Selection of villages and the respondents

3.3.1.1 Personal variables

Age was taken in full years completed by the respondent at the time of the study. Education was operationalised as full years of formal education attended by the respondent. Education was divided into following levels:

- a) Illiterate
- b) Upto primary
- c) Middle
- d) High school
- e) Senior secondary
- f) Graduate
- g) Any other

3.3.1.2 Economic variables

It refers to the total monthly income of the respondents and their family from all the sources. Income is divided into following groups:

- a) Less than Rs 5000
- b) Rs 5001-Rs 10000
- c) Rs 10001-Rs 15000
- d) Rs 15001 and above

3.3.1.3 Familial variable

Family type has been categorized as follows:

- a) Nuclear
- b) Joint

3.3.1.4 Social variable

Caste was considered as one of the important institution of the Indian society. It is generally believed that the participation knowledge and attitude of

women are generally governed by their caste. Different caste groups were as under:

- a) General (Brahmin, Rajput and Vainya)
- b) SC (Scheduled Caste)
- c) OBC (Other Backward Classes)

3.3.2 Dependent variables

Human behavior is highly complex phenomenon. Some human beings behave differently under different sets of conditions. Due to demographic factors there may be heterogeneity in awareness among women towards family life and education. As rightly said by United Nations (1995) and Canadian Panel (1993) violence against women can take many forms and is most commonly divided into the following categories:

- Psychological violence encompasses various tactics to undermine an individual's self-confidence such as yelling, insults, mockeries, threats, abusive language, humiliation, harassment, contempt, deliberate deprivation of emotional care and complete isolation.
- Physical violence ranges from pushing and shoving to hitting, beating, and physical abuse with a weapon, torture, mutilation and murder.
- Sexual violence encompasses any form of non-consensual sexual activity (i.e. forced on an individual) ranging from harassment, unwanted sexual touching to rape. This form of violence also includes incest.
- Financial abuse (or economic abuse) includes various tactics for total or partial control of an individual's finances, inheritance or employment and income. It may include denying access to one's own financial records and knowledge of personal investments, income, debt or preventing a partner

from taking employment outside the home or engaging in any other activity that would lead to financial independence.

Spiritual abuse works to destroy an individual's cultural or religious beliefs through ridicule or punishment forbidding practice of a personal religion or forcing someone to adhere to religious practices that are not their own.

Therefore the independent variables which we are undertaking in this study are:

- 1) Social violence
- 2) Physical violence
- 3) Emotional violence

3.4 Data collection

In order to meet the requirements of the various objectives of the study the information was collected from 250 women with the help of interview schedule from the selected households.

3.5 Tool description

A self structured interview schedule was framed to get the information on the topic. The schedule was divided into various sections (as given below)to get the appropriate information about the respondents:

3.5.1 General information

The general information section included the questions related to the personal and familial information of the respondents such as age, education, occupation, family type and family income of the respondent.

3.5.2 Specific information

Self structured self designed schedule was used to collect the information on the following variables.

- 1) Social and emotional violence
- 2) Physical abuse
- 3) Causes
- 4) Prevalence of dowry system
- 5) Support system

3.6 Procedures of data collection

In order to ensure good response, rapport was established with the selected respondents and they were assured that the information provided by them would be used exclusively for research purpose. The data were collected by personal interview method by visiting each household. Responses were filled personally by the investigator in one sitting.

3.7 Analytical framework

To achieve the objectives of the study the following analytical framework was followed:

3.7.1 Tabulation of data

After collecting the data, the entire schedule was arranged systematically and master tables were prepared, and from these master tables the results to meet the objectives of study were generated.

3.7.2 Statistical analysis

The data were analyzed statistically. Averages and percentages were used for analysis of data. Chi square (χ^2) test was also used to test the association of

different independent variables with the dependent variables that were being studied by using the following formula:

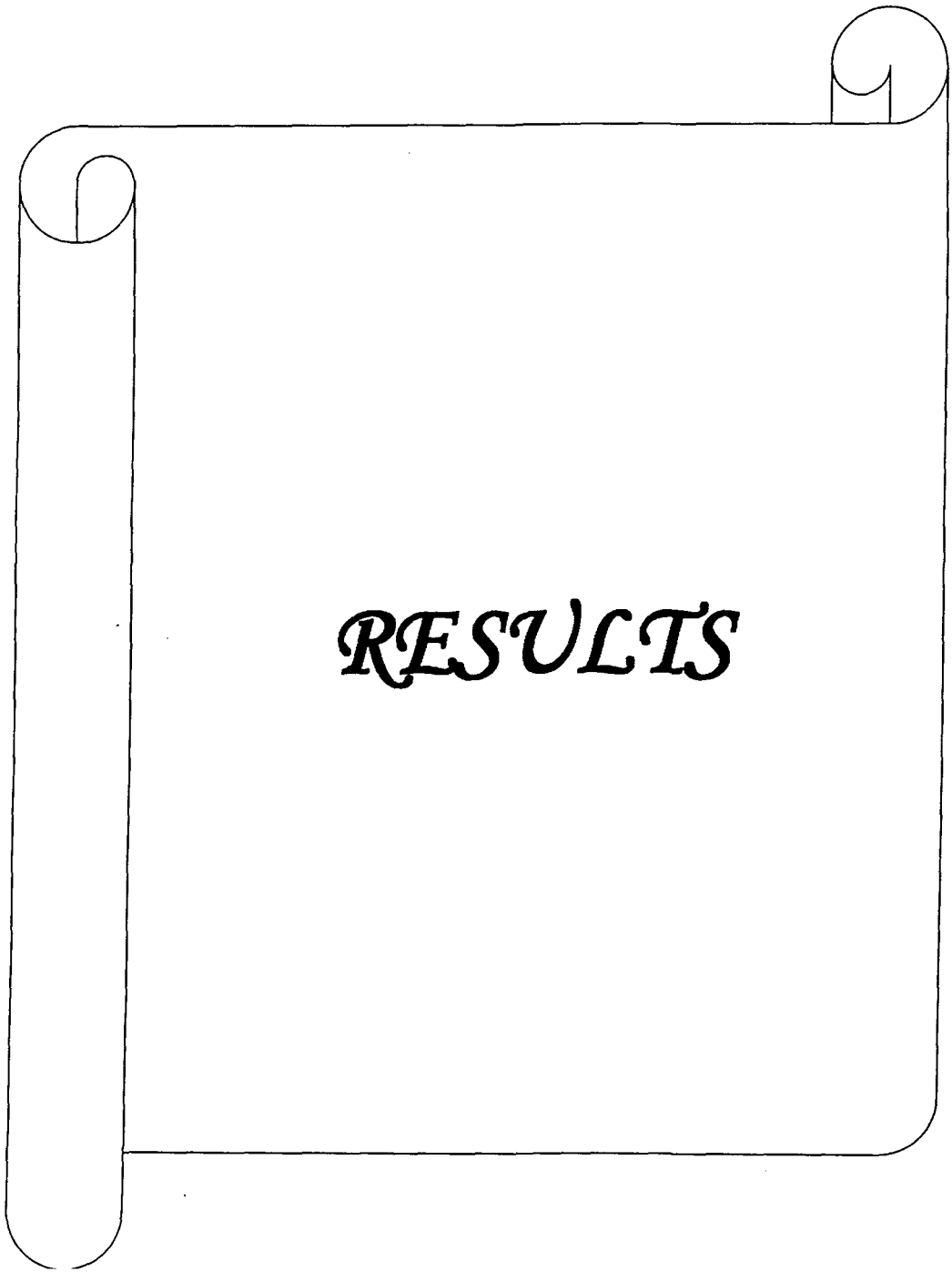
$$\chi^2 = \frac{(O_1 - E_1)^2}{E}$$

where

O_1 = observed frequency

E_1 = expected frequency

Significances tested at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance



RESULTS

RESULTS

The chapter deals with the results emanating from the present study. The results have been presented systematically under the following sections.

4.1 General information about the respondents

4.2 Specific information

4.2.1 Emotional violence

4.2.2 Social violence

4.2.3 Physical violence

4.3 Causes

4.4 Prevalence of dowry system

4.5 Support system

4.1 General information about the respondents

The general information includes the personal and the familial characteristics of the respondents.

4.1.1 Personal information of the respondents

The data presented in Table 4.1 shows the personal information of the respondents in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh. The data in the table indicates that most of the respondents 47.2 per cent were in the age group of 30-40 years, while 23.2 per cent of the respondents were in the age group 25-30 years, 15.6 per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 20-25 years and 14.0 per cent of the respondents were in the age group 40 and above.

It was noted that about 42.8 per cent of the respondents were married in age group of 20-25 years, 36.0 per cent of the respondents between 15-20 years,

15.6 per cent in the age group of 25-30 years, 4.8 per cent in the age group of 30-35 years, while only 0.8 per cent were married when they were above 35 years.

Table 4.1 Personal information of the respondents

Variable	Number of respondents (n =250)
Age group (years)	
20-25	39 (15.6)
25-30	58 (23.2)
30-35	59 (23.6)
35-40	59 (23.6)
40 and above	35 (14.0)
Age at a marriage	
15-20	90 (36.0)
20-25	107 (42.8)
25-30	39 (15.6)
30-35	12 (4.8)
35 and above	2 (0.8)
Number of children	
1-3	135 (54.0)
3-above	115 (46.0)
Qualification	
Illiterate	22 (8.8)
Up to primary	54 (21.6)
Middle	60 (24.0)
High	42 (16.8)
Senior Secondary	43 (17.2)
Graduate	29 (11.6)
Caste	
O.B.C	73 (29.2)
SC	99 (39.6)
General	78 (31.2)
Occupation	
Working	66 (26.4)
Non-working	184 (73.6)

Figure in parentheses indicate percentage

It was observed that 54.0 per cent of the females had number of children between 1-3 and 46.0 per cent of the respondents had more than three children.

The data on qualification of the respondents revealed that the maximum number of the respondents i.e. 24 per cent were educated upto middle followed by 21.6 per cent of the respondents who were educated upto primary, 17.2 per cent of the respondents had completed senior secondary, 16.8 per cent of the respondents had completed their high school, 11.6 per cent were graduates and 8.8 per cent were totally illiterate.

Caste system also played an important role in the atrocities on women. Table 4.1 indicates that maximum number of the respondents i.e. 39.6 per cent of the respondents belonged to schedules caste, 31.2 per cent belonged to general (upper) caste and 29.2 per cent belonged to other backward classes. Table also indicates that 73.6 per cent of the women were non-working and 26.4 per cent of the respondents belonged to working class.

4.1.2 Familial information of the respondents

Table 4.2 indicates the familial characteristics of the respondents and their families. It was noted that about 55.6 per cent of the respondents belonged to nuclear families, whereas 44.4 per cent of the respondents belonged to joint families.

Data on the type of house revealed that 43.2 per cent of the respondents lived in the mixed type of houses, whereas 32.8 per cent of the respondents lived in *pucca* houses and 24.0 per cent of the respondents resided in *kaccha* houses. It is also evident that about 22.8 per cent of the respondents had 10-20 *bighas* of land, 22.4 per cent of the respondents had land between 5-10 *bighas*, 21.2 per cent of the respondents possessed upto 5 *bighas*, 15.2 per cent of the

respondents had 20-40 *bighas*, whereas 4.4 per cent of the respondents possessed above 40 *bighas* and 14.0 per cent of the respondents were landless.

Table 4.2 Familial information of the respondent

Variable	Number of respondents (n =250)
Type of family	
Nuclear	139 (55.6)
Joint	111 (44.4)
Type of house	
Kucha	60 (24.0)
Mixed	108 (43.2)
Pucca	82 (32.8)
Land holding (in bighas*)	
No land	35 (14.0)
Up to 5	53 (21.2)
5 to 10	56 (22.4)
10 to 20	57 (22.8)
20 to 40	38 (15.2)
40 and above	11 (4.4)
Total family income (in Rupees)	
Less than 5000	67 (26.8)
5001 to 10000	76 (30.4)
10001-15000	70 (28.0)
15001 and above	37 (14.8)
Material in possession	
Radio	187 (72.8)
T.V.	236 (94.4)
Music system	144 (57.6)
Gas stove	241 (96.4)
Washing machine	91 (36.4)
Mixer grinder	93 (37.2)
Geyser	43 (17.2)
Fridge	53 (21.2)

Figure in parentheses indicate per cent

*Land in bighas , 1 bigha =800 Sq meter .

Data on the family income tell us that 30.4 per cent of the respondents had their monthly income between Rs. 5001 to 10000, 28.0 per cent of the respondents had income between Rs 10001 to 15000, 26.8 per cent of the respondents had income less than Rs 5000, while 14.8 per cent of the respondents had their family income above Rs.15000.

Table 4.2 indicates that 96.4 per cent of the respondents had gas stoves, 94.4 per cent of the respondents had television in their homes, 72.8 per cent of the respondents had radio, 57.6 per cent of the respondents had music system, 37.2 per cent of the respondents had mixer grinder, 36.4 per cent of the respondents possessed washing machine, 21.2 per cent of the respondents had fridge with them and 17.2 per cent had geysers with them.

4.2 Specific information

The main aim of the study is to examine the prevalence of various types of atrocities inflicted on the respondents. The results are discussed below:

4.2.1 Emotional violence

Table 4.3 shows the responses of the respondents on emotional violence. Majority of the respondents 42.4 per cent said that their in-laws never talked ill about them, while 36.8 per cent of the respondents said that sometime their in-laws talked ill about them and 20.8 per cent of the respondents said that their in-laws always talked ill about them.

It was also noted that 44.8 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands and members of their family never talked ill about respondent's parental family, while 34.4 per cent of the respondents said sometimes and 20.8 per cent of

the respondents said that their husband and their husbands' family always talked ill about their parental family.

Table 4.3 Responses of the respondents to emotional violence

Factors	Responses (n =250)		
	A	S	N
In-laws talk ill	52 (20.8)	92 (36.8)	106 (42.4)
Talk ill about parental family	52 (20.8)	86 (34.4)	112 (44.8)
Get angry when your husband does not intimate you.	116 (46.4)	87 (34.8)	47 (18.8)
Gives you time and fails to make it	64 (25.6)	87 (34.8)	99 (39.6)
Neglects you	47 (18.8)	82 (32.8)	120 (48.0)
Is husband violent towards family members	46 (18.4)	59 (23.6)	145 (58.0)
Husband violent towards in-laws	39 (15.6)	63 (25.2)	148 (59.2)
Shares personal and family problems	106 (42.4)	89 (35.6)	55 (22.0)
Isolates you from other	35 (14.0)	84 (33.6)	131 (52.4)
Threats will leave you and children	51 (20.4)	72 (28.8)	127 (50.8)
Threats will leave you and take children in his custody	63 (25.2)	63 (25.2)	124 (49.6)
Consoles you after violent act	100 (40.0)	89 (35.6)	61 (24.4)
Feels humiliated	81 (32.4)	90 (36.0)	79 (31.6)

Figures in parenthesis indicate per cent
A = Always, S= Sometimes, N = Never

It was observed that 46.4 per cent of the respondents said that they always got angry when their husbands did not intimate them about their whereabouts, 34.8 percent of the respondents said that they sometimes got angry, while 18.8 per cent of the women said that they never got angry. 39.6 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands never failed to make, when they give them time. 34.8 per cent of the women said sometimes and 25.6 per cent of the respondents said always failed to make when they gave them time.

Further it was also noted that 48.0 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands never neglected them, 32.8 per cent said that their husband sometimes neglected them in the presence of their family and friends, while 18.8 per cent said that their husbands always neglected them.

It was also evident that 58.0 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands were never violent towards the family members, 23.6 per cent of the respondents said that they were sometime violent, while 18.4 per cent said that they were always violent towards their family members.

Responses on has the husband ever been violent towards his in-laws revealed that 59.2 per cent said never, while 25.2 per cent said sometime and 15.6 per cent said always.

Table 4.3 showed that 42.4 per cent of the respondents' husbands always shared their personal problems with them, while 35.6 per cent said sometime and 22.0 per cent said their husbands always shared their personal and family problems with them.

It was also seen from the table that 52.4 per cent of the respondents said that they were never isolated, 33.6 per cent of the respondents said sometimes, while 14.0 per cent said always isolated 50.8 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands never threatened them by saying that they will leave them and children, 28.8 per cent said sometime, while 20.4 per cent said always.

It was noted that 49.6 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands threatend them that they would leave them and take children in their custody, whereas 25.2 per cent said that they were threatened sometimes and always. Whereas 40.0 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands console them after the violent act, 35.6 per cent said sometimes and 24.4 per cent said that they

were never consoled, 36.0 per cent of the females said that they tolerated every thing silently. 32.4 per cent said always and 31.6 said sometimes.

Table 4.4 showed that majority of the respondents i.e. 81.6 per cent said that they were never denied of the basic facilities, while 18.4 per cent of the respondents said they were denied. Maximum i.e. 11.6 per cent of the respondents who were denied basic facilities said that they were denied food, while 8.8 per cent said they were denied of cash money, 7.6 per cent said that they were never given the facility of medicine, while 6.4 per cent were denied clothing and 1.2 per cent were denied place to sleep as clearly shown in (Fig. 4.1).

Table 4.4 Information regarding denial of basic facilities

Denied facilities	No. of respondents	Facilities denied	No. of respondents*
Yes	46 (18.4)	Food	29 (11.6)
No	204 (81.6)	Clothing	16 (6.4)
		Space to sleep	3 (1.2)
		Medicines	19 (7.6)
		Cash money	22 (8.8)
Total	250		

*Multiple responses of the respondents who were denied of basic facilities.
Figure in parentheses indicate per cent

4.1.3 Social violence

It was evident from the Table 4.5 that 46.8 per cent of the respondents said that their family was always supportive, while 41.6 per cent of the respondents said that they were always allowed to take part in the family discussions, whereas 37.6 per cent of the respondents said that they were sometimes allowed to suggest changes in the family norms.

It could be seen from the table that 56.4 per cent of the respondents said that their family members never kept account of their movement, whereas 40.8 per

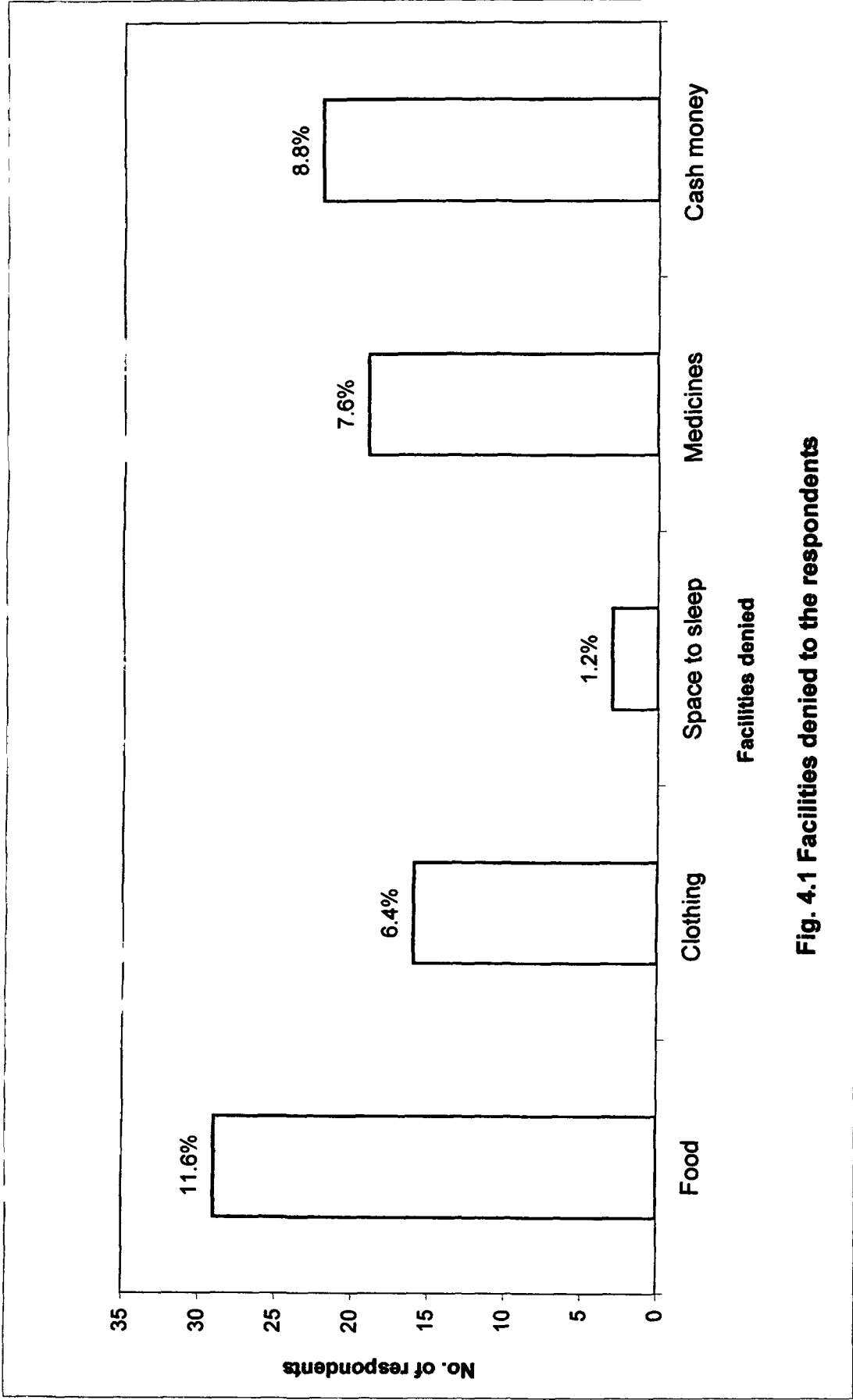


Fig. 4.1 Facilities denied to the respondents

cent of the respondents said that their husbands never talked ill about them in public and 37.6 per cent of the respondents said that their husband sometimes objected their going out, while 51.2 per cent of the women said that their husbands never objected their way of dressing.

Table 4.5 Responses of the respondents to social violence

Factors	Responses (n =250)		
	A	S	N
Family supportive	117 (46.8)	81 (32.4)	52 (20.8)
Takes part in family discussions	104 (41.6)	94 (37.6)	52 (20.8)
Suggests changes in family norms	87 (34.8)	94 (37.6)	69 (27.6)
Keeps account of your movement	50 (20.0)	59 (23.6)	141 (56.4)
Talks ill about you in public	59 (23.6)	89 (35.6)	102 (40.8)
Objects your going out	71 (28.4)	94 (37.6)	85 (34.0)
Objects way of dressing	44 (17.6)	78 (31.2)	128 (51.2)
Objects your behaviour in public	50 (20.0)	86 (34.4)	114 (45.6)
Compares with other women	53 (21.2)	78 (31.2)	119 (47.6)
You enjoy being with him	162 (64.8)	57 (22.8)	31 (12.4)
Enjoys being with you	134 (53.6)	66 (26.4)	50 (20.0)
Likes to take you to the parties	104 (41.6)	78 (31.2)	68 (27.2)
Objects your meeting friends and parental family	51 (20.4)	74 (29.4)	125 (50.0)
Objects meeting people he dislikes	109 (43.6)	75 (30.0)	66 (26.4)
Misbehaves with your family and friends	47 (18.8)	74 (29.6)	129 (51.6)
Taking care of children is joint responsibility	155 (62.0)	48 (19.2)	47 (18.8)
Takes good care of the family	147 (58.8)	54 (21.6)	49 (19.6)
Family income enough to live happy family life	49 (19.6)	69 (27.6)	132 (52.8)
Free to spend money on your own	73 (29.2)	104 (41.6)	73 (29.2)
Strict account of money spent	72 (28.8)	86 (34.4)	92 (36.8)

Figures in parenthesis indicate per cent
A = Always, S= Sometimes, N = Never

It was also evident from Table 4.4 that 45.6 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands never objected their behaviour in public, 47.6 per cent of the women said that they were never compared with other women, 64.8 per cent of women said that they always enjoyed being with their husband, 53.6 per cent of the women said that their husband enjoyed being with them, 41.6 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands always liked to take them to the parties, 50.0 per cent of the females said that they were never objected to meet their family and friends, while 43.6 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands objected their meeting with the people they disliked.

51.6 per cent of the respondents in table said that their husband never misbehaved with their families and friends, 62.0 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands always agreed that taking care of children is a joint responsibility, while 58.8 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands took good care of the family, 52.8 per cent of the respondents said that their family income was not enough to live happy family life, 41.6 per cent of the women said that they were some times allowed to spend money on their own, whereas 36.8 per cent of the respondents said that they were never asked to give strict account of money spent.

4.1.4 Physical violence

Table 4.6 shows the responses of the respondents on husbands losing their temper and what their husbands did when they lost their temper. Maximum i.e. 80.8 per cent of the women said that their husbands never lost their temper, 19.2 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands lost their tempers, 17.2 per cent of the females respondents said that their husbands scolded them 10.4

they punched them, 9.2 per cent said that their husbands dragged them and used *chappal* on them, 8.8 per cent said that they used any other methods, which included kicking and chocking, 8.4 per cent said they used stick on them, 8 per cent said they slapped them and they were also hit against wall or something, 6.8 per cent said that they were thrown, 6.4 per cent said that their husbands pulled their hair and 2.8 per cent said that their husbands pulled them as it is evident from (Fig. 4.2).

Table 4.6 Responses of respondents on husbands loosing their temper

Husband loose temper	No. of respondents	Ways in which husband loose their temper	No. of respondents*
Yes	48 (19.2)	Scolds	43 (17.2)
No	202 (80.8)	Pulls	7 (2.8)
		Pushes	26 (10.4)
		Slaps	20 (8.0)
		Drags	23 (9.2)
		Throws	17 (6.8)
		Punches	25 (10.0)
		Pulls your hair	16 (6.4)
		Uses chappal	23 (9.2)
		Uses stick	21 (8.4)
		Hits you against wall or something	20 (8.0)
Total	250	Any other	22 (8.8)

*Multiple responses of the respondents on the ways in which they are abused

It is evident from Table 4.7 that 80.8 per cent of the women said that they were never abused, 14.0 per cent of the women said once in a while, whereas 2.8 per cent said 2-3 times a month and 1.2 per cent said that more than two times a week and more than four times a day.

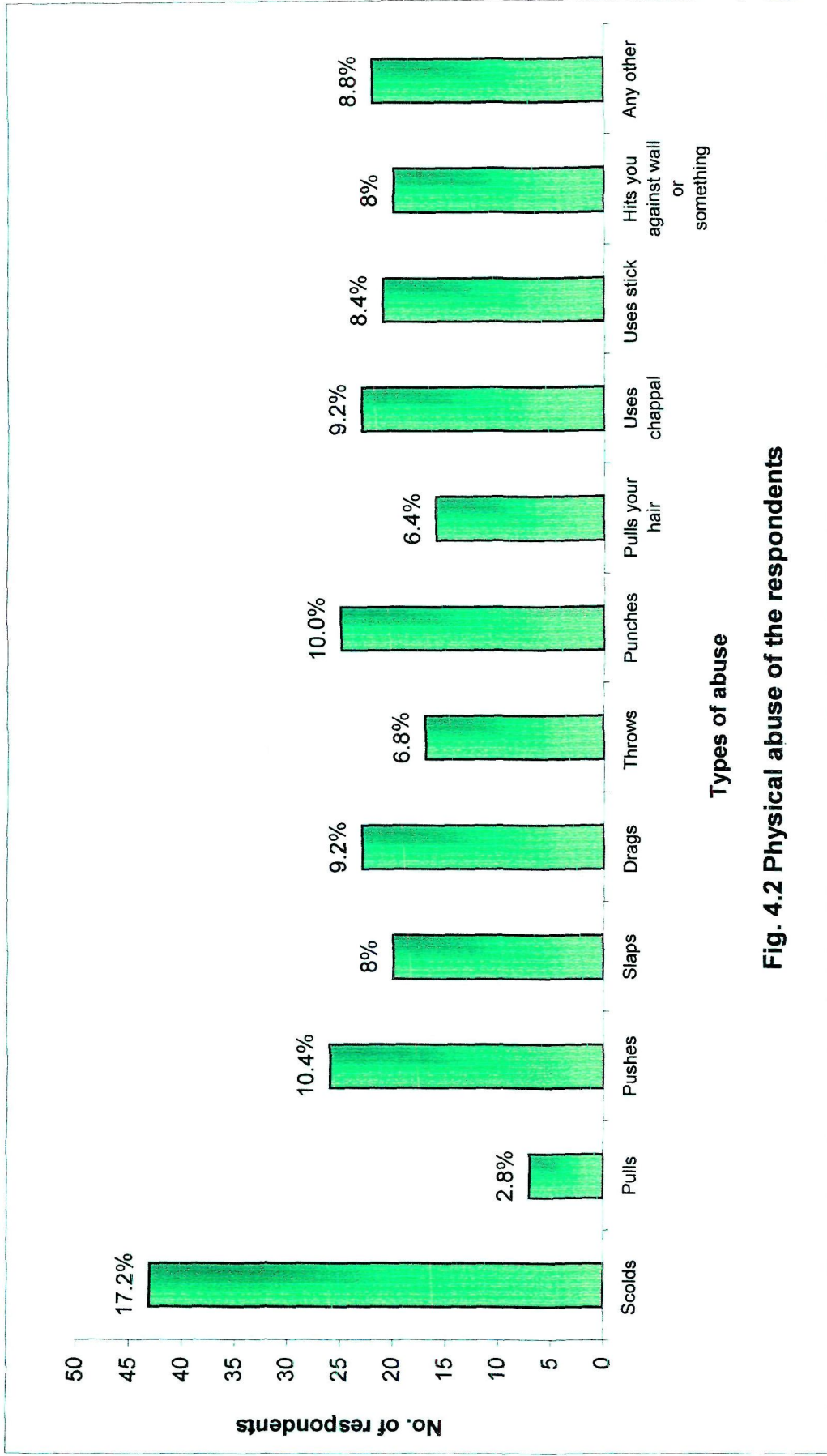


Fig. 4.2 Physical abuse of the respondents

Table 4.7 Respondents response on frequency of abuse

Condition	Frequency (n =250)	Percentage
Never	202	80.8
Once in a while	35	14.0
2-3 times a month	7	2.8
2-3 times a week	3	1.2
More than four times a day	3	1.2

Table 4.8 clearly indicates that 90.4 per cent of the respondents said that they had no physical injury and 9.6 per cent said they had physical injuries. 5.2 per cent of the respondents said they had any other injury which included bruises and scars, 2.4 per cent said they were burnt, while 1.2 per cent said they had bite marks and 0.08 per cent that they had broken bones as it can be seen in (Fig. 4.3).

Table 4.8 Distribution of the respondents according to the physical injury and the type of injury

Physical injury	No. of respondents	Type of injury	No. of respondents
Yes	24 (9.6)	Burning	6 (2.4)
No	226 (90.4)	Bite marks	3 (1.2)
		Broken teeth	-----
		Broken bones	2 (0.8)
Total	250	Any other	13 (5.2)

Table 4.9 depicts that majority of the respondents i.e. 56.8 per cent said that their in-laws never abused them while 43.2 per cent said they abused them, 29.2 per cent of the respondents said that they were abused verbally, 13.2 per cent said they conspire against them, 9.6 said they abused them physically 8.8 per cent said they don't talk to them and 4.0 per cent said any other which includes

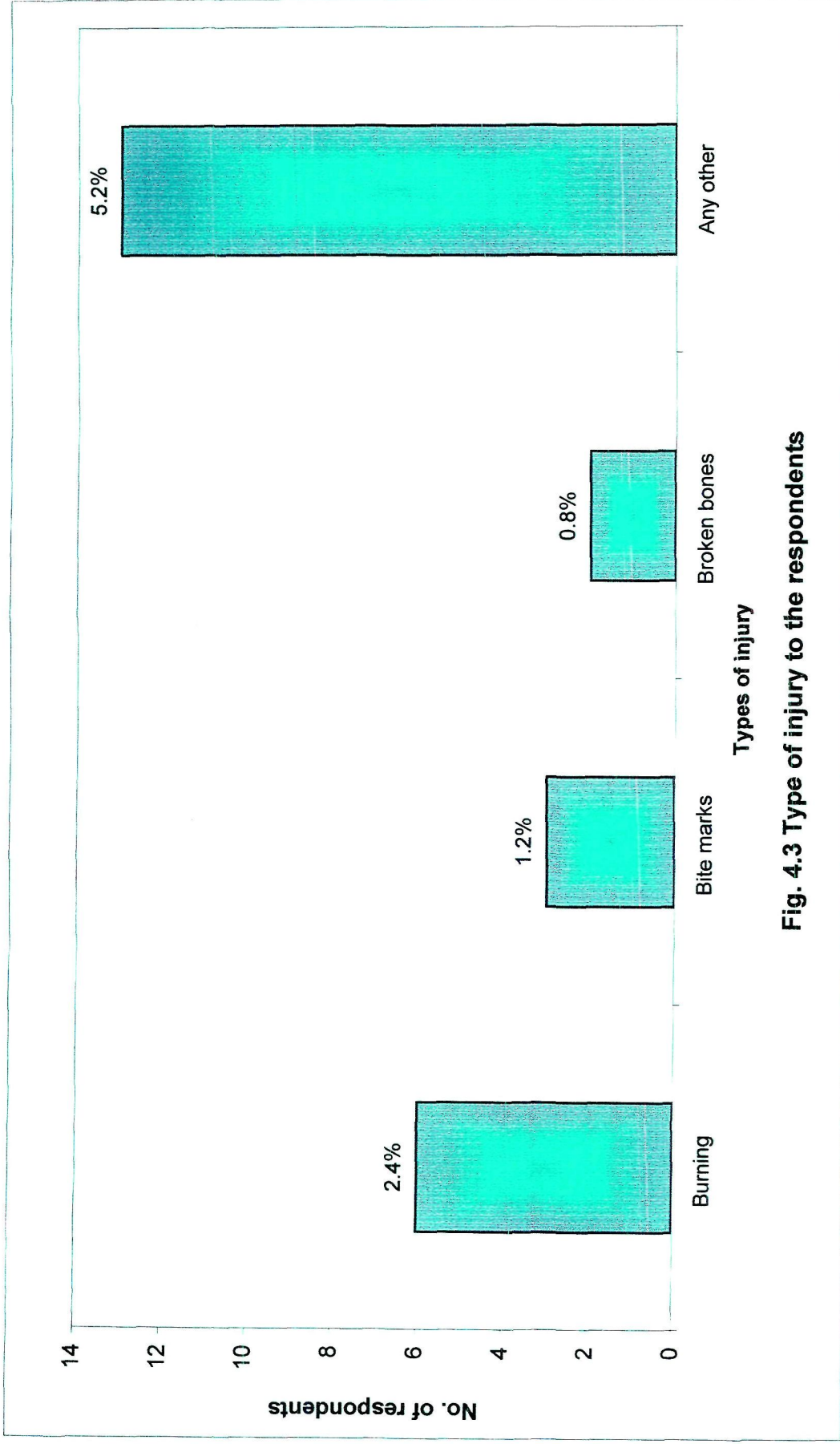


Fig. 4.3 Type of injury to the respondents

threatening and not letting them move out of their houses as it could be seen in Fig. 4.4).

Table 4.9 Respondents abused by in-laws and the ways in which they are abused

Abused	No. of respondents	Ways of abuse	No. of respondents*
Wives	108 (43.2)	Verbally	73 (17.2)
Mothers-in-law	142 (56.8)	Physically	24 (9.6)
		Don't talk	22 (8.8)
		Conspire against you	33 (13.2)
Total	250	Any other	10 (4.0)

*Multiple responses of the respondents on the ways in which they were abused
Figure in parentheses indicate per cent

Further it could be noted from Table 4.10 that 16.4 per cent of women said that their husbands abused them, 13.2 per cent said that their mothers-in-law abused them, 11.6 per cent said that they were abused by their fathers-in-law, 7.2 per cent said that their brothers-in-law abuse them, while 6.4 per cent said that they were abused by their sisters-in-law, 1.2 per cent said by any other which included other relatives like husband's uncles and aunts.

Table 4.10 Family members who abuse the respondents

Member	Responses (n =250)	Percentage*
Husband	41	16.4
Mother-in-law	33	13.2
Father-in-law	29	11.6
Sister-in-law	16	6.4
Brother-in-law	18	7.2
Any other	3	1.2

*Multiple responses about the persons, who abuse the respondent

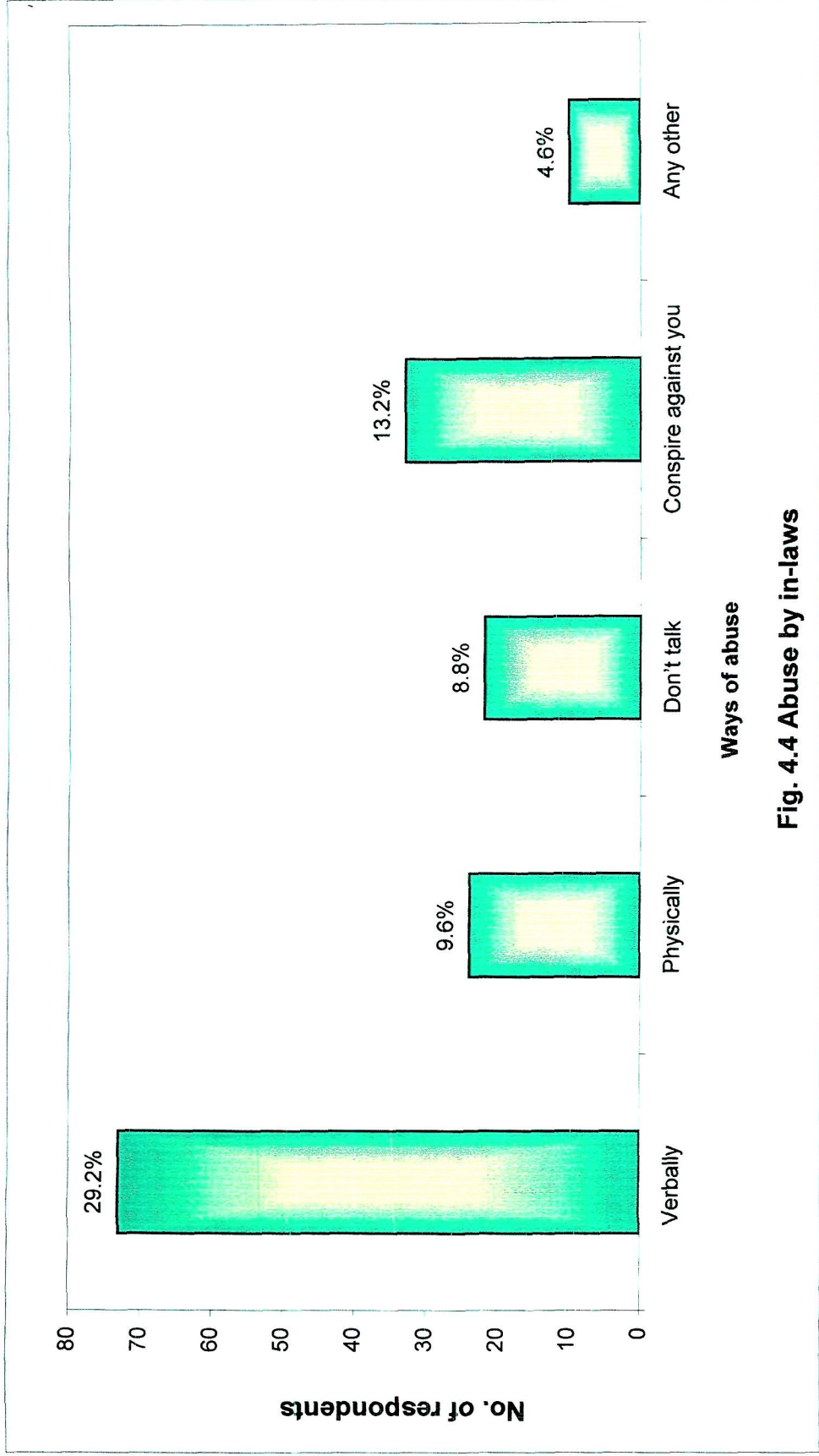


Fig. 4.4 Abuse by in-laws

Table 4.11 revealed the responses of the respondents on exchange of hot words in daily activities. 73.2 per cent of the women said that their husband exchanged hot words with them because they both thought that they did not attend children properly, 71.6 per cent of the respondents said the exchange of hot words was on studies of children, 33.6 per cent said that exchange of hot words was on visiting friends and family, 21.2 per cent said that it was because of their attitude towards their in-laws and 39.2 per cent of respondents said that it is on shopping and purchase.

Table 4.11 Respondents responses on exchange of hot words in routine activities

Factors	Responses in Yes (n =250)	Percentage*
Getting up late in the morning	44	17.6
Housekeeping	35	14.0
Cooking as per his taste	60	24.0
Washing clothes/dishes	39	15.6
Sending children to school	88	35.2
Studies of children	179	71.6
Not attending children properly	183	73.2
Taking rest	35	14.0
Visiting family friends	84	33.6
Shopping and purchase	98	39.2
Want baby boy	10	4.0
Having girls only	10	4.0
Interest for higher education	17	6.8
Interest for job	11	4.4
Attitude towards in-laws	53	21.2
Care of parents and elders at home	37	14.8

*Multiples responses of the respondents on exchange of hot word in daily activities

4.3 Causes

It is clearly seen in the Table 4.12 that 44.4 per cent of the respondents said that they were abused under the influence of drugs and alcohol, 36.4 per cent of the respondents said that their previous family background and unemployment is the main cause of violence, 14.8 per cent of the respondents said that their education was the cause 6.8 per cent said that their husbands suspected infidelity, while 4.0 per cent said that their husband were interested in any other women and that was the cause of assault.

Table 4.12 Responses on the causes of violence

Causes	Responses (n = 250)	
	Y	N
Drugs or alcohol	111 (44.4)	139 (55.6)
Suspects infidelity	17 (6.8)	233 (93.2)
Interested in any other women	10 (4.0)	240 (96.0)
Other women cause of assault	10 (4.0)	240 (96.0)
Education	37 (14.8)	213 (85.2)
Previous family background	91 (36.4)	159 (63.6)
Unemployment	91 (36.4)	159 (63.6)

Figures in the parenthesis indicate per cent
Y = Yes, N = No

Table 4.13 shows that 8.4 per cent of the respondents were abused by their spouse or in-laws for replying back, 5.6 per cent of respondents said because of their irritating behaviour, while 2.4 said crying on petty matters and disobeying their husbands and their husbands family members.

Table 4.13 Reasons for being abused by spouse or in-laws

Factors	Responses (n =250)	Percentage*
Replying back	21	8.4
Irritating behaviour	14	5.6
Crying on petty matters	6	2.4
Disobeying him and his family members	6	2.4

*Multiple responses on the reasons of being abused

Table 4.14 shows the prompt reaction of the women on violence, 29.2 per cent of the women felt like committing suicide, 17.2 per cent cried, 13.6 per cent pretended to be normal or scolded children, 10.4 per cent said that they kept silent or closed themselves in a room, 4.0 per cent said that they hit back, 2.0 per cent said that they went back to their parents house.

Table 4.14 Respondents prompt reaction to the violence

Reaction	Responses (n =250)	Percentage*
Act to be normal	34	13.6
Keep silent	26	10.4
Cry	43	17.2
Scold children	34	13.6
Closing your self in a room	26	10.4
Go to your parents house	5	2.0
Hitting back	10	4.0
Feel like committing suicide	73	29.2

*Multiple responses on the prompt action

4.4 Prevalence of dowry system

Table 4.15 showed the prevalence of dowry and the things given in dowry by the respondents family, 75.2 per cent of the respondents said that the custom of dowry did not prevail in their culture, while 24.8 per cent said that the custom is very much prevalent. Out of the one's who said that the custom of dowry prevailed 16.4 per cent of the respondents said that their parents gave furniture, 10.4 per cent said that their parents gave gifts to relatives, 12.0 per cent said that they gave cash, 11.6 per cent said that they gave electric appliances and jewellery, 9.2 per cent said that their parents gave land, 2.0 per cent said vehicle, 1.2 per cent said flat and house as shown in (Fig. 4.5).

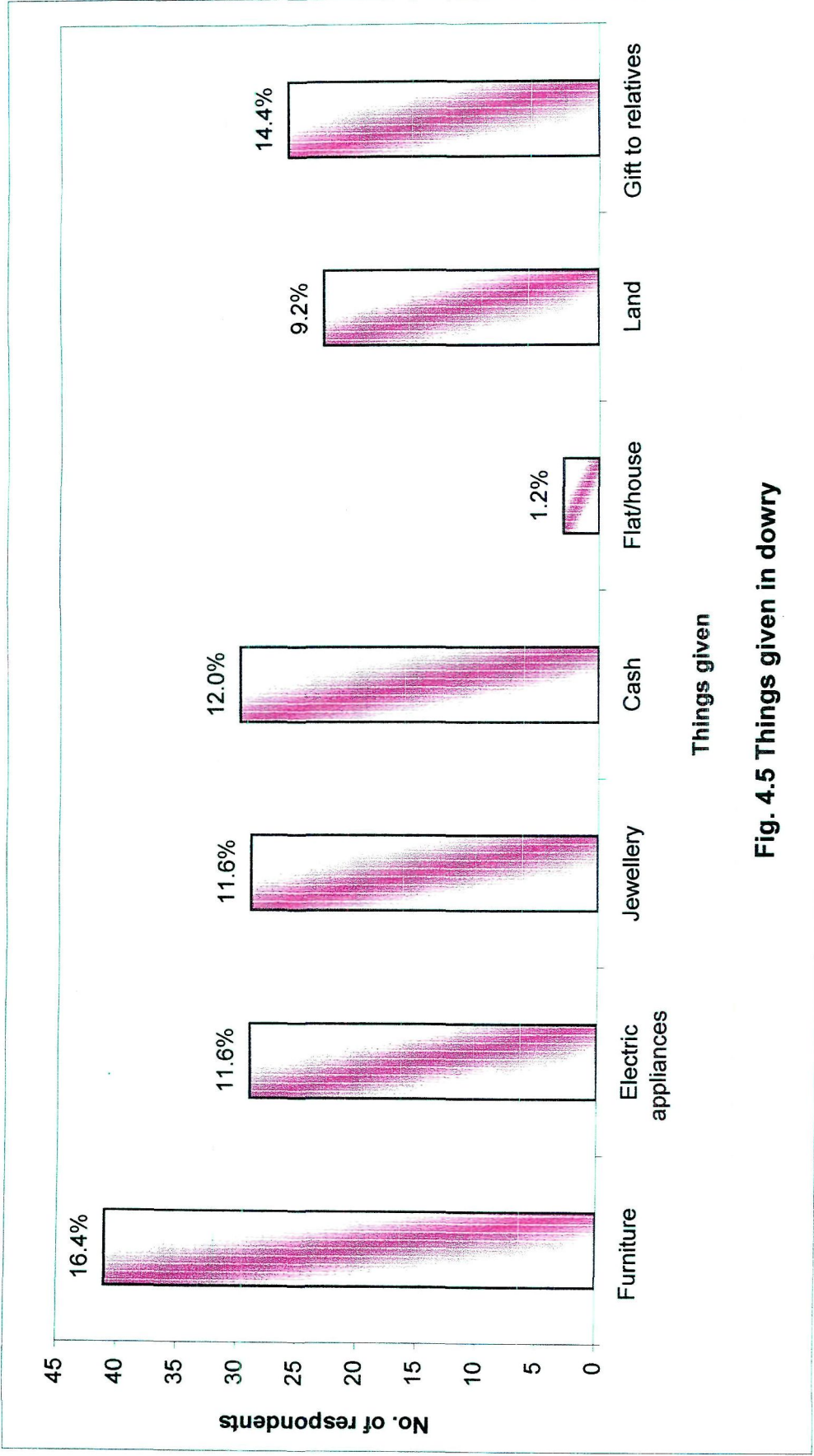


Fig. 4.5 Things given in dowry

Table 4.15 Prevalence of dowry practices

Problem faced	No. of respondents	Things given	No. of respondents*
Yes	62 (24.8)	Furniture	41 (16.4)
No	188 (75.2)	Electric appliances	29 (11.6)
		Jewellery	29 (11.6)
		Cash	30 (12.0)
		Flat/house	3 (1.2)
		Land	23 (9.2)
		Gift to relatives	26 (10.4)

*Multiple responses on things given in dowry
Figure in parentheses indicate per cent

Table 4.16 showed dowry expectations of respondents' in-laws. Maximum number of in-laws abused for nothing i.e. 75.2 per cent, 14.4 per cent of the in-laws demanded furniture 12.8 demanded gift for relatives, 11.6 per cent demanded cash, 10.4 per cent demanded electrical appliances, 9.6 per cent jewellery, 6.0 per cent flat/house, 4.0 per cent vehicle, 2.8 per cent demanded land.

Table 4.16 Dowry expectations of respondents in-laws

Things	Responses (n =250)	Percentage*
Nothing	188	75.2
Furniture	36	14.4
Electric appliances	26	10.4
Jewellery	24	9.6
Cash	29	11.6
Flat/house	15	6.0
Vehicle	10	4.0
Land	7	2.8
Gift to relatives	32	12.8

*Multiple responses on things demanded in dowry

4.5 Support system

Table 4.17 depicted that the majority i.e. 14.4 per cent said that they were supported by others which included neighbours and children, 11.6 per cent said that their brothers-in-law helped them, 10.8 per cent said their husbands helped them, 9.2 per cent said that they were helped by their fathers-in-law, 6 per cent said they were helped by their mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Table 4.17 Supporters of the respondent in the family

Member	Responses (n =250)	Percentage*
Husband	27	10.8
Mother-in-law	15	6.0
Father-in-law	23	9.2
Sister-in-law	29	11.6
Brother-in-law	15	6.0
Any other	36	14.4

*Multiple responses of the respondent on the people who help them

Table 4.18 showed that maximum of the respondents i.e. 10.4 per cent of the respondents disclosed their problems to their brothers and sisters, 9.2 per cent disclosed their problems with parents, 6.8 per cent disclosed to friends, 5.2 per cent with others which included neighbours and relatives, 2.8 per cent disclosed their problems with social organization and 2.0 per cent disclosed to the police.

Table 4.18 Sources to which respondents have disclosed their problems

Sources	Responses (n =250)	Percentage*
Parents	23	9.2
Friends	17	6.8
Brother/sister	26	10.4
Police	5	2.0
Social organization	7	2.8
Any other	13	5.2

*Multiple responses on with whom respondent disclosed their problem

Table 4.19 showed the association between independent factors and dependent factors. It could be interpreted that Chi Square calculated is greater than Chi square tabulated therefore we can say that violence is different in different groups. On this base it could be said that age, qualification and family type and emotional violence were significant at 5% level of significance while age at marriage and family income were significant at 1% level of significance. There was no significance of emotional violence with caste and occupation.

Table 4.19 Socio-economic factors and various atrocities: results of chi-square

Socio economic factors	Atrocities				Degree of freedom
	Emotional violence	Social violence	Physical violence	Total violence	
Age	17.337**	8.991	6.321	16.211	8
Age at marriage	77.992*	7.763	13.623	14.211	6
Qualification	28.672**	113.62*	26.341	98.81181*	10
Caste	8.112	29.588*	16.591**	15.411	4
Occupation	5.751	5.691	59.155**	83.666*	2
Family type	7.213**	113.62*	4.478	61.123**	2
Family income	91.123*	15.503**	87.257*	97.666*	4

*Significant at 1%; ** significant of 5%

It could also be concluded that social violence and family income were significant at 5 per cent level of significance where as qualification caste and family type were significant at 1 per cent level of significance. There was no significance of social violence with age, age at marriage occupation.

It could also be inferred from the table that family income and physical violence were significant at 1 per cent level of significance while caste and

occupation were significant at 5 per cent level of significance with physical violence. There was no significance between age, age at marriage, qualification and family type with physical violence.

From the table it could be seen that qualification, occupation and family income were significant at 1 per cent level of significance with total violence while family type was significant at 5 per cent level of significance. There is no significance of total violence and age, age at marriage and caste.



DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

The objectives of the present investigation were to examine the prevalence and causes of domestic atrocities faced by women in their families and also to assess the relationship of socio-economic factors with atrocities meted to them. To gather the information on these objectives the study was conducted in Mashobra and Theog blocks of Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh.

5.1 Prevalence of domestic atrocities

5.1.1 Emotional and social violence

Majority of the respondents are suffering from emotional and social violence. The reason may be that our society is male dominant and women are not given much attention. Second reason may be that "men who abuse their wives have learnt some cultural and social values about masculinity and their role in families that support their aggression and violence."(Ganley, 1981) that is the reason they abuse their wives.

Flavia (1985) said that a women who does not accept the traditional role of submissiveness and subordinate needs to be tamed into accepting it and any means including battering or any form of violence is justified to achieve the goal, this is a kind of social pressure put on women. Iyer and Venkatesharulu (2003) are of the view that sometimes, the violence may be related to drunkenness but not always. In Indian culture, a wife rarely thinks in terms of reporting a case of battering to the police. She suffers humiliation in silence and curses her destiny. On the other hand, Harrell and Smith (1996) interviewed 355 women who had filled for restraining orders in America. They analyzed the threats of violence or

property damage which has occurred in the study, 22 per cent of the applicants had been threatened with bodily harms, 17 per cent had received harm to their children 16 per cent had property destroyed before them.

It can be seen that maximum number of the women were not denied of the basic facilities but some women who were denied of the basic facilities, majority of them were denied of food and cash money as stated and supported by Marwalikar (2001) who studied the sample of 100 married women. Out of 100 female spouses, 49 got separated from their husbands within 2 years of marriage were included in group 1 while the rest 51 women separated after 2 years and a higher proportion of female spouses 51- 66 per cent were not happy for not meeting the basic needs like specially food and clothing due to their husbands spending most of their money on buying *desi* liquor to drink and the gambling was also the reason for marital separation.

It has been observed from the study that emotional violence is very much prevalent in the study area. Lockton *et al.* (1997) observed that the victims of emotional violence suffer from low self-esteem, they live under some fear, depression, and they exhibit signs of confusion, guilt, shame, insecurity and tendencies of suicide.

Lockton *et al.* (1997) say that the victims of the survey suffered from insults and humiliation, purposeful distancing of the women from friends, family, and all potential sources of external help. The men exerted extraordinary control over the women's behaviour, thoughts, feelings, what she wore, where she went, with whom she talked, as well as over the family recourses.

5.1.2 Physical violence

We can infer from the results that women were physically abused in many ways, which includes scolding, pushing and punching. Lockton *et al.* (1995)

surveyed women and said that women are physically abused in many ways which include punching (58%), kicking (45%), choking (32%), 16 per cent slap and throwing across room, 19 per cent pushing shoving, hitting, hair pulling, dragging across room 10 per cent, biting and burning (3%), stabbing, pinching none and many other. Jones also reported that frequency of the violence could be every day, within 2-3 days, every weekly, every month after a long time that could in a year, or it could be not at all. The results of our survey also tells that maximum number of women were never abused followed by once in a while.

The results of our survey showed that maximum number of women had another type of injury which included bruises and scars. Frjeze (1983) analyzed from the survey that women suffer from various types of injuries as the result of domestic violence which include bruising (64%), 15 per cent bleeding, temporarily unable to walk (6%), broken bones (15%), miscarriage and concussion 3 per cent , burst eardrum none , other injuries (18%).

Mezey (1997) states that three of the women in her survey sustained broken bones and one had teeth broken.

It can be inferred from our observations that majority of the females were abused by their husbands and mothers-in-law. They also complained that they were abused verbally by them as reported by Marwalikar (2001) after studying the sample of 100 married women. Out of 100 female spouses 49 got separated from their husbands within 2 years of marriage, while the rest 51 women separated after 2 years. And all the sample women states that they could not tolerate physical, sexual, verbal, emotional harassment received from their husbands and in-laws (100 %) included husbands, mothers-in-law were (mostly), fathers-in-law and brothers-in-law which made them ultimately to separate from their spouses.

5.2 Causes

Most frequently the spouses used to exchange hot words on the following as rightly observed and reported by Tondon (1988). In a recent survey it was observed that 76 per cent of the women had to seek permission from their husbands for visiting friends or relatives, 68 percent even needed permission even to go to the market and only sixty six per cent could use their earnings as they wished but had to account to their husbands regarding the expenses incurred. Three out of five women surveyed admitted that they were beaten by their husbands on any of the following six grounds, 1. Going out without telling the husband. 2. Neglecting the house and children. 3. Showing disrespect to the in-laws. 4. Not cooking food properly. 5. Suspecting she is unfaithful to him. 6. If enough dowry was not brought.

Majority of the women complained that their husbands abused them under the influence of alcohol or drug as Devasahayam *et al.*, (1994) inferred from the sample of 153 women from the Melmoil and Arumbakkam Panchyants of K.V Kuppam Blocks and it was found that approximately 21 per cent admitted existence of marital violence and alcoholism was reported as a major cause of violence in their families.

Most of the females felt like committing suicide as the prompt reaction to the violence. "Many women' feel lonely, helpless, hopeless and powerless because of loss of social support and social standing in the society. Some of them even loose the desire and get suicidal tendencies"(Tondon, 2003).

5.3 Prevalence of dowry system

Majority of the females reported that furniture was the most common item which was demanded and given in the dowry. According to survey conducted by

Ghadially and Kumar (1988), the most common items of the dowry demanded was hard cash (58%). Cash was not demanded only for its own sake but usually to expand business, cover marriage expenses or to buy expensive articles, this was followed by house hold furniture, colour television, sewing machine, sofa, bed, radio and cupboard which were the most common demanded items of furniture. Jewellery ranked third with 25 per cent followed by vehicle, clothes, and household linen.

5.4 Support system

Most of the women reported that they were helped by other persons, which included neighborurs and children. Tyler (1984) indicated that the information gathered from social net work such as a friends and neighbours play a more important role than say, mass media in estimating personal risk of victimization and a appropriate kind of action to under take in order to avoid victimization:

Majority of the respondents disclosed their problems to their brothers and sisters. Dobash and Dobash (1981) observed that when women first reveal to an outsider that they are being beaten, they usually approach those whom they judge most likely to give some help or consolation without making their private problem any more public than necessary. Shumarker (1983) said that friends and colleagues have extended support to 9 per cent of the families, community elders, relatives, social workers, organization college students and human right group 4 per cent play a small role in giving support.

5.5 Relationship of socio economic factors and atrocities

Majority of the respondents belonged to the age group of 30-40 years while maximum of them were married between the age group of 20-25 years which is in compliance with Iyer and Venketeshwarulu's (2003) study which pointed out that

majority (60 %) of the respondents were in the age group of 18-25 years, followed by the age group of 29-38 years (20%), 39-48 (17%) and 49- 58 years (3%).

Regarding the education of the respondent, majority of them were educated whereas only few of them were illiterate. Kishwar (1989) observed that almost anything beauty, education, employment and lack of these can become a cause for violence on women. Sinha (1989) studied cases on battered women in Patna that comprised of both the categories viz. working and non working and found that irrespective of education, caste, religion, and economic status wife beating was a universal phenomena.

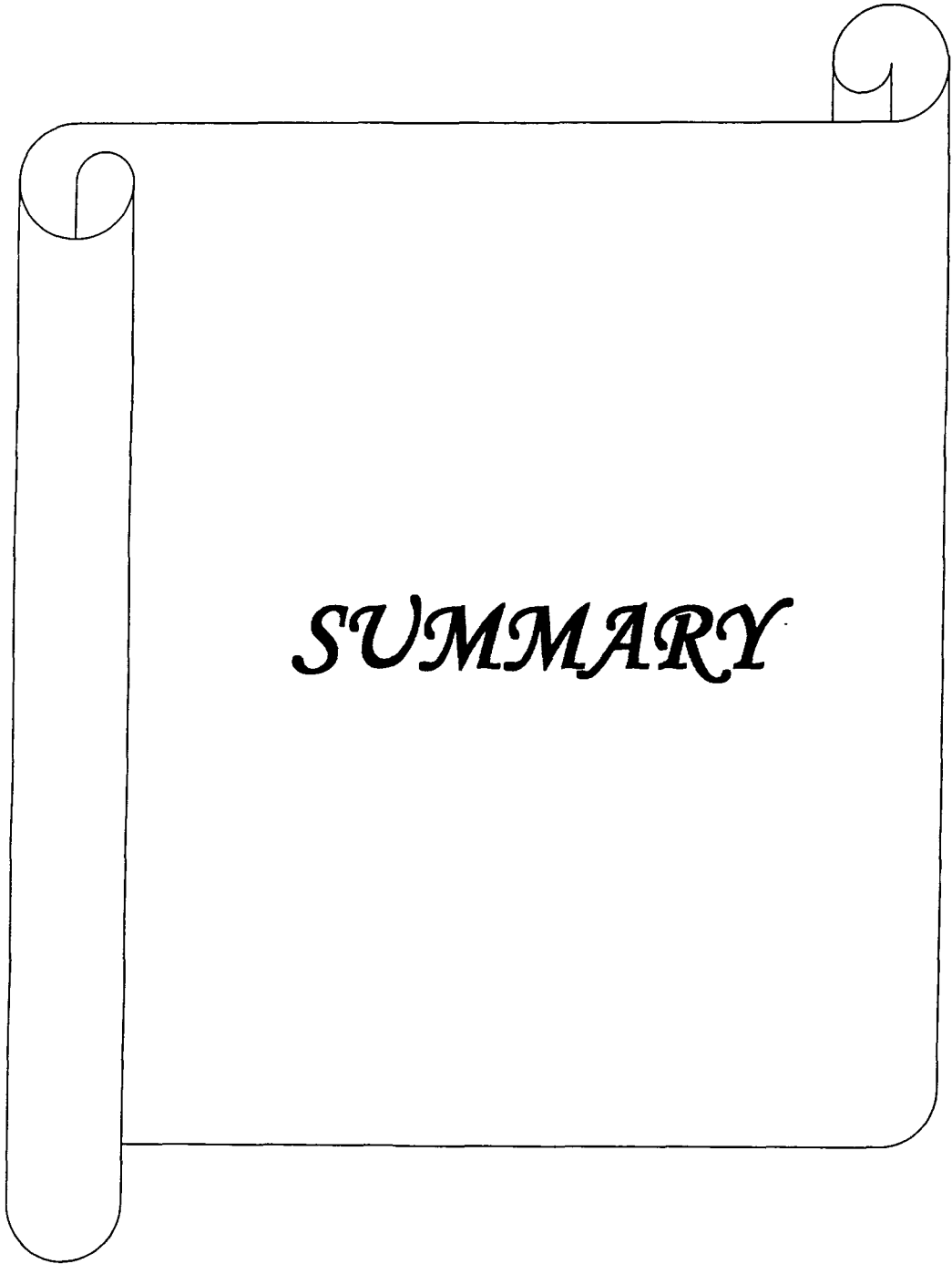
The family characteristic of the respondents revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to nuclear families. This clearly shows that gradually the joint family system is becoming unpopular. This may be due to more preference of couples to lead an independent life second reason may be that modernization and high cost of living lead to large scale mobilization of family members, thus breaking down of multi generation family to a nuclear family

Income of the family is a major indicator of the standard of living. As far as family income is concerned, most of the families in the present study were having monthly income between Rs 5001-10000. The main source of income in the family was service in both government sector and private sector and agriculture. Bhatti (1989) stated that 88 per cent of the women belonging to lower income group were the victims of physical violence and verbal violence in contrast to 43 per cent from the middle class and 35 per cent from the upper income class.

Caste determines the social status of an individual. Every caste has a different social status and social relationship. In the present study mainly three

caste categories were considered and most of the respondent belonged to Scheduled caste category followed by general and other backward classes.

Occupation and violence are closely associated as rightly said by Gelles and Cornell (1990) who are of the opinion that the wife abuse is not associated with employment status of wives it is argued that women who stay at home and do not contribute to the family income are at the greater risk of being abused.



SUMMARY

Chapter-IV

SUMMARY

Marriage is considered as an intimate bond that provides security to women, but also on the contrary this institution makes their lives vulnerable at the hands of the worst evils of the society." The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life. Mastic Violence isn't just hitting, fighting, or an occasional mean argument but it's the chronic abuse of power. The abuser tortures and controls the victim by calculated threats, intimidation and physical violence. Actual physical violence is often the end result of months or years of verbal and subtle intimidation.

Major findings of the study

1. Maximum number 47.2 per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 30-40 years. 42.8 per cent of the respondents were married in age group of 20-25 years.
2. About 54.0 per cent of the females had number of children between 1-3. Maximum number of the respondents i.e. 24 per cent were educated upto middle. More than 39.6 per cent of the respondents belonged to schedules caste, 31.2 per cent belonged to general (upper) caste and 29.2 per cent belonged to other backward class. Majority of the respondents i.e. 73.6 per cent of the women were non-working.

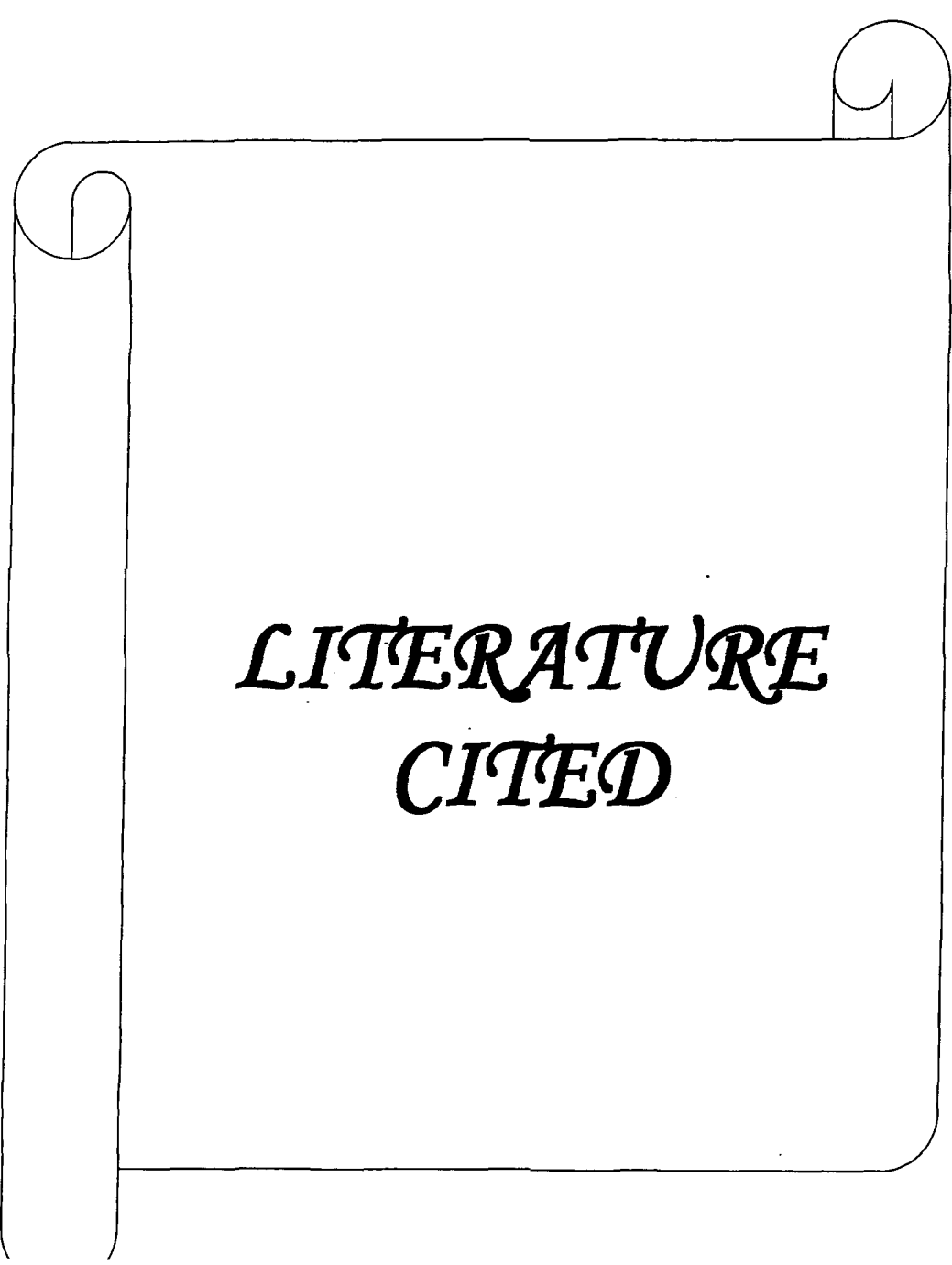
3. Majority i.e.55.6 percent of the respondents belonged to nuclear families, whereas 44.4 per cent of the respondents belong to joint families. About 43.2 per cent of the respondents lived in the mixed type of houses. More than 22.8 per cent of the respondents had 10-20 *bighas* of land. More than 30.4 per cent of the respondents had their monthly income between 5001 to 10000, 96.4 per cent of the respondents had gas stoves 36.4 per cent had geysers with them.
4. More than 59.2 per cent of the respondents said that their husbands were never violent towards their in-laws.
5. Majority of the respondents i.e. 81.6 per cent were never denied of the basic facilities, 11.6 per cent of the respondents were denied of food.
6. 62 per cent of the women agreed that taking care of the children was always a joint responsibility while 37.6 per cent of the respondents were some times objected for going out and they could sometimes take part in family discussions and suggest changes in family norms. Whereas 56 per cent of the respondents were never asked to give account of their movement.
7. Maximum i.e. 80.8 per cent of the women said that their husbands never lost their temper out of those 17.2 per cent of the females respondents were scolded by their husbands.
8. About 90.4 per cent of the respondents said that they had not suffered any physical injury, 5.2 per cent had injury which included bruises and black eye.
9. About 80.8 per cent of the women were never abused physically.

10. Majority of the respondents i.e. 56.8 per cent were never abused by in-laws while 7.2 per cent of the respondents were abused verbally by their in laws.
11. Maximum i.e.16.4 per cent of women were abused by their husbands More than 73. 2 per cent of the women exchanged hot words with their husbands on not attending children properly.
12. About 44.4 per cent of the respondents were abused under the influence of drugs and alcohol while 4.0 per cent said that their husband were interested in any other women and she was the cause of assault.
13. Maximum of the respondents (8.4 %) were abused by their spouse or in-laws for arguing.
14. Majority i.e. 29.2 per cent of the women felt like committing suicide when they were assaulted.
15. More than 75.2 per cent of the respondents were of the view that custom of dowry did not prevail in their culture, 16.4 per cent of the respondents said that their parents gave furniture in their dowry as a gift.
16. Maximum number of in-laws demanded nothing i.e. 75.2 per cent.
17. About 14.4 per cent of the women were supported by others which included neighbours and children.
18. Maximum of the respondents i.e. 10.4 per cent of the respondents disclosed their problems to their brothers and sisters.
19. It could also be inferred from results that family income, caste, and occupation had significant association with physical violence.
20. Qualification, occupation, family income, family type had an association with total violence while there was no significant association with age, age at marriage and caste.

21. We can say that age, qualification, family type, age at marriage and family income have association with emotional violence whereas there is no association between emotional violence, caste and occupation.
22. Social violence and family income, qualification, caste, and family type are associated with each other.

Recommendations

1. Women should be given better basic education and should also be taught that they are no less than their male partners and they should be also made aware of their legal rights.
2. Legal education to fight the injustice must be imparted to girls at high school or secondary school level so that they can stand up and fight for their rights.
3. Programme on different type of atrocities on women and how she can fight these atrocities should be shown on T.V and discussed in Radio.
4. Women should be educated about the agencies to be approached if they face any type of atrocity.
5. Government should be made to realize the urgency of the problem. Women who face atrocities should be allotted some per cent of job and housing facilities.
6. Homes should be made where women can take refuge when their lives are threatened. Homes should help women to rebuild their shattered lives and include faith and confidence in themselves.
7. The time spent in the homes should be utilized in teaching women the useful skills that can eventually make them self-sufficient.



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APPENDIX

APPENDIX-I

Study on the Post Marital Atrocities on Women in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Date.....

Sr. No.....

SECTION (A): GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1) Village _____
- 2) Block _____
- 3) Name of the Respondents _____
- 4) Age of the Respondent _____
- 5) Age at the time of Marriage _____
- 6) Number of children _____
- 7) Qualification
 - a) Illiterate
 - b) Upto primary
 - c) Middle
 - d) High school
 - e) Senior secondary
 - f) Graduate
 - g) Any other
- 8) Caste _____
- 9) Occupation _____
- 10) Type of family _____
- 11) Type of house
 - a) Kuchha
 - b) Mixed
 - c) Pucca
- 12) Land holding
 - a) No land
 - b) Upto 5 Bigha

- c) 5-10 Bigha
 - d) 10-20 Bigha
 - e) 20-40 Bigha
 - f) 40 Bigha and above
- 13) Total family income
- a) Less than 5,000
 - b) 5,000-10,000
 - c) 10,000 – 15,000
 - d) 15,000 and above
- 14) Material in possession
- a) Radio
 - b) T.V.
 - c) Music system
 - d) Gas stove
 - e) Mixer grinder
 - f) Washing machine
 - g) Geyser
 - h) Fridge

SECTION (B): SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Emotional Violence

	Always	Some times	Never
1) Do you feel your in-laws talk ill about you with other people?			
2) Do you think he and his family members talk ill about your parental family with other people?			
3) Do you get angry when your husband does not intimate you about his where about?			
4) Do you feel bad when he give you time and fails to make it?			
5) Do you feel your husband neglects you in the presence of his friends and family?			
6) Has he ever been violent towards any of the family member?			
7) Has he even been violent towards his in-laws			
8) Does he share his personal and family problems with you?			
9) Has he ever isolated you from others?			
10) Has he ever threatened you by saying that he will leave you and children?			
11) Has he ever threatened you by saying that he will leave you and take children in his custody?			
12) Does he console you after his violent act ?			
13) Do you feel humiliation in silence and curse your destiny?			

Social Violence

	Always	Some times	Never
1) Is your family supportive?			
2) Are you allowed to take part in family discussions?			
3) Are you allowed to suggest some changes in the family norms?			
4) Does he or any of his family members keep an account of your movement?			
5) Does he ever talks ill about you in public?			
6) Does he ever object you for going out?			
7) Does he object the way you dress and carry yourself			
8) Does he object you on your behaviour in public?			
9) Does he compare you with other women?			
10) Do you enjoy being with him?			
11) Do you feel your husband enjoys your company?			
12) Does your husband participate in social gatherings?			
13) Has he ever refused you from visiting your family and friends?			
14) Does he object your meeting with the people he dislikes?			
15) Has he ever misbehaved with your family and friends?			
16) Do you agree that taking care of children is joint responsibility?			
17) Do you feel your husband takes good care of the family?			
18) Do you think your family income is enough to live a happy family life?			
19) Are you free to spend money on your own in your household affairs?			
20) Does he demand a strict account of money you spend?			

Yes	No

- j) Uses stick
- k) Hits you against wall or anything
- l) Any other
- 3) How frequently does he abuse you?
1. Never
 2. Once in a while
 3. 2-3 times a month
 4. 2-3 times a week
 5. More than four times a day
- 4) You are physically abused by spouse or in-laws because of
1. Replying back
 2. Your irritating behaviour
 3. Crying on petty matters
 4. Disobeying him and his family members
- 5) Are you denied of the basic facilities and amenities in the house ?
If yes, then for which of the following ?
1. Food
 2. Clothing
 3. Space to sleep
 4. Medicines
 5. Cash money
- 6) Have you ever had a visible injury?
- If yes
1. Burning
 2. Bite marks
 3. Broken teeth
 4. Broken bones
 5. Any other

7. Have you ever been abused by your in-laws for not being a good daughter-in-law? Yes / No
 If yes, how do they abuse you?
- a) Verbally
 - b) Physically
 - c) Don't talk to you
 - d) Do they conspire against you
 - e) Any other
8. Who abuses you?
- a) Husband
 - b) Mother-in-law
 - c) Father-in-law
 - d) Sister-in-law
 - e) Brother-in-law
 - f) Any other

Causes

- 1. Does he abuse you under the influence of any drugs or alcohol?
- 2. Do you think he assaulted you because he suspects infidelity?
- 3. Does your husband has a second wife or is interested in any other woman?
- 4. Do you think she is the cause of assault?
- 5. Do you think your education is the cause of mal treatment?
- 6. Do you think your previous family background is the cause of assault?
- 7. Does your husband abuse you for not being gainfully employed?

Yes	No

Prevalence of dowry

- 1. Does the custom of dowry prevail in your culture?
 If yes, what did you get in dowry?

 - a) Furniture
 - b) Electric appliances
 - c) Jewellery

- d) Cash
- e) Flat/house
- f) Vehicle
- g) Land
- h) Gift to relatives

2. What were the expectations of your in-laws?

- a) Furniture
- b) Electric appliances
- c) Jewellery
- d) Cash
- e) Flat/house
- f) Vehicle
- g) Land
- h) Gift to relatives

Support systems

1) What is your prompt reaction to the violence?

- a) Act to be normal
- b) Keep silent
- c) Cry
- d) Scold children
- e) Closing your self in a room
- f) Go to your parents house
- g) Hitting back
- h) Feel like committing suicide

2) Do any of the family members stop the other from being Violent at you? Yes / No

If yes, who support you?

- a) Husband
- b) Mother-in-law
- c) Father-in-law
- d) Sister-in-law
- e) Brother-in-law
- f) Any other

7) Have you ever disclosed about the atrocities faced by you to any of the following?

- a) Yours parents
- b) Friends
- c) Brother/sister
- d) Police
- e) Social organization
- f) Any other