

**REPORT ON
SURVEY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT 2006
IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT**

SURVEY CONDUCTED BY

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE,
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

In Collaboration with

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
LOYOLA COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

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IMPLEMENTATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) PROHIBITION ACT – SURVEY 2018

I. INTRODUCTION

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), instituted in 2005 and which came into effect in October 2006, is a legislation aimed at protecting women from violence in domestic relationships. This legislation was enacted after India's ratification of the United Nation's CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women). The PWDV Act 2005 contains five chapters and thirty seven sections. Given below are some important provisions which are essential for understanding of the statute.

- Domestic Violence has been used in widest sense which covers all forms of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse that can harm, cause injury to, endanger the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, either mental or physical, of the aggrieved person.
- Aggrieved person covers not just a wife but a woman who is the sexual partner of the male irrespective of whether she is legal wife or not (includes live-in relationships as well). The daughter, mother, sister, child (male or female), widowed relative, in fact, any woman residing in the household who is related in some way with the respondent is covered by the act.
- Respondent implies “any male, adult person who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the aggrieved person”. This ensures that the case can also be filed against relatives of the husband or the male partner.
- Apart from the victim herself, the complaint regarding an act or act of domestic violence can also be lodged by ‘any person who has a reason to believe that’ such an act was committed or is being committed. The Act makes sure that ‘no criminal, civil or any other liability’ lies on the informer, if the complaint is lodged in good faith.
- The magistrate has been given powers to permit the aggrieved women to stay in her place of adobe and she cannot be evicted by her male relatives in the retaliation. Also, the aggrieved woman can even be allotted a part of the house for personal use.
- The respondent can be prohibited from dispossessing the aggrieved person or in any other manner disturbing her possessions, entering the aggrieved person's place of work, if the

aggrieved person is a child, the school. Also magistrate can bar the respondent to communicate with aggrieved person by “personal, oral, written, electronic or telephonic contact.”

- The magistrate can impose monthly payments of maintenance. The respondent can also be ordered to meet the expenses incurred and losses suffered by the aggrieved person and any child of aggrieved person as a result of domestic violence. It can also cover loss of earnings, medical expenses, loss or damage to property. Under Sec 22 magistrate can make the respondent pay compensation and damages for injuries including mental torture and emotional distress caused by act(s) of domestic violence.
 - Penalty up to one-year and/or a fine up to Rs.20, 000/- can be imposed under the act. The offence is also considered cognizable and non-bailable while Sec 32 (2) goes even says that ‘under the sole testimony of the aggrieved person, the court may conclude that an offence has been committed by the accused’.
 - The act ensures speedy justice as the court has to start proceedings and have the first hearing within 3 days of the complaint being filed in the court and every case must be disposed off within a period of sixty days of the first hearing.
 - The act makes provisions for state to provide for protection officers and status of ‘service providers’ and ‘medical facility’.
 - Chapter 4 Sec 16 allows the magistrate to hold proceedings in camera “if either party to the proceedings so desires”.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

As part of implementing the Act in Kerala, 31 Protection officers were appointed across the 14 districts of the state. More than a decade after the Act came into force, it becomes essential to study the implementation of the act. According to an article by *IndiaSpend* (Chachra, 2017), the statistics available on Domestic Violence in the country is highlighted below:

“In the 10 years since the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, a civil act, was passed, more than 1,000,000 cases have been filed across the country under sections pertaining to “cruelty by husband” and dowry, data from the National Crime Records Bureau shows. Cases registered under the abetment of suicide of women, collected by the

Bureau since 2014, increased by 34%, from 3,034 the previous year to 4,060 in 2015, the data shows.....Though the protection under domestic violence act law was enacted in 2005, the NCRB only started collecting data under the law in 2014, according to this 2017 Lok Sabha. Today, data under PWDVA, as collected by the NCRB, includes only criminal violations of court orders under PWDVA, such as the violation of a protection order passed by the court while the case is ongoing. Cases registered under the violation of the PWDVA increased by 8%, from 426 in 2014 to 461 in 2015, according to NCRB data. This does not include actual incidents of domestic violence which are recorded under three sections of the Indian Penal Code—section 498 A for cruelty by husband and his relatives, section 304 B for Dowry deaths and section 306 for abetment of suicide.”

There are nine Ph.D. theses in Shodhganga that has undertaken studies in the area of Domestic Violence and the implementations of PWDV Act in different parts of India. These studies and a few other articles on the Act, point to the lack of reliable data and the hurdles at different levels of implementation. In Kerala a baseline survey of the implementation of this Act has not been carried out prior to this undertaking.

In 2017, 10 years after the implementation of the Act in the state of Kerala, the Social Justice Department decided to conduct a state wide survey, across 14 districts, to elicit data on the implementation of the PWDV Act in the state of Kerala. The survey, which was designed as a summary review of the domestic violence implementation machinery in the state, targeted 1400 respondents who are petitioners under the PWDV Act. The current report is the materialization of the survey in the district of Thiruvananthapuram.

III. METHODOLOGY

Goal: To study the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala state.

Design: The current research study aims at shedding light on the implementation of the PWDV Act in the city of Trivandrum. A quantitative survey method was considered most appropriate to conduct a preliminary analysis of ground realities.

Sampling: Data was collected from 100 respondents who are complainants in various DV petitions in Trivandrum City. Considering the sensitive nature of DV petitions, a simple random sampling was not considered appropriate as the respondents' willingness to participate in the survey was a crucial element. Hence a purposive sampling approach was used. Trivandrum city was divided into the Judicial First Class Magistrate courts (JFMC) and DV petitioners, under these JFMCs, were selected as respondents. The criteria for selecting respondents were primarily based on their willingness and also based on the stage of their petition. Best attempts were made to include petitions who were at different stages of the judicial process, .i.e. from filing of petition, passing of interim order, passing of orders and disposition of petition etc. 6 JFMs were selected namely, Trivandrum, Neyattinkara, Nedumangadu, Varkala, Attingal and Kattakada. Respondents under each JFMC were selected only on the basis of their willingness to participate and also convenience. Hence the number of respondents selected under each JFMC was not uniform.

Data Collection: The Department of Social Work, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram assisted the Social Justice Department in data collection, analysis and reporting of the data. All respondents were informed of the study via phone call and their permissions were sought prior to data collection. In majority of cases the respondents were visited in their homes, whereas in as many as 20 cases data was collected from respondents who agreed to visit the enumerator at a designated place or the women protection office.

Data Collection Tool and Analysis: An interview schedule (IS) was prepared for the study. The Malayalam and English versions of the schedule has been placed in the Appendix. The Malayalam version of the IS consists of 35 questions. Except for the 1st question, which indicated the preliminary details of the respondents, all the rest of the questions were multiple choice and multiple response questions. The Malayalam IS was then translated and reorganized into the English IS to facilitate analysis.

The original interview schedule was reorganized for data analysis.

- The original Interview schedule was in Malayalam and had 32 questions.
- In addition to these original 32 questions, 5 more questions were added. The first two of these questions contributed more on the preliminary information about the respondent, whereas the other three contributed more about the general evaluations of the respondent about DV and the DV Act process.

- The additional questions added were:
 - 1) Court under which DV was filed (Appended as Q.1.2)
 - 2) Religion of respondent (Appended as Q.1.3)
 - 3) General reasons for DV (Appended as Q.33)
 - 4) What the respondent would like to change in the DV process?(Appended as Q.34)
 - 5) What alternative would be preferred to filing petition under DV?(Appended as Q.35)
- The Interview Schedule was then translated into English.
- For analysis purpose the questions were rearranged under the following categories:

HEADS OF DATA ANALYSIS	Question number in Malayalam Interview Schedule	Question number in English Interview Schedule and Findings Chapter	Questions
A. Preliminary Information	1-1.1	1.1.	Name & Residence
	1-1.2	1.2	JFMC under which DV was filed
	1-1.3	1.3	Religion
B. Economic status of respondents	2	2	Occupation
	3	3	Property Ownership
C. Nature of DV	4	4	When did DV Start-Age of DV?
	7	5	When did DV start- in relation to marriage?
	6	6	Perpetrator of DV
	12	7	Kind of DV
	8	8	Cause
	31	9	Do you think husband has right to inflict DV?
	9	10	Health Impact
D. Nature of DV Petition	5	11	How did you come to know about DV Act?
	10	12	How many years after DV continued, did you file petition under DV Act?
	11	13	Reason for delay for filing under DV Act
	15	14	Who helped in filing under DV?
E. Nature of Remedy	17	15	How long has it been since you filed under DV?
	19	16	Present situation of the case
	18	17	When did you get the interim order?
	10	18	Orders received from the case

	21	19	Have the orders been carried out?
	25	20	Did the opposite party accept the orders of the court?
	13, 14	21	If you applied for divorce, what is the present situation?
	23	22	How much money was spent for the case?
F. Evaluation of DV act and procedures.	22	23	Attitude of Police towards petitioner
	16	24	Approach of the officers at the time of filing the case.
	30	25	Is this law beneficial to women?
G. Impact of filing under DV	24	26	Attitudinal change that the husband underwent after filing under DV.
	26	27	What happen to you after filing the case?
	27	28	Was filing under DV act useful or harmful?
	28	29	Have you ever felt that u need not have filed the case?
	32	30	Have you made anyone aware filing under DV Act?
	29	31	What advice will you suggest for a victim of domestic violence?
H. Additional questions	33	32	General reasons for domestic violence.
	34	33	Evaluation of court procedures in relation with the case.
	35	34	Do you expect to solve the problem through other ways other than through court?

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

A. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

1.1. Name& Residence (Q.1.1): Even though name and residence were collected, these were not considered relevant for analysis. 3 respondents insisted on not revealing their name.

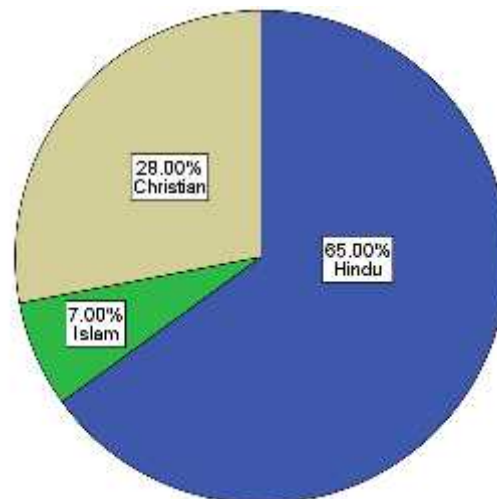
1.2. JFMC under which DV was filed (Q1.2- Table 1): This information was provided by the Women Protection Office. The highest percentage of respondents was from JFMC Trivandrum (36%) and the lowest was from JFMC Varkala (4%).

TABLE 1: COURT-WISE RESPONDENT DETAILS (Question 4)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
JFMC NEYYATINKARA	18	18.0	18.0	18.0
JFMC VARKALA	4	4.0	4.0	22.0
JFMC TVM	36	36.0	36.0	58.0
JFMC NEDUMANGADU	21	21.0	21.0	79.0
JFMC ATTINGAL	12	12.0	12.0	91.0
JFMC KATTAKADA	9	9.0	9.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

1.3. Religion (Q1.3): This question was not added in the original Interview Schedule. Majority of the respondents were Hindus (65%), 28% were Christians and 7% were Muslims.

Figure 1: Religion of Respondents



B. ECONOMIC STATUS

This section talks about the occupation and property ownership of the respondents.

2. Occupation (Q2- Table 2): 55% of the respondents were unemployed, i.e., they were homemakers (47%), searching for jobs (6) or studying (2). Of the 45% who were employed, 22% were employed in daily wages jobs, 16% in private jobs, 5% in the unorganized sector and only 2% were in Government jobs. Of those who were unemployed, 36 were Hindus, 15 were Christians and 5 Muslims.

TABLE 2: OCCUPATION

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Government Job	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
Private	16	16.0	16.0	18.0
Daily Wages	22	22.0	22.0	40.0
Unorganized sector	5	5.0	5.0	45.0
Home Makers	47	47.0	47.0	92.0
Searching of Jobs	6	6.0	6.0	98.0
Student	2	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

3. Property Ownership (Q3- Table 3): While 46% of the respondents own property, 54% did not. Of the 46% who owned property 29 (48.3%) were Hindus, 16 (57%) Christians and 1 (1.6%) Muslim.

TABLE 3: PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

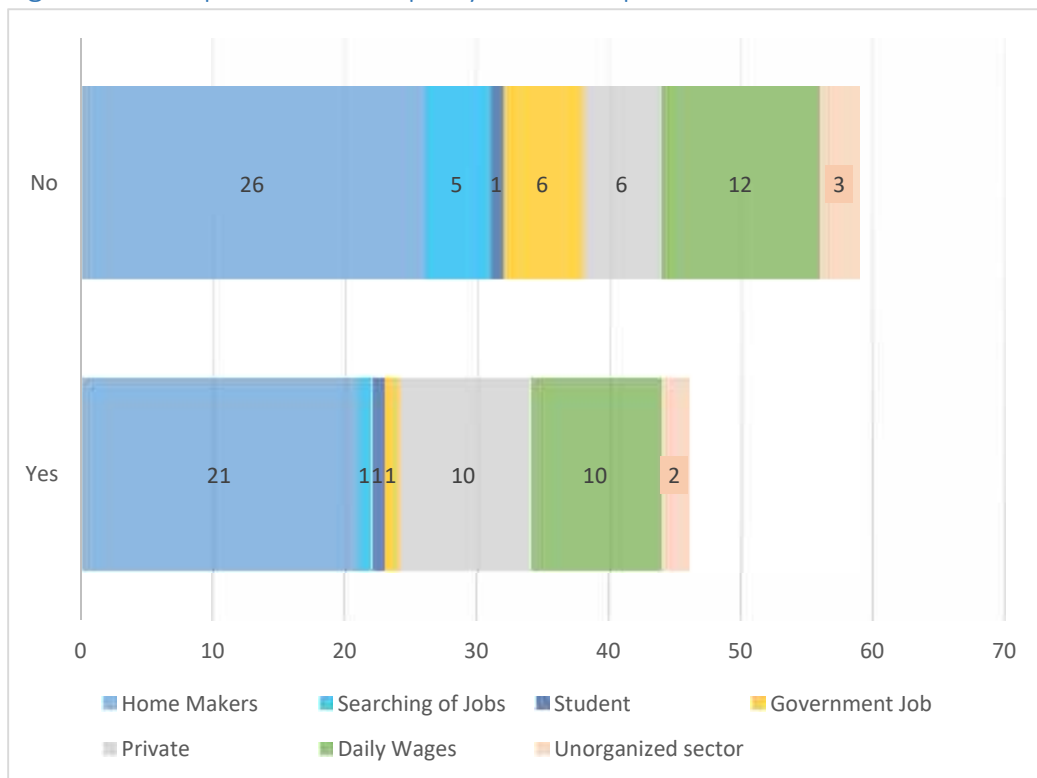
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	46	46.0	46.0	46.0
No	54	54.0	54.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

- **Petitioners with neither Property nor Occupation (Table 4: Cross tabulation):** From cross tabulating the data from occupation and property ownership it was discovered that 32% of the petitioners under the Act neither had jobs nor property ownership.

TABLE 4: CROSS TABS OCCUPATION AND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

OCCUPATION		PROPERTY OWNERSHIP		TOTAL
		YES	NO	
UNEMPLOYED	Home Makers	21	26	47
	Searching of Jobs	1	5	6
	Student	1	1	2
TOTAL		23	32	55
EMPLOYED	Government Job	1	1	2
	Private	10	6	16
	Daily Wages	10	12	22
TOTAL	Unorganized sector	2	3	5
		23	22	45

Figure 2: Occupation and Property Ownership



X Axis- No. of Respondents/Y-axis: Property Ownership

Unemployed with no property: 32= Homemakers (26) + Searching for Jobs (5) + Students (1)

C. NATURE OF DV (Time, Perpetrator, Kind, Cause, Impact)

4. When did DV start- Age of DV? (Table 5): A majority of the respondents (69) said that they experienced the first episode of domestic violence in the age group 20-35. The next largest group of respondents (21) experienced domestic violence during the age group 35-50. Only 1 respondents experienced domestic violence after the age of 65. There were only 5 respondents who experienced DV below the age of 20. 1 person experienced DV during all these age groups.

TABLE 5: WHEN DID DV START- AGE OF DV

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Below 20	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
20-35 year	69	69.0	69.0	74.0
35-50 Year	21	21.0	21.0	95.0
50-65 Year	3	3.0	3.0	98.0
After 65	1	1.0	1.0	99.0
All the above	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

5. When did DV start- in relation to marriage? (Table 6): While only 2% of the respondents had experienced domestic violence before marriage, 81% of the respondents became victims of domestic violence within 5 years of marriage. 8% and 9% of respondents experienced DV after 5 and 10 years of marriage respectively.

TABLE 6: WHEN DID DV START- IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid DV BEFORE MARRIAGE	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
DV SINCE MARRIAGE	81	81.0	81.0	83.0
DV AFTER 5 YEAR	8	8.0	8.0	91.0
DV AFTER 10 YEAR	9	9.0	9.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

6. Perpetrator of DV (Table 7 and Table 8)

- 89 respondents reported that they experienced DV from their husband. Of these 89 persons, 41 persons experienced DV from both husband and the relatives of husband and 1 person reported DV from husband, husband's relative and own family member.
- Of the 11 respondents who did not experience DV from husband, 5 experienced DV exclusively from husband's relatives, 3 experienced DV exclusively from 'own family members' and 2 experienced DV from 'own family members' and 'others'.
- Of the 3 who experience DV exclusively from own family members, DV was experienced from daughter or son. Of the 2 who experienced DV from own family members and others, in one case DV was experienced from son and daughter-in-law, and the other case was from father and step-mother.

TABLE 7: DV PERPETRATOR

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
DV FROM HUSBAND	89	61.8%	89.0%
DV FROM RELATIVES OF HUSBAND	46	31.9%	46.0%
DV FROM OWN FAMILY MEMBERS	6	4.2%	6.0%
OTHERS	3	2.1%	3.0%
Total	144	100.0%	144.0%

TABLE 8: DV PERPETRATORS CLOSER VIEW

DV Perpetrators	Number of Respondents
DV from Husband Only	48
DV from Husband and Husband's relatives	41
DV from Husband, Relatives of husband and own family members	1
DV from Husband's Relatives only	5
DV from own family members only	3
DV from own relatives and Others	2
TOTAL	100

7. Kind of DV (Table 9)

- Regarding the nature of domestic violence inflicted on the respondents, Majority of the respondents reported physical (96%) and mental abuse (94%). While verbal and mental abuse cannot be strictly compartmentalized, 79 % also reported verbal abuse. In 67% of cases there was threatening and in 63% cases they respondents were evicted from their homes. While financial harassment was present in 40% of cases, 37% reported sexual harassment. While 7% of respondents reported that their children were withheld from them, 1% reported other kinds of abuse.
- 1 respondent, who reported abuse under *others* category, had her husband near her because of which she could not answer openly. Her immediate reason for petitioning under the DV Act was because her husband abandoned her.
- 91% of the respondents reported both physical and mental abuse. 4 respondents reported that they experienced all categories of DV.

TABLE 9: KIND OF DV

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
PHYSICAL ABUSE	96	19.8%	96.0%
MENTAL ABUSE	94	19.4%	94.0%
VERBAL/EMOTIONAL ABUSE	79	16.3%	79.0%
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	37	7.6%	37.0%
FINANCIAL HARASSMENT	40	8.3%	40.0%
EVICTION FROM HOME	63	13.0%	63.0%
DO NOT SHOW CHILDREN	7	1.4%	7.0%
THREATENING	67	13.8%	67.0%
OTHERS	1	0.2%	1.0%
Total	484	100.0%	484.0%

8. Causes of DV (Table 10)

The cause of DV in the respondents' case: There were 299 responses under this question, i.e. one respondent reported an average of 3 causes for DV. Addiction was reported to be the largest cause of DV (69). Extra-marital affairs were involved in 53 cases. Dowry issues feature in 40 of the cases. The other major contributors to domestic violence were Irresponsibility of husband (43), interference of relatives (32) and financial problems (36). Mental illness (13), issues related to mobile use and serial-watching (7) and other problem (7) were other causes of DV.

TABLE 10: PERCEIVED CAUSE OF DV

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
ADDICTION	69	23.1%	69.0%
IRRESPONSIBLE	43	14.4%	43.0%
DOWRY	40	13.4%	40.0%
EXTRA MARITAL AFFAIRS/DOUBT	53	17.7%	53.0%
MENTAL ILLNESS	13	4.3%	13.0%
MOBILE/SERIAL	6	2.0%	6.0%
INTERFERENCE OF RELATIVES	32	10.7%	32.0%
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS	36	12.0%	36.0%
OTHERS	7	2.3%	7.0%
Total	299	100.0%	299.0%

9. Respondents' views on husband's right to abuse wife (Table 11): While in 82% of cases the wives said that husband has no right to abuse the wife, 18% reported that the husband does have the authority to punish depending on the situation.

TABLE 11: OPINION ON HUSBAND'S RIGHT TO HARASS WIFE

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	18	18.0	18.0	18.0
No	82	82.0	82.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

10. Health Impact of DV (Table 12):

14 respondents said that they faced all 8 of the health issues mentioned in the interview schedule. On an average each respondent faced 3-4 physical problems. The issues faced by majority of respondents were Physical problems (81), Tension (80) and Sleeplessness (73). The other health issues faced were suicidal tendency (30), apathy or lack of interest (30), high blood pressure (32), depression (35) and oversleeping (16). 3 of the respondents reported that they did not face any of these. Of the three that did not face any health issues, 1 was respondent was not free to respondent was not free to respond because of the presence of her husband.

TABLE 12: HEALTHIMPACT FREQUENCIES

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
SLEEPLESSNESS	73	18.5%	73.0%
OVER SLEEP	16	4.1%	16.0%
TENSION	80	20.3%	80.0%
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE	32	8.1%	32.0%
DEPRESSION	35	8.9%	35.0%
PHYSICAL PROBLEM	81	20.6%	81.0%
LESS INTEREST	30	7.6%	30.0%
SUICIDAL TENDENCY	30	7.6%	30.0%
NOT ANY OF THIS	3	0.8%	3.0%
ALL THE ABOVE	14	3.6%	14.0%
Total	394	100.0%	394.0%

D. DV PETITION

11. How did you come to know about DV Act? (Table 13): There were 114 responses under this question, i.e. few respondents quoted more than 1 source of information about DV. 48 respondents received information about the DV Act and petition from the Police. Other sources of information were hospital (5), media (4), awareness class (7), political leaders (8), neighbours (11), friends (13) and others (18).

TABLE 13: AWARENESS ABOUT ACT FROM?

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
POLICE	48	42.1%	48.0%
HOSPITAL	5	4.4%	5.0%
MEDIA	4	3.5%	4.0%
AWARENESS CLASS	7	6.1%	7.0%
POLITICAL LEADERS	8	7.0%	8.0%
NEIGHBOURS	11	9.6%	11.0%
FRIENDS	13	11.4%	13.0%
OTHERS	18	15.8%	18.0%
Total	114	100.0%	114.0%

12. How many years after DV continued, did you file petition under DV Act? (Table 14): The DV Act came into force in 2006. This study is conducted nearly 12 years after the act came into force. It is in this light that the current question has to be viewed. While only 13 percent of the respondents filed cases under the Act within 1 year of DV, a majority of respondents waited for more than 1 year (38%). While 19% of the respondents waited for more than 5 years, 30% of the respondents waited for over 10 years to file a case.

TABLE 14: FILED CASE AGAINST DV

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
WITHIN 1 YEAR	13	13.0	13.0	13.0
1-5 YEAR	38	38.0	38.0	51.0

5-10 YEARS	19	19.0	19.0	70.0
AFTER 10 YEARS	30	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

13. What was the reason for the delay in filing case? (Table 15): There were 262 responses for this question, i.e., at an average 1 respondent gave more than 2.62 reasons for delay in filing petition. More than half of the respondents (58) considered the future of their children an important reason for not filing under DV. 48 respondents were held back because of family members (either because of their welfare or criticism). 43 respondents also attributed the delay to lack of any other place/shelter to go to. Not knowing what to do (34), lack of money (29), fear of more persecution (28) and resigning to fate (16) were other reasons stated for delay. 3 persons stated other reasons for delay- 2 persons reported co-dependency related reasons and the faith that the perpetrator would stop inflicting DV, and 1 person could not respond freely because of her husband’s presence. Of these 3 believed that they did not show any delay in filing the petition (i.e., the question was not applicable to them).

TABLE 15: WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR DELAY IN FILING UNDER DV?

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO.	34	13.0%	34.0%
CONSIDREING THE WELFARE/CRITICISM OF FAMILY MEMBER.	48	18.3%	48.0%
THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN.	58	22.1%	58.0%
LACK OF MONEY.	29	11.1%	29.0%
FEAR OF MORE PERSECUTION.	28	10.7%	28.0%
NO OTHER SHELTER	43	16.4%	43.0%
FATE	16	6.1%	16.0%
OTHERS& Not Applicable	6	2.3%	6.0%
Total	262	100.0%	262.0%

14. Who helped you in filing under DV? (Table 16): There were 100 responses for this question.64 respondents were assisted by the Women protection officers to file the petition,

while 21 respondents were assisted by advocates. 8 were assisted by service providing centres, 5 were assisted by the Legal Service Authority and 1 by others. In one case, the case was forwarded by Police; hence the question was not applicable.

TABLE 16: WHO HELPED IN FILING PETITION UNDER DV

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
ADVOCATE	21	21.0	21.0	21.0
PROTECTION OFFICER	64	64.0	64.0	85.0
SERVICE PROVIDING CENTRE	8	8.0	8.0	93.0
LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITY	5	5.0	5.0	98.0
OTHERS	1	1.0	1.0	99.0
Not Applicable	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

E. NATURE OF REMEDY

15. How long has it been since you filed under DV? (Table 17): There were 100 responses for this question. In 37% of cases it has been above 2 years since the petition has been filed. In 21% of cases it has been between 1-2 years, in 18% cases between 6months and 1 year. In 23% cases it has only been 6 months since the petition was filed. In 1 case the question was not answered because the respondent's husband was close by; the respondent however reports that she received expenditure and child custody orders which were sanctioned and accepted by opposite party; however this petition was abandoned because of compromise between husband and wife.

TABLE 17: How long has it been since you filed under DV?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SIX MONTH	23	23.0	23.0	23.0
6 MONTH - 1 YEAR	18	18.0	18.0	41.0
1-2 YEARS	21	21.0	21.0	62.0
ABOVE 2 YEAR	37	37.0	37.0	99.0
NA	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Q.16: Present condition of the case: These questions were about the Present condition of the case and the type of orders received. There were many overlapping answers and misinterpreted responses. For instance 4 respondents who said they received interim order did not mark the response as the ongoing, 6 respondents who said they received no interim order also did not mark as ongoing, and 1 respondent who marked as ongoing also marked as abandoned. This was primarily because of the inherent defect of questionnaire and also lack of discernment from the part of enumerators. After producing a number of cross-tabs and analyzing the data carefully, the present condition of the case was ascertained as provided in Table 18 and Table 19.

TABLE 18: PRESENT CONDITION OF PETITION

	Respondents
Ongoing	85
Final Orders	5
Abandoned	10
TOTAL	100

TABLE 19: STATUS OF ORDERS RECEIVED

	Ongoing	Final	Abandoned	TOTAL
Interim	74	5	10	89
No orders received	11			11
TOTAL	85	5	10	100

- **Orders received by persons who received Final Orders:** 5 respondents received the final orders- Their Order was sanctioned by the court and it was carried out by opposite party completely in 4 cases and partly in one case. All of 5 received protection orders, 1 received permission to enter husband’s home and 3 permission to stay at home.
- **Orders received by persons who abandoned the case:** Of the 6 persons, who abandoned the case because of mediation, all 6 got protection orders and one got permission to enter husband’s home. Of the 4 persons who abandoned the case because they could not proceed, 3 got protection orders, all 4 got expenditure orders, 2 got permission orders for staying at home, 1 got permission order for entering husband’s home and 1 got child custody order.

17. When did you get the interim order (Table 20): There were 100 responses for this question. 55 cases received interim order within 2 weeks, 13 cases received order within 3 months and 7 cases received interim order within 1 year. 8 respondents did not receive interim orders. Even though 17 respondents reported that they received orders like protection, expenditure, child custody, permissions etc. (Q.18), under this question they reported that they have not received the interim orders. This is because of the confusions they had regarding what an interim order was. Hence, the responses of these 14 respondents have been provided under “Mistaken response”.

TABLE 20: WHEN DID YOU GET INTERIM ORDER

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Within 2 weeks	55	55.0	55.0	55.0
Within 3 months	13	13.0	13.0	68.0
within 1 year	7	7.0	7.0	75.0
No orders received	11	11.0	11.0	86.0
Mistaken Response	14	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

18. Orders received from the case (Table 21): 89 respondents had received orders and they gave 148 responses under this question. That is at an average 1 respondent made 1.64 responses. 77 persons received protection orders, 26 received orders granting permission to stay at home, 10 received the permission to enter husband house, 27 received the order for expenditure and 6 received orders for child custody. 2 stated that they received *Other* orders- stay order regarding land (1), 1 order restricting calls to her (1).

TABLE 21: ORDERS RECEIVED

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
PROTECTION ORDER	77	52%	77.0%
PERMISSION TO STAY AT HOME	26	17.6%	26.0%
PERMISSION TO ENTER HUSBANDS HOUSE	10	6.8%	10.0%
ORDER FOR EXPENDITURE	27	18.2%	27.0%
CHILD CUSTODY	6	4%	6.0%
OTHERS	2	1.4%	2.0%
Total	148	100.0%	100

19. Were the orders implemented (Table 22): 42 of the orders were implemented, whereas 21 of them are yet to be implemented. 26 orders were partly implemented. 11 have not received any orders yet.

TABLE 22: ORDERS IMPLEMENTED

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No orders received	11	11.0	11.0	11.0
Yes	42	42.0	42.0	53.0
No	21	21.0	21.0	74.0
Partly	26	26.0	26.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

20. Has the opposite party accepted the orders of the court (Table 23): Out of the 100 cases 11 of them have not received any orders from the court. 26 of the petitioners reported that opposite party has accepted the orders of the court and 35 of them have not. 28 of them reported that the orders were accepted partly.

TABLE 23: OPPOSITE PARTY'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE COURT ORDER

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No orders received	11	11.0	11.0	11.0
Accepted	26	26.0	26.0	37.0
Not Accepted	35	36.0	36.0	73.0
Partly	28	28.0	28.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

21. If you applied for divorce, what is the present situation of the case (Table 24): There were 100 responses for this question. 60 of the women who underwent domestic violence didn't file divorce petition. In 24 cases the divorce petition is ongoing and for 3 the divorce was allowed. 6 of cases reached compromise whereas 7 of them are legally separated.

TABLE 24: PRESENT SITUATION OF THE DIVORCE CASE

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Did not file the case	60	60.0	60.0	60.0
On going	24	24.0	24.0	84.0
Allowed divorce	3	3.0	3.0	87.0
Compromise	6	6.0	6.0	93.0
Legal Separation	7	7.0	7.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

F. EVALUATION OF POLICE, PROTECTION OFFICERS AND COURT

22. Attitude of the police towards petitioner (Table 25): Only 91 respondents had approached the police. Hence, among the respondents who approached the police, 39.5% reported that the attitude of the police was satisfactory. However an equal percentage of respondents (39.6%) responded that they had non-satisfactory or bad experience or that the behaviour of the police had to change. 20.9% reported that they had no problems with the police.

TABLE 25: ATTITUDE OF POLICE TOWARDS PETITIONERS

	Frequency	Percent
Satisfactory	36	39.5
Non satisfactory	19	20.9
Bad experience	11	12.1
No problem	19	20.9
Need to change	6	6.6
Total	100	100

23. Approach of officers at the time of filing the domestic violence case (Table 26): 87% of the victims remarked that the approach of the officers was satisfactory and 3% of them said it was not satisfactory. 10% of them remarked that they were ok with the approach of the officers.

TABLE 26: APPROACH OF OFFICERS

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Satisfactory	87	87.0	87.0	87.0
Non satisfactory	3	3.0	3.0	90.0
ok	10	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

- Refer to Section I: Additional question numbers 33 and 34 for an evaluation of court processes.

24. How much money was spent for the case (Table 27): There were 100 responses for this question. 33% of the victims have spend above 5000 rupees on the case, 8% of them have spend

2000-5000 rupees. For 13% the expense was 1000-2000 rupees and for 35% the expense was 500-1000 rupees. 11% stated that they had no expense at all while dealing with the case.

TABLE 27: EXPENSE FOR THE CASE

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rs. 500-1000	35	35.0	35.0	35.0
Rs. 1000-2000	13	13.0	13.0	48.0
Rs. 2000-5000	8	8.0	8.0	56.0
Above Rs. 5000	33	33.0	33.0	89.0
No Expense	11	11.0	11.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

G. IMPACT OF FILING UNDERS DV

25. What are the attitudinal changes that husband underwent after filing under DV Act

(Table 28): There were 153 responses under this category, i.e. at an average 1 respondent made 1.5 responses. 37.9% of the responses indicated that the enmity of the husband increased as a result of filing the case. 5.2% indicates the petition filing resulted in divorce and 22.9% indicates abandonment. 10.5% responses show reduced physical harassment, 3.9% more love and respect from husband and 13.1% responses indicate peaceful life after filing the case. 3 respondents (2% of responses) stated other reasons- all three remarked that there was no change in the attitude of their husband. For 7 cases (4.6% of responses) the question was not applicable- as the cases were filed against mother-in-law (1), daughter (2), step mother and father (1) and son (1); respondent could not reply because husband was nearby (1), case had just commenced (1).

Of these responses, 3 responses- ‘peace’, ‘love and respect from spouse’ and ‘reduced physical harassment’ indicate the positive changes, whereas 3 responses (increased enmity, divorce and abandonment) indicate negative change. Hence while 27.5% of the responses indicate positive changes in their husbands, 68% indicate negative changes.

TABLE 28: ATTITUDINAL CHANGES IN HUSBAND

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
ENMITY INCREASED	58	37.9%	58.0%
FILED DIVORSE CASE	8	5.2%	8.0%
ABANDONED	35	22.9%	35.0%
REDUCED PHYSICAL HARASSMENT	16	10.5%	16.0%
GOT PEACE	20	13.1%	20.0%
MORE LOVE AND RESPECT FROM SPOUSE	6	3.9%	6.0%
OTHERS	3	2.0%	3.0%
NA	7	4.6%	7.0%
Total	153	100.0%	153.0%

26. What changes happened to the respondent after filing the petition (Table 29): There were 251 responses for this question, i.e. one respondent chose an average of 2.5 responses. 7.1% of the responses indicate the reinstatement of happy family life. 21.2% of responses report that respondents became aware of the fact that they need not have to suffer harassment. A majority (29.5%) of responses indicate that respondents learned to face life and 23.7% of responses show that the respondents gained more self-confidence after filing the petition. 12% of them felt lonely in the family and society after filing the case. 5.8% of responses indicate that things become worse than before. For 2 respondents who answered in the ‘others’ category, the petition had been filed against son, who after the petition, moved to another house and hence DV ended; in the other case, the respondent experienced mental happiness; thus the ‘others’ category indicates positive change.

This question mostly (except for 2 responses) elicited the positive changes or outcome in the respondents after filing the case. Hence, 82.2% of the responses indicate positive changes, while 17.8% of responses indicate that things got lonely or worse for them.

TABLE 29: WHAT CHANGES HAPPENED TO THE REPONDENT AFTER FILING THE PETITION

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
HAPPY FAMILY LIFE REINSTATED	17	7.1%	17.0%
BECOME AWARE NOT TO SUFFER THE HARASSMENT	51	21.2%	51.0%
FELT LONELY IN FAMILY AND SOCIETY	29	12.0%	29.0%
LEARNED TO FACE LIFE	71	29.5%	71.0%
GAINED MORE SELF CONFIDENCE	57	23.7%	57.0%
THINGS BECAME WORSE THAN BEFORE	14	5.8%	14.0%
OTHERS	2	0.8%	2.0%
Total	241	100.0%	241.0%

- **Positive changes in respondents despite negative outcome (Table 30- Cross-Tabs):**
Despite the reporting of negative-outcome responses about the attitude of the husband (i.e. it

led to increase in husband’s enmity, divorce petition and abandonment) by 67 respondents (Figure 3) in Q25, at least 45 reported positive changes after filing the petition. Similarly despite the reporting of negative outcomes by 36 respondents (Figure 4) in Q26 (like loneliness or that things got worse), at least 19 respondents said that they experienced positive changes.

TABLE 30: Cross Tabs- POSITIVE CHANGES IN RESPONDENTS DESPITE PRESENCE OF NEGATIVE OUTCOME

	Felt lonely	Things became worse than before	Husband’s enmity increased	Led to filing divorce petition	Led to abandonment
Happy family life reinstated	1	0	7	0	8
Become aware not to suffer the harassment	14	3	31	5	20
Learned to face life	19	7	45	6	30
Gained more self confidence	12	1	31	3	19
Others	1	0	0	0	0
Peaceful Life	2	1	7	0	6
More love and respect from husband	1	0	0	0	0
Reduced physical harassment	4	1	6	2	5

Figure 3: Venn-diagram showing negative responses to Q.25

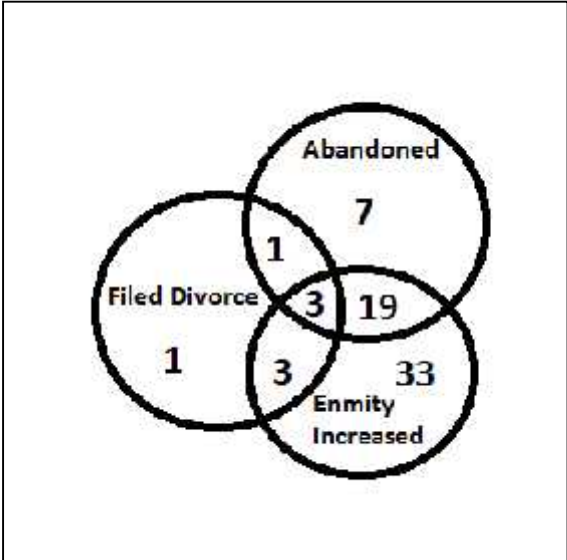


Figure 4: Venn-diagram showing negative responses to Q.25



H. EVALUATION OF THE ACT

These questions explore whether the Act was beneficial to the respondent and their appraisal of the Act in general.

27. Was filing under the DV Act useful /harmful: There were 100 responses under this question. A majority, i.e. 64% felt that filing under the Act was useful, while 8% felt that it was harmful. 26% was of the opinion that filing under the act was neither useful nor harmful. 2 respondents did not answer this question because 1 just started with the case proceedings and the other could not answer because her husband was close by.

28. Have you regretted filing the petition (Table 31): There were 100 responses under this question. 11% completely regretted filing of the petition, while 3 percent regretted it often, 17 percent regretted it sometimes. However, majority of the victims (69%) found that the Act was beneficial and has never regretted filing the petition.

TABLE 31. DO YOU REGRET HAVING FILED DV PETITION

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	11	11.0	11.0	11.0
No	69	69.0	69.0	80.0
Sometimes	17	17.0	17.0	97.0
Often	3	3.0	3.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Cross Tabs- Beneficial and Regret (Table 32): The cross tabs indicate that of the 14 respondents who “often or completely regretted filing the petition”, 5 respondents felt that the petition was nevertheless useful, 4 considered that the petition had harmed them and for 5 there was no change in their state. Of the 17 who “sometimes regretted filing the petition”, 7 reported that filing the petition was nevertheless beneficial to them, while 9 found no change in their state and 1 found it harmed them. That is, even though, 31(%) of the respondents regretted filing the petition, 12 of them said that it had benefitted them.

TABLE 32: BENEFIT OF ACT AND REGRET (CROSS-TABS)

	Beneficial	No Change	Harmed them	TOTAL
Often and	5	5	4	14

completely regretted filing the Petition				
Sometimes regretted filing the petition	7	9	1	17
TOTAL	12	14	5	31

29. Have you created awareness about filing under the DV Act? (Table 33): There were 100 responses under this question. 58 women shared with their friends, neighbors and others about the DV Act. 42 respondents have not shared about the act to others.

TABLE 33: HAVE YOU CREATED AWARENESS BY SHARING WITH OTHERS ABOUT THE ACT

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YES	58	58.0	58.0	58.0
NO	42	42.0	42.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

30. What advice will you suggest for a victim of domestic violence (Table 34): There were 100 responses for this question.85% of the women suggest that victims of domestic violence should file petition under DV, whereas4 of them suggest not to do so as they had bad experiences. 5 of them suggest counseling as an alternative to solve problems.6 respondents preferred divorce as a better option.

TABLE 34: ADVICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF DV

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
GO FOR THE CASE	85	85.0	85.0	85.0
NEVER GO FOR THE CASE	4	4.0	4.0	89.0
COUNSELLING IS ENOUGH	5	5.0	5.0	94.0
DIVORCE IS BETTER	6	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

31. Is this law beneficial to women (Table 35): There were 159 responses for this question, i.e. at least half of the respondents made more than 1 response. 98.1% of the responses indicated that the victims felt that the law was beneficial for women. 42.1% and 37.1% of the responses indicated that the law made them feel secure and gave them courage to stand up in the society respectively. 3.1% remarked that the law promotes sexual equality and 15.7% says the law helped them to realize the role of women in family. In the case of 1 respondent she was not able to provide a reply as the case was settled and as her husband was present with her. Only 2 respondents felt that the law was not beneficial to women.

TABLE 35: LAW BENEFICIAL TO WOMEN

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
LAW NOT BENEFICIAL	2	1.3%	2.0%
SECURE FEELING	67	42.1%	67.0%
COURAGE TO STAND UP	59	37.1%	59.0%
SEXUAL EQUALITY	5	3.1%	5.0%
REALIZATION OF WOMENS ROLE IN FAMILY	25	15.7%	25.0%
NA	1	0.6%	1.0%
Total	159	100.0%	159.0%

H. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

3 more additional questions were added at a later stage after the Domestic Violence questionnaire was prepared. Some enumerators were not able to carry the additional set with them (in 9 cases) while some enumerators did not ask these questions and hence the last three questions have missing cases (Table 36).

TABLE 36: MISSING CASES IN LAST 3 ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Q.32	78	78.0%	22	22.0%	100	100.0%
Q.33	75	75.0%	25	25.0%	100	100.0%
Q.34	80	80.0%	20	20.0%	100	100.0%

32. General causes of DV (Table 37): The first of the 3 additional questions was about the general cause of DV as perceived by the respondents.

- In addition to the 9 respondents who were not asked this question, 13 respondents did not answer the question. Hence there were no responses in 22 cases. For the 78 cases that responded, there were 146 responses, i.e. at an average, 87% of respondents made more than 1 response.
- Of the 78 respondents, 38 respondents reported that broken families were the reason for domestic violence, while 32 and 33 felt that influence of other family members and family background respectively were the primary reasons for DV. Only 10 respondents (6.8%) perceived gender inequality as a reason for DV. That is nearly 70.5% of respondents felt that family related issues were the general cause of DV. 33 respondents quoted other reasons.

TABLE 37: GENERAL CAUSES OF DV

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
BROKEN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	38	26.0%	48.7%
GENDER INEQUALITY	10	6.8%	12.8%

INFLUENCE OF FAMILY MEMBERS	32	21.9%	41.0%
FAMILY BACKGROUND	33	22.6%	42.3%
OTHERS	33	22.6%	42.3%
Total	146	100.0%	187.2%

33. What needs to change in DV process? (Table 38): The second additional question was regarding what the respondent liked to be changed in the DV prosecution process.

- While 9 respondents were not asked this question, 16 respondents did not answer this question. 75 respondents answered this question and there were 166 responses on the whole, i.e. at an average, one respondent selected more than 2 responses.
- The largest number of respondents, i.e. 48, considered delay in the court procedures as the greatest hurdle. 35 respondents experienced the court procedures to be fear evoking, while 15 respondents reported that the court atmosphere was unfriendly and 12 respondents felt that the court procedures were public, that it lacked privacy. Evidence presentation related issues were reported by 13 respondents.
- 43 of the respondents reported in others category.

TABLE 38: ISSUES IN DV PROCESS

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
PUBLIC COURT PROCEDURES	12	7.2%	16.0%
UNFRIENDLY COURT ATMOSPHERE	15	9.0%	20.0%
FEAR OF COURT PROCEDURE	35	21.1%	46.7%
DELAY IN SETTLING THE CASE	48	28.9%	64.0%
LACK OF EVIDENCE	13	7.8%	17.3%
OTHERS	43	25.9%	57.3%
Total	166	100.0%	221.3%

34. Preferred alternatives for solving the case (Table 39): There were 20 missing cases in this question. The remaining 80 respondents made 1 response each, i.e. 80 responses. In this question while one choice was provided to opt for court procedures, all the other choices were choices of alternative methods. Of the 80 respondents, 38.75% chose that court was the best option, while 61.25% vouched for the alternative methods. Of those who chose alternative methods, 21.25% respondents said that all the alternatives to court as quoted in the question need to be used. 20% suggested compromise through authorized agency, 7% mandatory counselling, 5% Mediation through authorized agency and 3% suggested regular follow-ups. 1 respondent suggested other methods, that is, church or school-mediated compromise.

TABLE 39: PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES FOR SOLVING THE CASE

	Frequency	Percent
Mandatory counselling	7	8.75
Mediation (through authorized agency)	5	6.25
Regular follow-ups	3	3.75
Compromise through authorized agency/court/other institution	16	20
All the above	17	21.25
Prefer Court	31	38.75
Others	1	1.25
Total	80	100

V. FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

FINDINGS	SUGGESTIONS
<p>A. Economic Status: 32% of the women who filed under DV had neither occupation nor property. 55% of the respondents were unemployed and 54% did not own any property. This exposes the risks and vulnerabilities of these women.</p>	<p>Programmes need to be developed for DV victims belonging to lower economic strata.</p>
<p>B. Nature of DV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 90% of DV was experienced in the productive age group of 20-50 ▪ 95% of respondents suffered DV in relation to marriage, from husband and/or husband’s relatives. In 5% cases DV was from own children, spouses of children or parents/step-parents. ▪ 94% of respondents reported both mental and physical abuse. Other forms of abuse have also been reported. ▪ 97% of respondents suffered mental and physical health issues. ▪ Respondents stated multiple causes of DV, of which alcohol abuse was the largest cause. 69% of the respondents stated addiction of their husband as the prime cause of DV. Women are increasingly becoming victimized due to the alcohol abuse by men. ▪ 70.5% of respondents felt that broken families and other family related issues were the general causes of DV. 	<p>The government has to take strong measures for family welfare. The psychological well-being of families has been long ignored.</p> <p>2. Policies and legislations should be enacted for compulsory treatment and rehabilitation of addicts and their families.</p> <p>3. There should be family based mental health programmes within communities.</p>
<p>C. Nature of Petition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DV petitioners received awareness about the Act primarily from the police (42% of responses). Media (3.5%) and other sources seem to have played lesser role in disseminating information about DV. ▪ 12 years since the passing of the DV Act, we see that 87% 	<p>4. The need to create wide scale awareness about DV in the general community is highly felt.</p> <p>5. Women need to be conscientized that there is no</p>

<p>of respondents suffered DV for long periods before taking a stand against DV. While 38% waited for over a year, 19% waited over 5 years and 30% over 10 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The most stated reason for delay in filing petition was because the victims worried about the state of children. The other most stated reasons were that they considered the family’s welfare, there was no other place for them to go and that they didn’t know what to do. ▪ In 64% of cases it was protection officer who helped in filing the petition, whereas in 21% advocates have contributed. 	<p>welfare or honour in living with abuse for themselves or their children. Men have to also be made aware of the consequences of indulging in DV.</p> <p>6. Women who have neither income nor assets should be supported.</p>
<p>D. Nature of Remedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was more than 2 years since 37% of the respondents filed under DV, while for 21% there was more than 1 year delay. ▪ 85% of cases are ongoing, 10% abandoned the petition and 5% received final orders. ▪ 68% of the respondents received the interim order within 3 months of filing the case; ▪ 89% of respondents (which includes all the respondents who abandoned the petition and who received final orders) received interim orders, where as 11% did not receive any orders. ▪ 60% of respondents did not file for divorce. Of the 40 respondents who filed for divorce, 6 cases were compromised, while 3 divorces were granted. 24 divorce petitions are ongoing and in 7 cases legal separation have been granted. 	<p>Majority of interim orders were received within 3 months of the petition, however in majority cases there has been a delay of more than one year in settling the case. There are few cases who have not received orders and few cases were abandoned. Delay in settling the petition is a hurdle in the implementation of the Act.</p>
<p>E. Impact of Filing DV Petition:</p> <p>Regarding attitude change that happened in husband after the filing of DV petition, while 68% indicate negative or no changes, only 27.5% of the responses indicate positive</p>	<p>Processes and procedures should necessarily incorporate a reformative dimension. Penalizing perpetrators without</p>

<p>changes. Regarding the changes that happened in the attitude of the respondents after the filing of DV petition, 82.2% of the responses indicate positive changes, while 17.8% of responses indicate that things got lonely or worse for them.</p> <p>As these questions were multiple-response, it was seen that even those who selected negative responses, selected positive responses. That is, there were positive changes as well in more than half of the respondents who selected negative responses. However, overall the husbands' attitudes seem to be negative, while the petitioners were empowered by the process.</p>	<p>adopting measures that attempt to reform their attitudes create resistance and grudges towards the petitioners (as indicated in survey results). Perpetrators should be compelled to attend programmes that increase family bonding like family life education, marital counseling, de-addiction etc.</p>
<p>F. Evaluation of Police, Protection officers and Court Processes: While nearly 40% of respondents said they were satisfied with the police, 40% were dissatisfied. 20% were ok with the police. 87% of the respondents were satisfied with the protection officers. Regarding court procedures, 48 respondents felt that delay in settling of case was the greatest hurdle in DV, while 50 respondents said that court procedures were fear evoking and unfriendly. There were lot of other issues including to lack of privacy and evidence production. Regarding the opinion on instituting alternative dispute settlement mechanisms, while 61.25% prefer alternative methods of intervention like compromise, mediation, counselling, follow-up etc., rather than court procedures; 38.75% prefer court procedures. The preference for court procedures seems to be favoured in cases where the relationship becomes irreconcilable or requiring divorce.</p> <p>Regarding the expenses incurred for the case 33% of respondents spend over 5000 rupees, where as 55% spend less than 5000 rupees. 11% incurred no expenses.</p>	<p>The felt need for establishing family friendly practices, methods and institutions within police stations, protection offices, courts and outside courts is highlighted here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Code of practice in relation to DV needs to be established for all officials involved with the aim of making procedures and processes more family-friendly. ▪ Alternative systems of Settlement of family disputes need to be established.
<p>G. Evaluation of Benefits of Act: 98.1% of the respondents felt that the Act was beneficial for women in general and 85%</p>	<p>By making procedures and processes more family-friendly</p>

<p>of DV victims said that they would advise other victims of DV to file petition under DV. This high percentage is inspite of the fact that lesser percentages of women reported that the act was personally beneficial to them. That is, when compared to the 98.1% of women who considered the Act beneficial in general, only 64% of the respondents considered that filing the petition was personally beneficial to them. Though 85% of respondents were willing to advice other victims to file under the Act, only 69% did not regret having filed under the act. This indicates that even though the respondents were optimistic about the potentials of the act, the process or outcome was not perceived in an equally positive light. This is reflected above in “Section evaluation of procedures and processes of DV Act” and “Section impact of filing under the Act”. Overall the Act seems to be heading in the right direction.</p>	<p>and by taking measures in ongoing protection of the dignity and wellbeing of women petitioners, the Act will become beneficial to more women.</p>
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VI. CONCLUSIONS:

Mahatma Gandhi has said “Of all the evils for which man has made himself responsible, none is so degrading, so shocking or so brutal as his abuse of the better half of humanity; the female sex.” The DV Act visualized the extinction of this evil. The most significant statistic in this survey is that 98.1% of respondents felt that this Act is beneficial to women and also that 85% of the women would suggest other women who suffer like them to file under the DV Act. The fact that the Act has made significant strides is indicated by the findings of the study, especially in terms of the perceived benefits accrued by the women and the positive impact made on women.

However there are some gray areas we need to urgently explore. By filing a DV petition, some women are risking the little financial and emotional security they have remaining in their life. The survey indicates that many women face immense trauma during and in the aftermath of the DV petition. Are these women being offered any kind of support after they have filed the DV

petition? How are they and their dependent children being helped to deal with such kind of trauma? Are we encouraging and fostering an atmosphere of trust and recovery through ensuring family-friendly practices?

Maya Angelou said that each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women. These women who filed under the DV Act and who took part in this survey have taken immense courage in standing up to their right to a dignified life. We salute all the women who raised their voice against domestic violence and we hope that this report will lead to better living conditions for them.