



# STUDY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR RESPONSE TOWARDS VIOLENCE IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT ASSAM

---

**Billal Hussain**

Research scholar

Chhatrapati shahu Ji Maharaj University Kanpur

**Dr. Asha Sharma**

Head of the department linguistic.

C.s.j.m. University Kanpur

---

## abstract

Women have traditionally been considered a marginalised group within society, yet they make up a large proportion of India's overall population. It accounts for close to half of the total population of India. However, since since the beginning of human civilization, women in our society have been subjected to unequal treatment. While males have consistently asserted their entitlement to all rights, women have been denied these same privileges. They have been at risk of being subjected to acts of violence and exploitation such as harassment, insults, abuses, beating, molestation, rape, dowry killings, sati, as well as mental and physical torture. Women are treated as less than human, coerced into marriage, and even auctioned off, among other degrading acts, in a number of different countries. The most extreme type of human rights abuse against women is domestic violence, which is also the most extreme evidence of the low societal value that is put on women. [Citation needed] Women lacked an awareness of their rights and could not recognise violence against them unless in extreme cases because of this. In addition to that, their legal expertise was quite lacking. In addition to these things, wives faced retaliation from their partners in the form of threats if they reported violence to the group. This article has been produced with the intention of discussing the many different aspects that are connected to the domestic violence that is committed against women. The purpose of this research is to investigate the many factors that contribute to, as well as the effects of, domestic violence against women in the Kokrajhar District of Assam.

*keywords: Domestic Violence, women*

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this research is to have a better understanding of the problem of domestic violence in Assam, India. It examines the forms that domestic violence may take in Assam, as well as its characteristics, degree of occurrence, root causes, and rate of expansion. The effects of this type of abuse on the lives of women are investigated, as are the approaches and methods of negotiation that women use with the many service providers that deal with domestic violence, as well as the responses that organisations have. Interviews, observations, and case studies are the three primary approaches used to acquire data. Women who have been the victims of domestic violence, members of their families, members of the legal profession (such as attorneys and police officers who have dealt with cases of domestic violence), and members of the legal profession who work for nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), such as shelter home staff and members of the nariadalat, are all interviewed for this study. In order to collect data for the study, we also watched the operation of the nariadalat and the shelter houses. A thorough examination of the data using a thematic approach reveals that women in Assam are subjected to a high rate of domestic abuse. This study debunks the long-held belief that there is no such thing as domestic violence in Assam and demonstrates that women in Assam have been negatively impacted by domestic violence in a variety of different ways. This research focuses light on the underlying patriarchal aspect of the family and society in Assam as well as the numerous ways in which gender violence is inflicted on women inside the domestic sphere. It also brings to light the scale and depth of domestic

violence. This study highlights the disparity that exists between the needs of women and the reactions of service providers as a result of the researcher's efforts to learn how women react when they are the victims of domestic abuse and their attempts to get help from various organisations. A number of gaps in the provision of adequate support to survivors of domestic abuse are discussed, along with the factors that contribute to the existence of such gaps.

### Review of Literature

After being married, many women are subjected to excruciating torment at the hands of their husbands or by their in-laws, an act that is referred to as "domestic abuse." Her marital home becomes into a place of torment and terror for her and her family. Her intimate partner and members of her family turn out to be the aggressors in all of the violent acts that are committed against her. A variety of studies have been conducted to tell the story of domestic violence, including its causes and the effects of it.

According to Mishra (2012), instances of violence against women in the context of the family may be seen in both developed and developing nations. Bystanders, including neighbours, members of the community, and even the government, have long considered it to be a private concern. However, these previously private concerns have a propensity to become public tragedies in today's society.

According to Veer (2013), when a family lives in a culture that is predominantly patriarchal yet centred around the wife, the family has its fair share of marital violence, in which the woman bears the brunt of the violence despite the fact that she is the pillar of the house. In order for a male to keep his dominating position in the house, he will, at some point or another in his life, subject a woman to some kind of physical assault and verbal harassment. The term "silent crime" is often used to refer to instances of domestic abuse.

According to Devi (2014), violence against women in the home is a widespread problem across the world. Domestic violence can manifest itself in a variety of ways, including the beating of a wife, the demand for a larger dowry, divorce, the burning of a bride, psychological torture, wordy arguments, a lack of care, and so on. The causes for the rise in domestic violence include greater economic uncertainty, unemployment, poverty, drunkenness, a lack of mutually rewarding relationships, and a loss of a feeling of belonging.

According to Devi and Prema (2015), the primary cause of domestic violence against women is unequal power relations, gender discrimination, patriarchy, economic dependence of women, dowry, low moral values, negative portrayal of women's images in the media, lack of participation in decision-making, gender stereotypes, and a negative mindset. Other contributing factors include patriarchy, economic dependence of women, dowry, and negative portrayal of women's images in the media. Beating, mental torture, forced pregnancy, female infanticide, rape, denial of basic necessities, and other forms of violence are only some of the many ways that violence can show itself. Other forms of violence include: The killing of a woman for her dowry is the most heinous kind of violence.

According to Luthra (2016), the legislation regarding domestic violence appears to be more successful. After the recent passage of the Domestic Violence Act 2005, in the city of Delhi alone, on average, 137 cases under 304-B IPC (deaths due to dowry) and 1,728 cases under 406 IPC & 498-A IPC (demand of dowry and violence for dowry) were registered in 2006. These numbers represent dowry-related deaths. If implemented correctly, the new law has the potential to make a difference.

### Research Methodology

The present paper has been prepared with a view to discuss the various issues related to the domestic violence against Women. This study tries to find out the various causes, impact and measures of domestic violence against women of Mandia Development Block of Kokrajhar District of Assam. The Kokrajhar district comprises eleven development block. Viz., Mandia Development Block, Ruposhi Development Block, Gumafulbari Development Block, Gobardhana Development Block, Bajali Development Block, Kokrajhar Development Block, Bhawanipur Development Block, Chakchaka Development Block, Chenga Development Block, PakaBetbari Development Block

and Sarukhetri Development Block. The data were collected from five villages viz: Khairabari, Nechuka, Halapakuri, Barbarijhar, and Bahbari of Gobardhana Development Block of Kokrajhar District.

Gossaigaon

Bilashipara BTC, ChaporSalkocha BTC, Debitola BTC, Dotma, Golakganj BTC, Gossaigaon, Hatidhura, Kachugaon, Kokrajhar, Mahamaya BTC, Rupshi BTC

## Objective of the Study

Following are the objectives of the study:

1. To study the various issues relating to the domestic violence against Women.
2. To find out the various causes, impact and measures of domestic violence against women.

## Sample Design

The region known as the Mandia Development Block is where the samples for the research were collected. A total of 80 samples were taken at random from five different communities located within the Mandia Development Block. Out of the total of 80 samples, 40 were obtained from the villages of Khairabari, Nechuka, Halapakuri, Barbarijhar, and Bahbari, in that order. The researchers were particularly interested in gathering data from married women in these regions.

Gossaigaon

Gossaigaon

Borobadha,Blockkuti, Dhaulabil, Chandrapur, Durabil

## Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary sources of information were used in order to compile this data set. The primary data was acquired by means of a questionnaire and timetable that were both well-structured. The secondary data are compiled using resources such as newspapers, books, magazines, seminar papers, journals, and websites, amongst other things. Classifying and tabulating the data that was gathered is the first step in the analysis process. When analysing the data obtained from the field survey, the percentage tool is a useful tool to employ.

## Data Analysis and Discussion

### Demographic Profile of Women

The demographic profiles of the interviewed women are presented below:

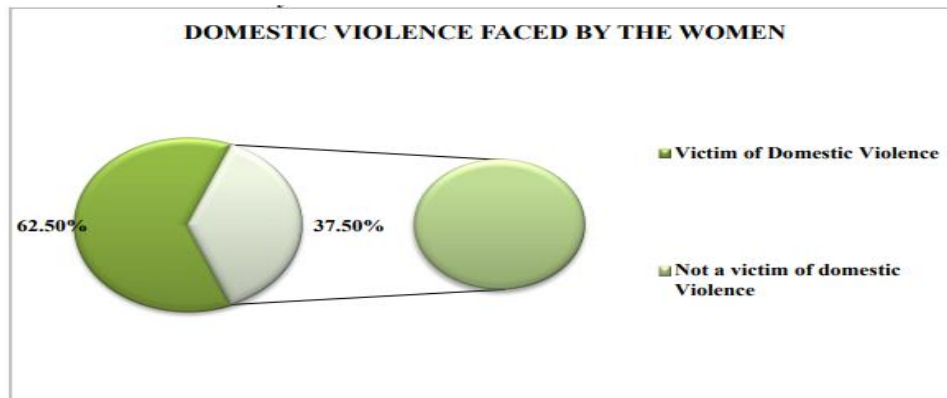
AGE		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Below 18	10	38%
18 –25	15	25.50%
25 –35	10	21.50%
35 –45	20	9.50%

45 &above	25	5.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>MARITALSTATUS</b>		
<i>Status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Single	--	--
Married	47	89%
Divorced	11	2.50%
Widowed	17	8.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
<i>Status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Illiterate	15	54.50%
Primary	45	30.50%
Secondary	10	11.50%
Graduate	10	3.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENTSTATUS</b>		
<i>Status</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Status</i>
Housewife	50	74%
Service	18	1.50%
Selfemployed	12	24.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sources: Field Survey

The data presented in the table demonstrates very clearly that the majority of respondents are between the ages of 18 and 25. Specifically, 38% of respondents come from the age group of individuals younger than 18, 25.50% come from the age group of individuals aged 18-25, 21.50% come from the age group of individuals aged 25-35, 9.50% come from the age group of individuals aged 35-45, and 5.50% come from the age group of individuals aged 45 and older. The majority of respondents are young because the majority of individuals who live in the rural parts of the Kokrajhar district get married at a young age. As a result, the majority of respondents come from these rural areas. Based on the data presented above, it can be deduced that the vast majority of respondents (89%) are married, whereas just 8.50% and 2.50% of respondents were widowed and divorced, respectively. As the targeted groups consisted almost entirely of married women, there was not a single responder who was not married. Due to the fact that the research was carried out in a rural setting, the participants had lower educational levels. The vast majority of respondents, or 54.50% of them, were illiterate, while just 3.50% of them had completed high school. There were 30.50% of respondents who had only completed their elementary school, while there were only 11.50% who had completed their secondary education. Due to the extremely low levels of education held by the respondents, the vast majority of them held the position of housewife. Only 1.50% of respondents held jobs in the service industry, while 24.50% respondents were self-employed. They are involved in a variety of different forms of professional labour, such as sewing, operating a small grocery shop, running a company canning pickles, and so on.

### **Domestic Violence Faced by the Women**

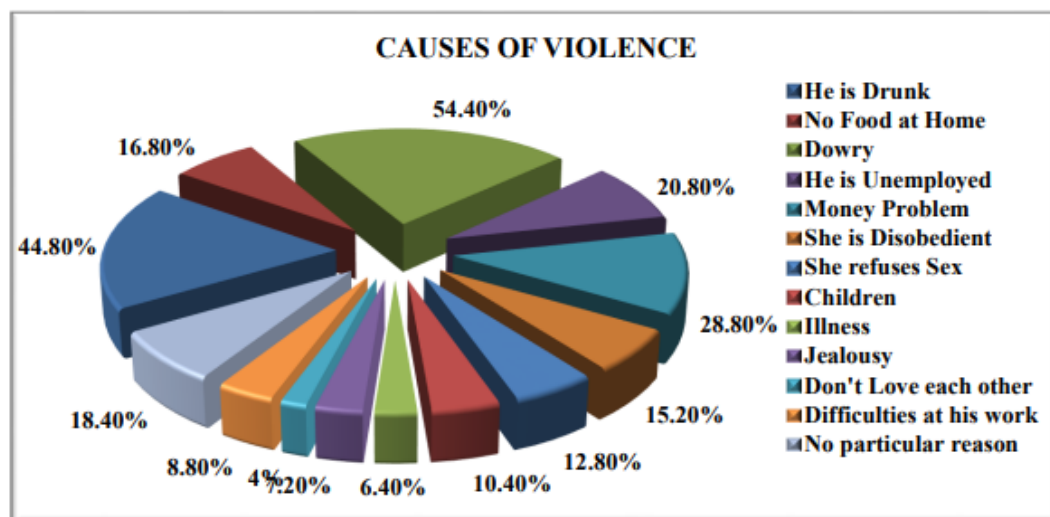


Sources: Field Survey

In this particular investigation, the primary data was gathered by means of a well-structured questionnaire and timetable. 200 women were interviewed with the assistance of a questionnaire and a schedule. Out of these 200 women, 62.50%, or 125 women, had been victims of domestic violence. The responses of these 125 women were analysed in order to gain an understanding of the position of women who face the domestic violence.

### Causes of Violence

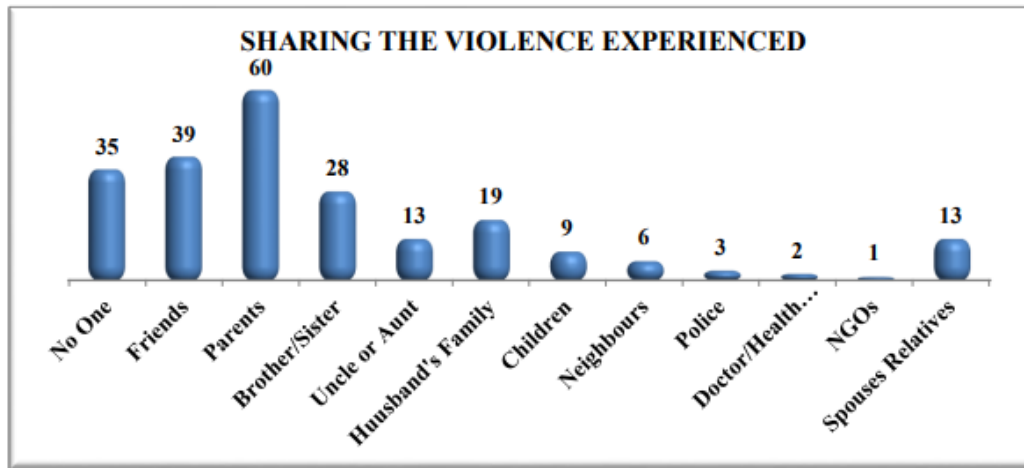
Women's perspectives on the root causes of violent behaviour In this study, questions concerning the causes of domestic violence in general society were posed to women who had experienced physical abuse at the hands of their spouse or partner. They identified "Dowry" as the most common explanation 54.40 percent of the time, and "he is intoxicated" as the second most common reason 44.80 percent of the time. The other issues that were mentioned by the abused women were as follows: "money problem" (28.80%), "he is unemployed" (20.80%), "no particular reason" (18.40%), "no food at home" (16.80%), "she is disobedient" (15.20%), and "she refuses sex" (12.80%). The percentages of these issues are as follows: "money problem" (28.80%), "he is unemployed" (20.80%), The following explanations earned less than 10% of the vote each: problems at his place of employment, sickness, envy, and the fact that they don't love each other. The figure that follows presents the detailed results as follows:



### Sharing the Violence Experienced

During the course of the survey, the participants were questioned about the women in their social networks, as well as their close and extended social institutions, with whom they discuss their experiences of violence. When it comes to speaking about domestic abuse, women most commonly prefer to do so with members of their own social network, such as their parents (48%), friends (31.2%), sister or brother (22.4%), or the relatives of their spouse (15.2%). 28

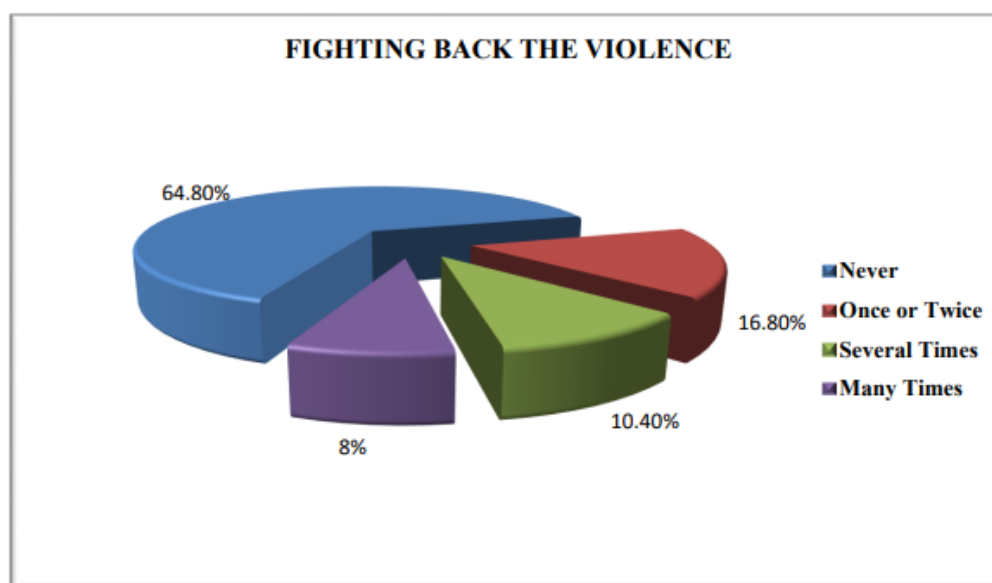
percent of women have reported that they have never discussed their experience with another person. Since of this, nearly one third of women are forced to confront the issue on their own because they keep the abuse a secret from everyone else. There is a very low percentage of people who seek aid and share their experience outside of intimate social networks. The rate of reporting violence to official institutions is as follows: police (2.4%), doctors and other health workers (1.6%), and women's non-governmental organisations (0.8%). The figure that follows presents the detailed results as follows:



The findings make it very clear that women do not go to public institutions for help in situations like these. They inform their tight social network of loved ones about their experiences with domestic violence, and they are more likely to tell their friends, parents, and blood relatives about it than they are to tell relatives from their husband's side of the family. These findings point to a feature of traditional societies, which is the keeping of secrets within the confines of a family, as well as the insecurity of women in relation to the family of their husbands (only 15.2% of women who have been victims of physical violence share this information with their husband's family).

### Fighting Back the Violence

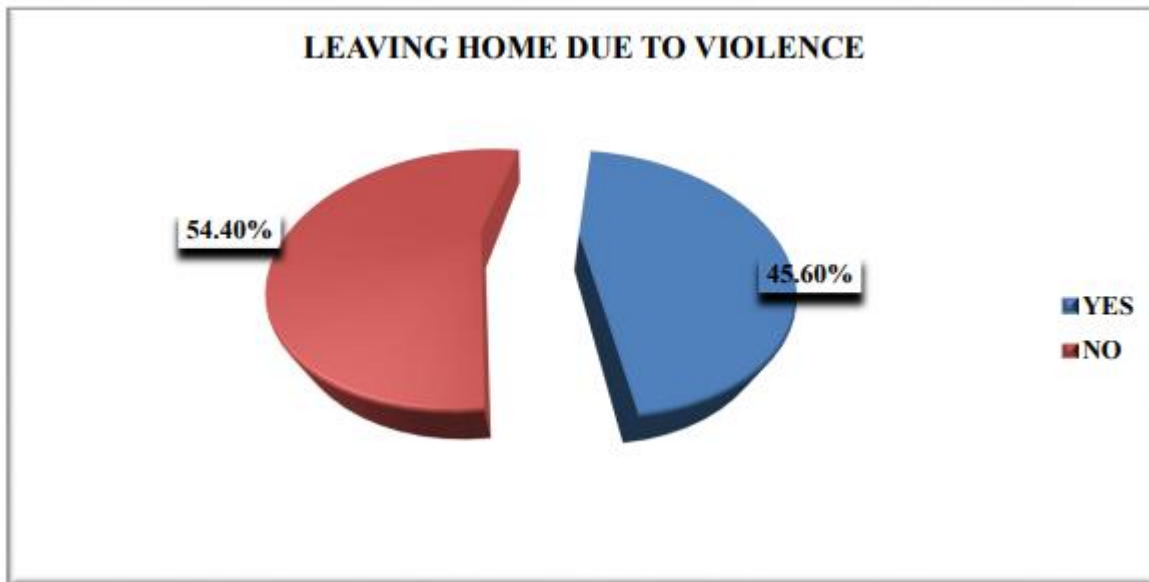
According to the findings of the study, when they are victims of domestic abuse, very few women choose to fight back. 64.8% of women who have been the victims of physical abuse indicate that they have never fought back; 16.8% say that they have done so once; 10.4% have fought back many times; and just 8% say that they fight back regularly because of physical violence. The figure that follows presents the detailed results as follows:



Sources: Field Survey

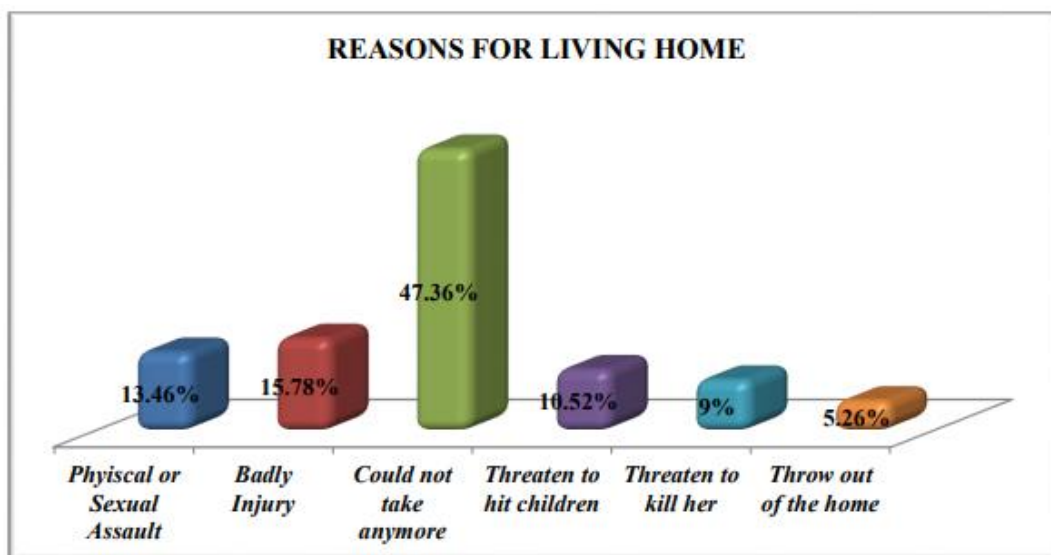
### Leaving Home Due to Violence

Even if they have been subjected to domestic abuse by their partners, the majority of women never leave their homes. Only 45.60 percent, or 57 women, leave their homes because of physical violence, while 54.40 percent, or 68 women, desire to continue living with their husbands and struggle to bring the situation back to a normal state. The figure that follows presents the detailed results as follows:



### Reasons for Leaving Home Due to Violence

There are some women who are forced to leave their houses on a regular basis owing to their spouses' violent behaviour. The data on the percentage distribution of the number of times women are forced to leave their homes due to their partners' violent behaviour is presented in the diagram below. The figure that follows presents the detailed results as follows:



Sources: Field Survey

The findings make it quite evident that the majority of women who have been the victims of physical abuse have left their homes between two and five times. When asked why they left their homes after experiencing domestic violence, the two reasons that were given most frequently were "could not take it anymore" (47.36%) and serious injuries (15.78%). 9 percent of respondents said they left their house because their spouse threatened to murder them; 10.52 percent said they left because they were threatened to hurt their children; and 5.2 percent said they left because they were kicked out. The findings indicate that emancipation from the family is a last resort for women.

## Findings

By analyzing the data collected from field survey, the following key points have been extracted:

- According to the findings of the study, the majority of the women living in the region that was investigated are victims of some form of intimate partner abuse.
- The dowry system and spouses who are alcoholics are the primary causes of domestic violence in the majority of instances. Other causes, such as money problems, jealousy, unemployment, and so on, are also frequently cited as contributing factors.
- According to the findings, formal institutions do not appear to be the preferred location for women to look for help. They do not discuss the issue with the police, health workers, or nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). They inform their tight social network of loved ones about their experiences with domestic violence, and they are more likely to tell their friends, parents, and blood relatives about it than they are to tell relatives from their husband's side of the family.
- The vast majority of women who are victims of domestic violence do not attempt to defend themselves against their abusers because they believe that the husband has the legal right to beat his wife.
- Even after experiencing domestic abuse at the hands of her partner, the vast majority of women do not leave their homes. Because people have been conditioned to think that "dulhankidoliuththihaiuskimaike se or arthiuththihaiuskisasural se," society has led people to believe that these things. They are fed up with domestic abuse and have reached the point where they can't take any more of it. As a result, they have decided to leave their house. They suffer severe wounds from time to time.
- It has also been shown that once women leave their husbands' homes, they frequently return because they do not like to be separated from their children and other members of their family. They were also concerned about being abandoned. There were occasions when the spouse requested that she come back.

## Suggestions

In Assam there is no common platform where problems of women, especially those of violence domestic violence as well as ethnic violence are addressed. So, in view of the above problems, it is necessary to adopt some measures to mitigate problems faced by women. Following suggestion have been made for controlling the domestic violence against of women of Gobardhana Development Block of Kokrajhar district of Assam:

- It is necessary to engage the bureaucracy in the process of sensitization and to create political will to investigate the issue of violence.
- Agendas that are centred on the rights of women need to be included into the political process.
- It is necessary to devise plans in order to increase people's knowledge of the breadth and depth of the problem of violence committed against women.
- The dissemination of information on legal protections and rights, as well as support services, health, and living arrangements
- It is the responsibility of women's groups to make other women aware of the support services that are available in the region and the towns.
- Investing in the education of today's young people is crucial. Now is the time to cultivate connections that are robust and based on mutual respect.
- Anti-violence education may be delivered at schools in collaboration with the surrounding communities.



- In order to reduce the amount of violence that is committed against women, there is a demand for society accountability, particularly male responsibility.

## Conclusion

The preceding discussion makes it abundantly evident that conventional ideas and a lack of understanding on the part of the public are the primary contributors to the ongoing problem of domestic violence in the Kokrajhar area. The thoughts expressed by the respondents provide further evidence that these variables are the ones that are to blame for the inactivity of women or their passive tolerance of domestic abuse in the Kokrajhar area. If one were to inquire about the actions that women often do in response to gender-based violence, the answer that would most likely be given would be that the vast majority of the time, they do little more than tolerate it. The in-depth interviews and discussions with women from a variety of villages in the Kokrajhar district revealed that in cases of gender-based domestic violence, the women tended to take a passive stance. These women held traditional views according to which the male-female division is seen in the context of a dominant-subordinate dichotomy. As a result, it should not come as a surprise that they see their husbands as their "first and not second halves," who have the authority to tell their women what to do, such as where they should go and what they should dress, and who are permitted to occasionally physically mistreat their spouses. Additionally, divorce is seen as a "shameful" or even "disastrous" occurrence, and the female respondents themselves indicate that a woman should not consider divorce unless the violence that she endures becomes intolerable. This perception contributes to the stigma that surrounds divorce. Furthermore, even a victim who is currently living in a shelter and who has been verbally and physically abused by her husband on a daily basis for the past six years stated that if her husband had not beaten her so frequently, they would still be living together to this day if it weren't for the fact that they were living together.

## References

1. Daga, A S., S. Jejeebhoy and S. Rajgopal (2013). Domestic Violence against Women: An Investigation of Hospital Causality Records, Mumbai. *Journal of Family Welfare*, 45 (1): 1- 11.
2. Domestic Violence Against women in India: Summary- Papers presented at the Natinal Seminar on Domestic Violence Against Women and Role of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2006, held at Lucknow during 19-20 July 2008, Madhav Books (2009)
3. Support Services to Counter Violence Against Women in Assam. A Resource Directory, 2002. Published by North East Network. Supported by UNIFEM
4. Waghmode R.H, Desai Bhavana, Kalyan J.L, (2013) Domestic Violence against Women: An Analysis, *International Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 2(1), 34-37
5. Walter Fernandes & Sanjay Barbora, Ed. Changing Womens Status in India: Focus on the North East. North East Social Research Centre, Guwahati, Assam, 2002.
6. Heise, L, J. Pitanguy, and A. Germaine (1994), "Violence against Women—The Hidden Health Burden", World Bank Discussion Paper 255, Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
7. Jain, D., S. Sanon, L. Sadowski and W. Hunter (2004), "Violence against women in India: Evidence from rural Maharashtra, India", *Rural and Remote Health*, Vol. 4 (on line), No. 304.
8. Jejeebhoy, Shireen (1998), "Wife beating in rural India: A husband's right? Evidence from survey data", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 33(15), Pp. 855-862.
9. Mahajan, A. (1990), "Instigators of wife battering." in SushamaSood (ed.), *Violence against Women*, Arihant Publishers, Jaipur.
10. Miller, Barbara D. 1992. "Wife-beating in India: variations on a theme." In D. A. Counts, J. .K. Brown, and J.C. Campbell, *Sanctions and Sanctuary: Cultural Perspectives on the Beating of Wives*. Boulder: Westview Press.
11. Rao, V. (1997), "Wife beating in Rural South India: A Quantitative and Econometric Analysis", *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol.44 (8), Pp. 1169-1180.

12. Visaria, Leela (1999), "Violence Against Women in India: Evidence from Rural Gujarat" in Domestic Violence in India: A Summary Report of Three Studies. International Centre for Research on Women: Washington, D.C., Pp. 14-25.