



**EVALUATION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
OF WOMEN TOWARDS PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
PERSPECTIVES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COOCH BEHAR
DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**

Kaushik Debnath¹, Dr. Urmila Parteti²

^{1,2} Department of Sociology, Mansarovar Global University, Sehore, MP

Abstract:

Domestic violence against women remains a pervasive social problem cutting across physical, economic and social dimensions. Domestic physical violence among women refers to acts of physical harm inflicted on women within the domestic sphere, most often by an intimate partner or family member. Domestic economic violence refers to patterns of control and abuse where a woman's access to financial resources, employment, property, or economic decision-making is deliberately restricted by an intimate partner or family member. Domestic social violence refers to patterns of abuse and coercion experienced by women within the household or intimate relationships, rooted in unequal power relations and reinforced by social norms. Physical violence often coexists with economic deprivation and social marginalization, leading to severe impacts on women's health, self-esteem, and overall quality of life. In this article, evaluation on domestic violence of women towards sociological perspectives with special reference to Cooch Behar district, West Bengal has been discussed.

Keywords: Domestic, Violence, Women, Sociological, Cooch Behar District.

INTRODUCTION:

Domestic violence against women is a pervasive social problem that transcends geographical, cultural, economic and social boundaries (Sarkar, M., 2010). It refers to a pattern of abusive behaviors exercised by one or more family members, predominantly within intimate or marital relationships, with the intent to control, dominate or harm women physically, economically and socially (Coll, C.V.N., Ewerling, F., García-Moreno. C. et al., 2020). Despite constitutional guarantees of equality and legal protections, domestic violence continues to undermine women's dignity, health and overall quality of life, particularly in developing societies like India. (Dodenhoff, J., 2008). From a physical perspective, domestic violence includes acts such as assault, bodily harm, sexual abuse and intimidation that result

in both immediate injuries and long-term health consequences (Tyagi, M., 2015). Women subjected to physical violence often suffer from chronic pain, reproductive health issues, psychological trauma and increased vulnerability to mental health disorders. Such violence remains largely underreported due to fear, social stigma, economic dependence and lack of awareness of legal remedies (Khandelwal, T., 2019). The economic dimension of domestic violence is equally significant yet often overlooked. Economic abuse manifests through denial of financial resources, restriction on employment opportunities, control over income, property deprivation and forced economic dependency (Kumar, S., Casey, A., 2017). In rural and semi-urban regions like Cooch Behar district of West Bengal, where women's participation in the formal workforce is limited, economic violence further reinforces gender inequality and restricts women's autonomy, decision-making power and capacity to escape abusive environments. From a social perspective, domestic violence operates within deeply entrenched patriarchal norms, traditional gender roles and cultural practices that normalize male dominance and female subordination. Social isolation, restrictions on mobility, denial of education, and humiliation within the family and community are common forms of social abuse. In districts such as Cooch Behar—characterized by agrarian livelihoods, cultural conservatism and socio-economic diversity—these social factors significantly shape women's experiences of domestic violence and their access to support systems. West Bengal has implemented several legal and welfare measures, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, women's helplines, shelter homes and self-help group initiatives. However, gaps persist between policy frameworks and ground-level realities, particularly in border and backward districts like Cooch Behar. Limited institutional outreach, lack of awareness, and socio-cultural resistance often prevent women from seeking justice and rehabilitation. The objective of the research was to evaluation on domestic violence of women towards sociological perspectives with special reference to Cooch Behar district, West Bengal.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Research methodology refers to the systematic and theoretical examination of the methods employed in a certain field. It encompasses the theoretical analysis of the behaviors and principles. It advocates employing various strategies and tactics to gather significant data and empirical evidence on an extensive scale.

Study Area: Cooch Behar District, West Bengal.

Variables:

Dependent Variables: Age, Education level, Family type, Monthly income, Marital status, Religion.

Independent Variables: Married women, Physical, Economic, Social, Domestic, Violence.

Research Design: In this research, quantitative research design has been used.

Primary Data: In this research, primary data has been used.

Sampling Plan: In this research, purposive sampling plan has been used.

Sample Size: 600.

Methodology: The married women respondents were selected from the Cooch Behar district, West Bengal. Domestic violence is more common among married women, so only married women were selected in this research. The all married women age group were between 21-60 years. The questionnaire sheets were distributed in favor of the respondents after clearing the research objectives. Sufficient time was given in favor of the respondents. After completion of their sheet, the sheet was collected for data analysis and interpretation.

Research Tools: In this research, structured questionnaires (5 Point Likert Scale sheet) were used.

Abbreviations Used: Strongly Agree (SA-5 points), Agree (A-4 points), Neutral (N-3 points), Disagree (D-2 points), Strongly Disagree (SD-1 point). Tools Used:

- Scale for Domestic Physical violence among women.
- Scale for Domestic Economic violence among women.
- Scale for Domestic Social violence among women.

Data Analysis and Interpretation: In this research, bar charts were used.

DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION, RESULTS & DISCUSSION:**(a) Personal Profile:**

Table 1. Age (in years):

Age (in years)	Respondents	%
----------------	-------------	---

21-30	150	25
31-40	150	25
41-50	150	25
51-60	150	25
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

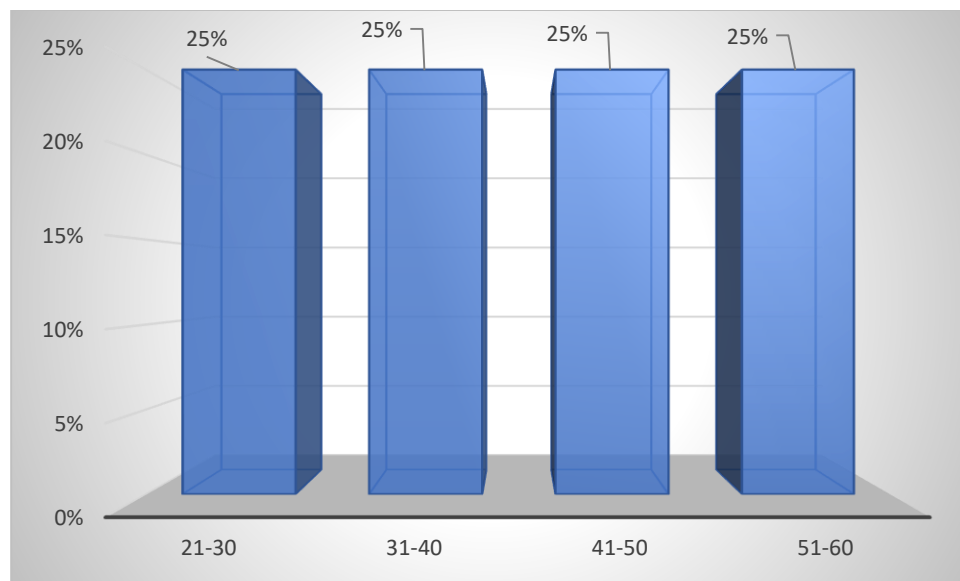


Figure 1. Age (in years) (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of age (in years) were 21-30 years: 25%, 31-40 years: 25%, 41-50 years: 25%, 51-60 years: 25%.

Table 2. Family Type:

Family Type	Respondents	%
Nuclear family	416	69.33
Joint family	184	30.67
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

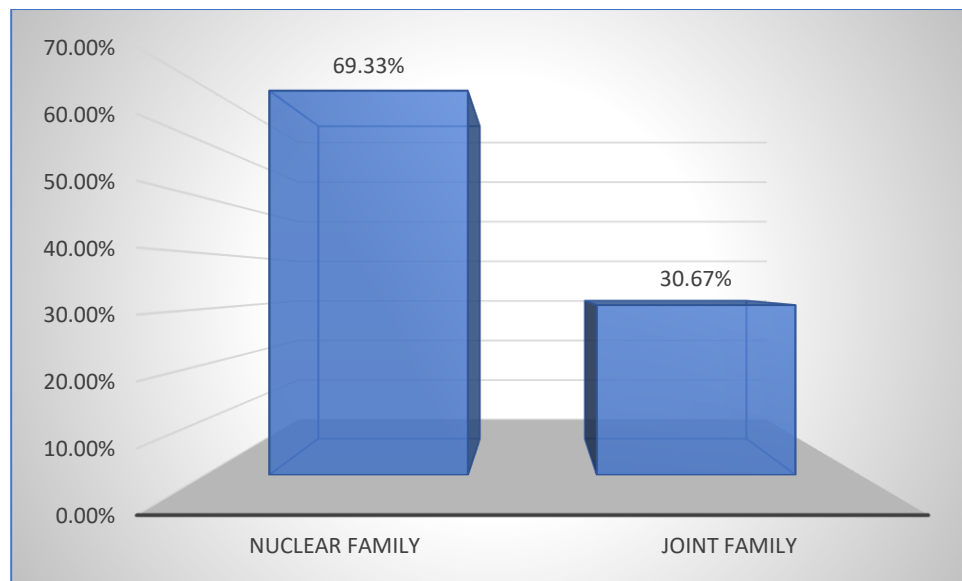


Figure 2. Family Type (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of family type were nuclear family: 69.33% and joint family: 30.67%.

Table 3. Monthly Income (INR):

Monthly Income (INR)	Respondents	%
Below 10,000/-	171	28.5
10,001/- to 20,000/-	259	43.17
20,001 to 30,000/-	101	16.83
30,001/- & above	69	11.5
Total	600	100

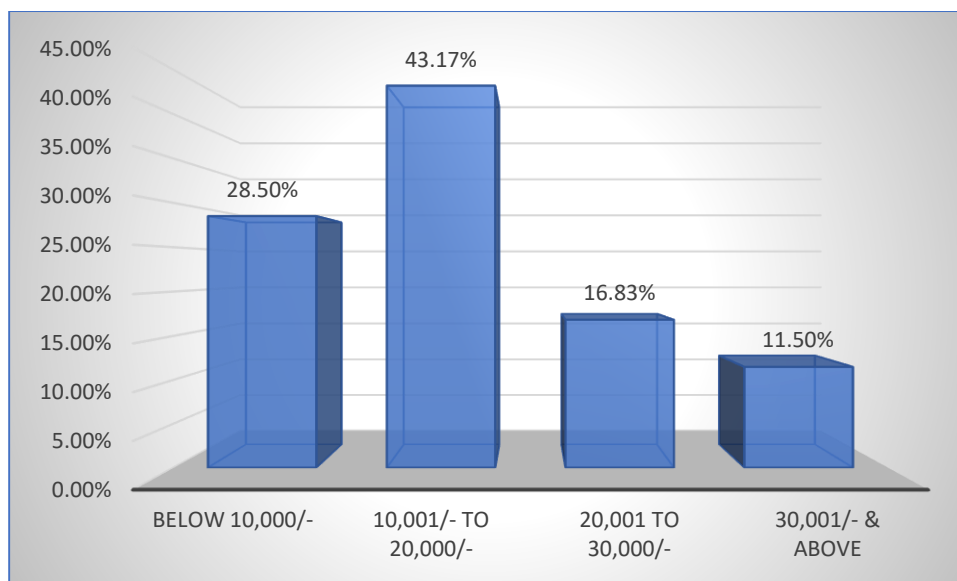


Figure 3. Monthly Income (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of monthly income were below INR 10,000/-: 28.5%, INR 10,001/- to INR 20,000/-: 43.17%, INR 20,001 to INR 30,000/-: 16.83% and INR 30,001/- & above: 11.5%.

(b) Domestic Physical Violence among Women:

Table 4. My partner has pushed or shoved me during an argument:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	154	25.67
A	218	36.33
N	28	4.67
D	129	21.5
SD	71	11.83
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

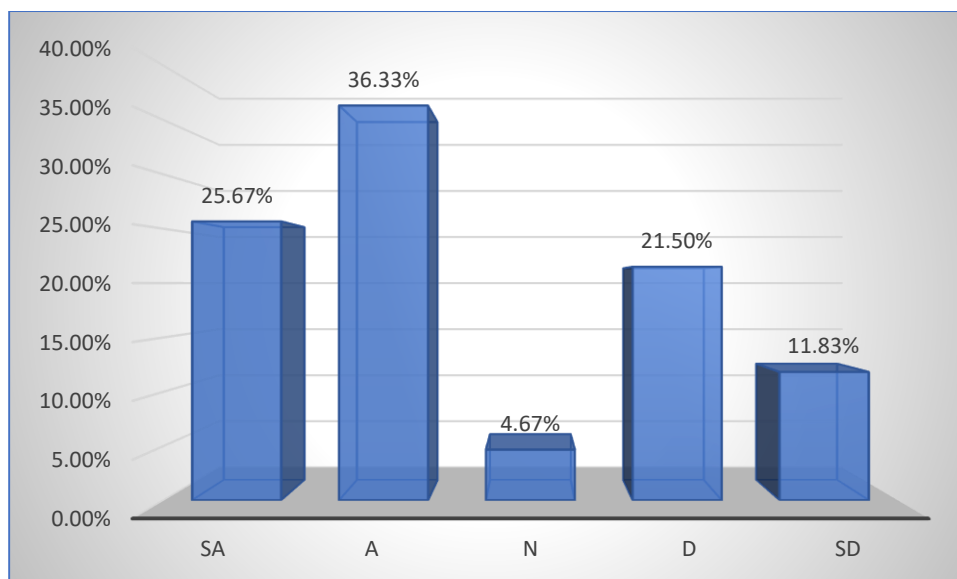


Figure 4. My partner has pushed or shoved me during an argument (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 25.67%, A: 36.33%, N: 4.67%, D: 21.5% & SD: 11.83%.

Table 5. I fear physical harm when I disagree with my partner:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	198	33
A	187	31.17
N	22	3.66
D	124	20.67
SD	69	11.5
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

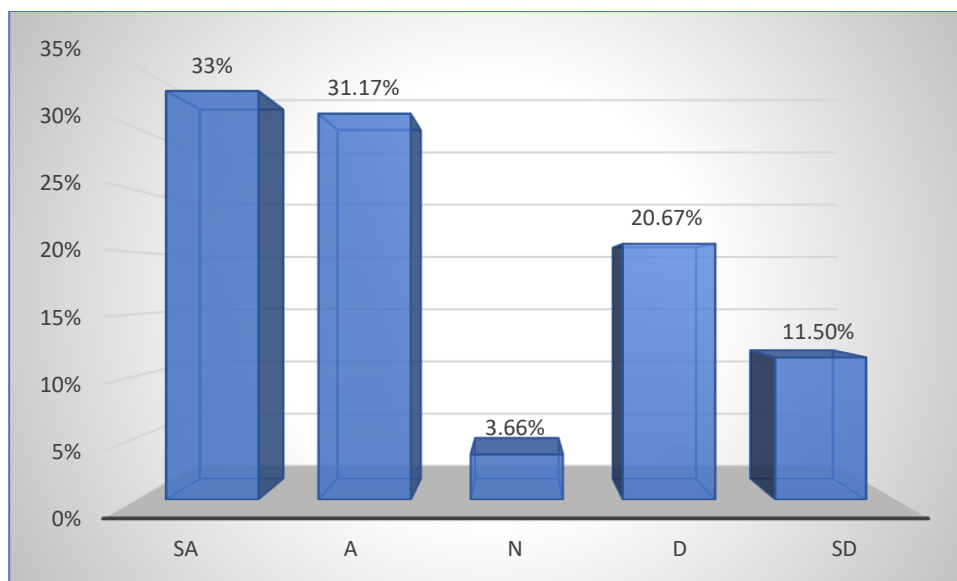


Figure 5. I fear physical harm when I disagree with my partner (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 33%, A: 31.17%, N: 3.66%, D: 20.67% & SD: 11.5%.

Table 6. I feel unsafe in my own home due to my partner's violent behavior:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	131	21.83
A	180	30
N	29	4.83
D	158	26.34
SD	102	17
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

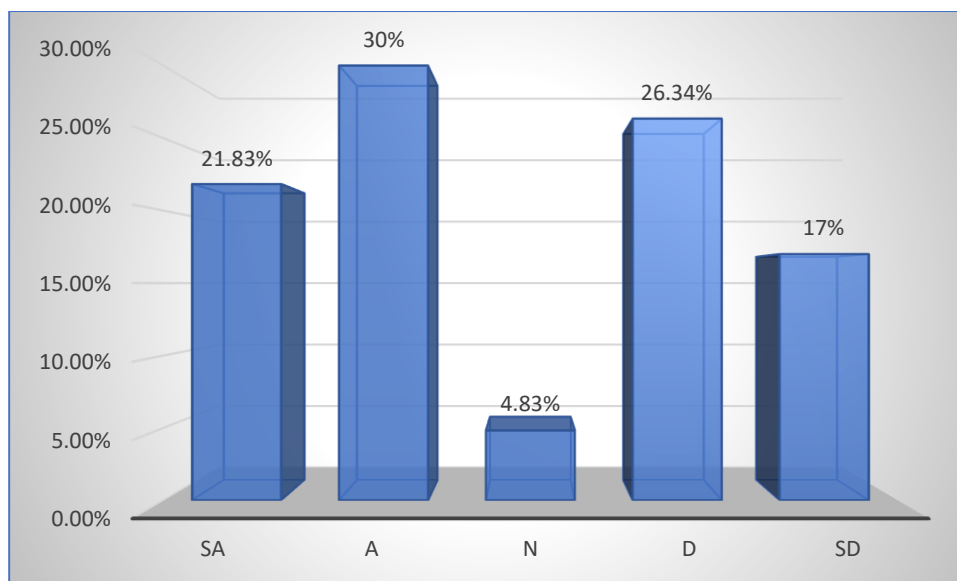


Figure 6. I feel unsafe in my own home due to my partner's violent behavior (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 21.83%, A: 30%, N: 4.83%, D: 26.34% & SD: 17%.

(c) Domestic Economic Violence among Women:

Table 7. My husband/partner controls all the household finances without consulting me:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	182	30.33
A	206	34.33
N	38	6.34
D	120	20
SD	54	9
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

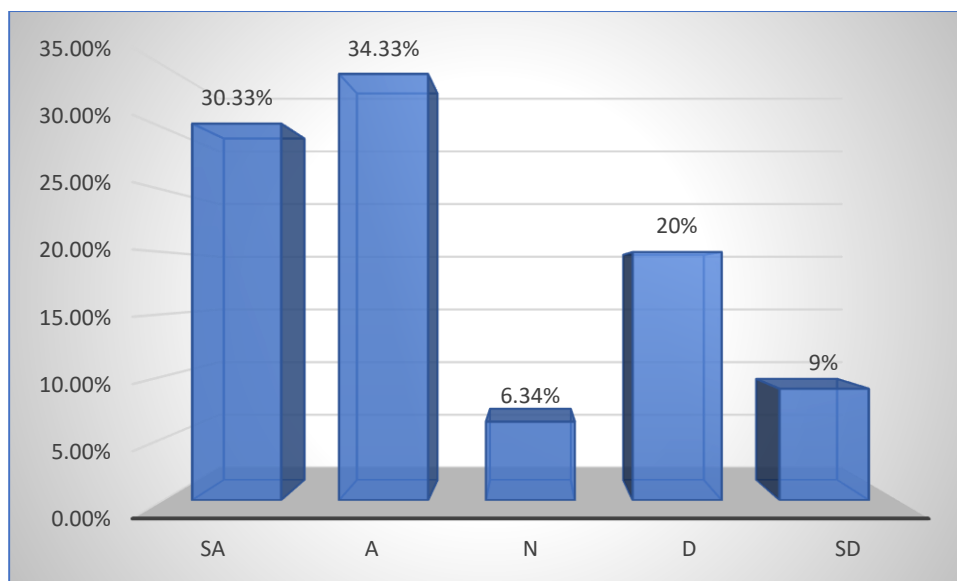


Figure 7. My husband/partner controls all the household finances without consulting me (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 30.33%, A: 34.33%, N: 6.34%, D: 20% & SD: 9%.

Table 8. I am not allowed to have my own bank account or savings:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	179	29.83
A	198	33
N	32	5.33
D	111	18.5
SD	80	13.34
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

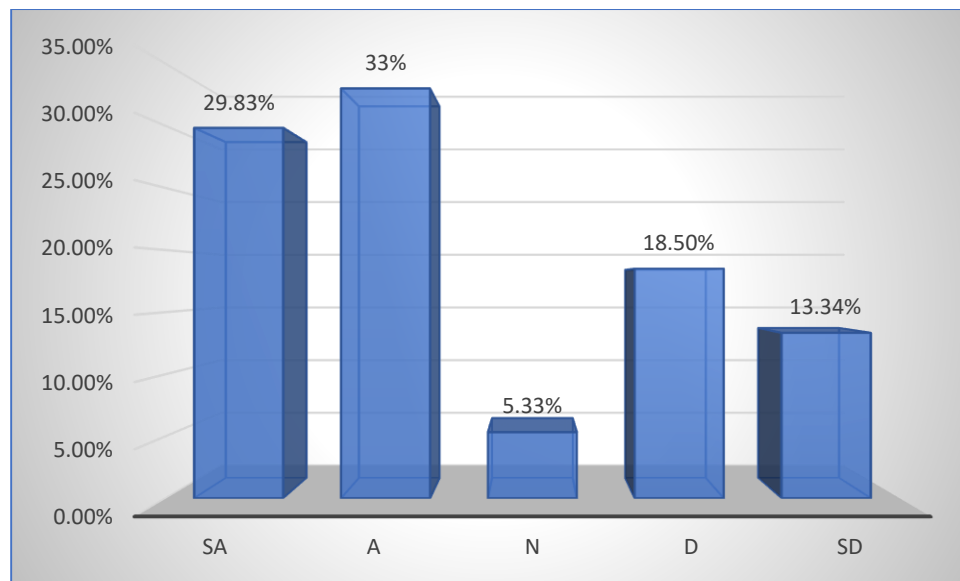


Figure 8. I am not allowed to have my own bank account or savings (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 29.83%, A: 33%, N: 5.33%, D: 18.5% & SD: 13.34%.

Table 9. I need permission to spend money on personal or household items:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	181	30.17
A	209	34.83
N	26	4.33
D	129	21.5
SD	55	9.17
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

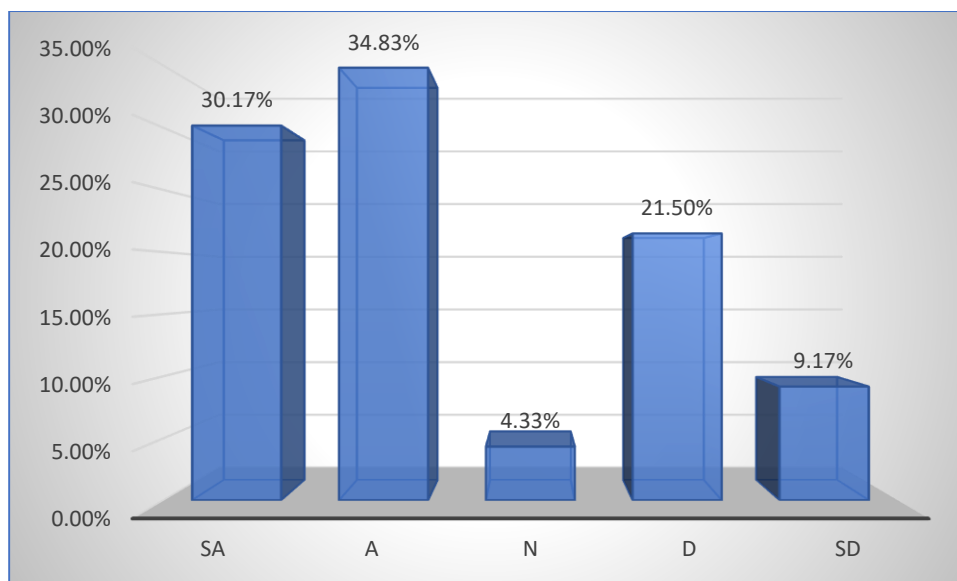


Figure 9. I need permission to spend money on personal or household items (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 30.17%, A: 34.83%, N: 4.33%, D: 21.5% & SD: 9.17%.

(d) Domestic Social Violence among Women:

Table 10. My husband/partner restricts me from meeting my friends or relatives:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	180	30
A	209	34.83
N	28	4.67
D	104	17.33
SD	79	13.17
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

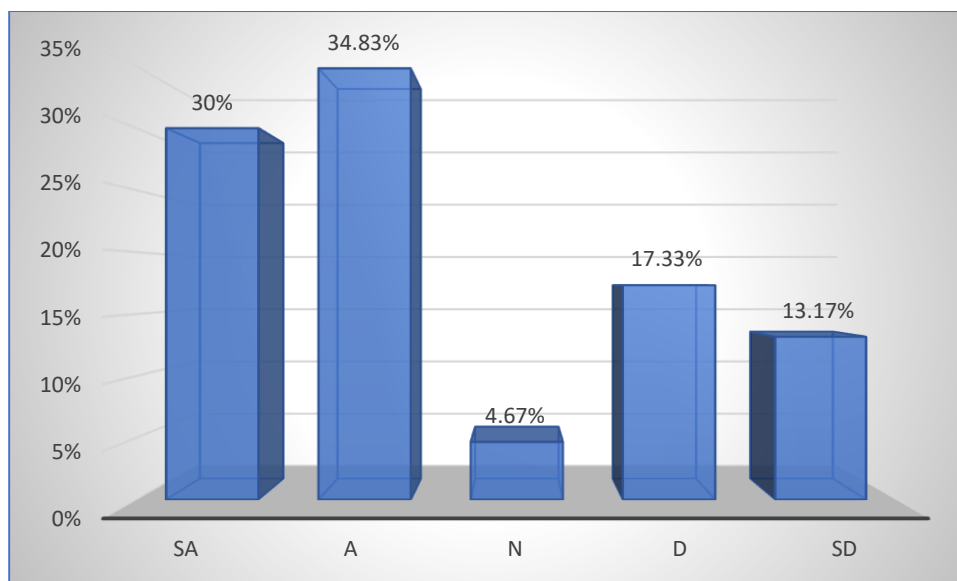


Figure 10. My husband/partner restricts me from meeting my friends or relatives (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 30%, A: 34.83%, N: 4.67%, D: 17.33% & SD: 13.17%.

Table 11. I am socially isolated due to my partner's control:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	197	32.83
A	201	33.5
N	25	4.17
D	109	18.17
SD	68	11.33
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

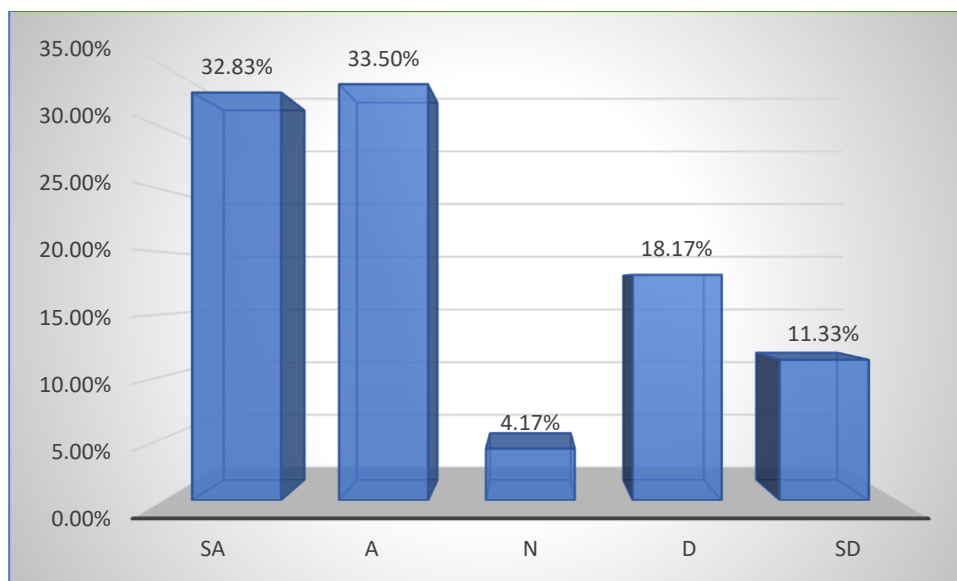


Figure 11. I am socially isolated due to my partner's control (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 32.83%, A: 33.5%, N: 4.17%, D: 18.17% & SD: 11.33%.

Table 12. I am not allowed to attend social gatherings or family functions:

Options	Respondents	%
SA	172	28.67
A	188	31.33
N	20	3.34
D	149	24.83
SD	71	11.83
Total	600	100

(Source: Primary Data, Survey)

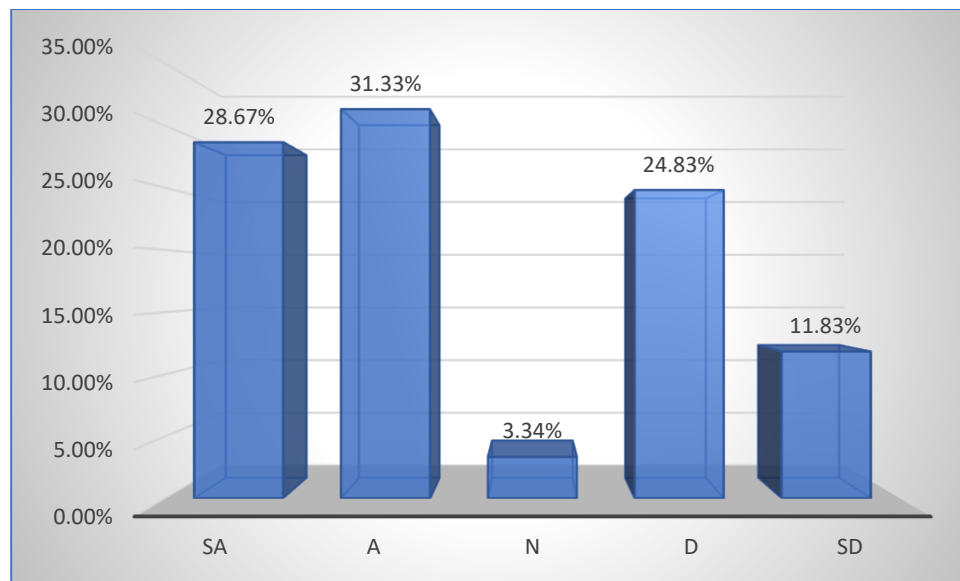


Figure 12. I am not allowed to attend social gatherings or family functions (%)

From the above table & figure, it was found that the percentage of SA: 28.67%, A: 31.33%, N: 3.34%, D: 24.83% & SD: 11.83%.

CONCLUSION:

Domestic physical violence against women remains a pervasive and deeply rooted social problem that cuts across age, class, caste, religion, and geographical boundaries. The study highlights that such violence is not merely an individual or family issue but a serious violation of human rights, closely linked to unequal power relations, patriarchal norms, economic dependency, and societal acceptance of gender-based discrimination. Physical violence often coexists with emotional, sexual, and economic abuse, intensifying its impact on women's physical health, mental well-being, and overall quality of life.

Domestic economic violence against women is a pervasive yet often invisible form of abuse that deeply undermines women's autonomy, dignity, and overall well-being. By restricting access to financial resources, controlling employment opportunities, denying property and inheritance rights, and enforcing economic dependency, this form of violence reinforces unequal power relations within the household.

Domestic social violence against women remains a deeply entrenched and pervasive social problem that transcends boundaries of class, caste, religion, and geography. The study highlights that such violence is not merely an individual or familial issue but a structural phenomenon rooted in unequal power relations, patriarchal norms, economic dependence, and socially sanctioned gender roles.

Women often experience domestic violence in multiple forms—physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and economic—many of which remain invisible due to social stigma, fear of ostracism, and normalization of abuse within households.

REFERENCES:

- Coll, C.V.N., Ewerling, F., García-Moreno, C. et al. (2020). Intimate partner violence in 46 low income and middle-income countries: an appraisal of the most vulnerable groups of women using national health surveys. *BMJ Global Health*, 5, 11-36.
- Dodenhoff, J. (2008). A Dangerous Kind: Domestic Violence and the Victorian Middle Class. *TCNJ Journal of Student Scholarship*, 10, 1-4.
- Khandelwal, T. (2019). Violence Against Women: A State Level Analysis in India. *Women & Child Development*, 1, 1-21.
- Kumar, S., Casey, A. (2017). Work and intimate partner violence: powerful role of work in the empowerment process for middle-class women in abusive relationships. *Community Work & Family* 23(11),1-18.
- Sarkar, M. (2010). A study on domestic violence against adult and adolescent females in a rural area of West Bengal. *Indian journal of community medicine*, 35(2), 311-315.
- Tyagi, M. (2015). A Study of Socio Legal Aspects of Protection of Women against Domestic Violence: A Social Issue- Understanding and Addressing the Global Issue of Domestic Violence Against Women. *Journal of Advances and Scholarly Researches in Allied Education*, 10(20), 1-12.