

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF FINAL REPORT OF
MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT**

TITLED

**“WOMEN AND THEIR VOICE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT 2005**

–MRP (H) 13-14/KLCA027/UGC-SWRO dated 28-04-2014

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SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS OF MINOR RESEARCH

PROJECT

TITLE OF THE PROJECT: “Women and their voice against Domestic Violence with special reference to the Domestic Violence Act 2005”

Violence against women has been acknowledged both nationally as well as internationally as a violation of human rights of women, something that impairs the overall development of women. Resistance to domestic violence is a recent phenomenon. In the modern age voices have been raised against these inhuman practices and efforts made to bring about change by creating awareness, by educating people and, of course, through legal actions/reforms. . The study provides an understanding of the degree of domestic violence being experienced by women in Kerala and how far these women fight against violence and get their rights and rebuild their life by legal and judicial responses. The title of the study is Women and their voice against Domestic Violence with special reference to the Domestic Violence Act 2005.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

To understand the socio-economic characteristics of the victims,

To understand the type of violence,

To understand the type of support received by the women to fight against violence,

To know their present living arrangement,

To know their awareness and attitude towards the Act, justice system etc.

METHODOLOGY

According to district figures for gender-based violence in the year 2010–11, the largest number of assault cases on women have been reported from Thrissur and the second largest number of case of divorce have also been reported from Thrissur. Hence the study was conducted in the district of Thrissur, Only those cases registered on the basis of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 were considered. Out of the total 360 registered cases collected from the three magistrates' courts in Thrissur, 100 respondents (20%-27%) were randomly selected. The research is descriptive in nature. A well-structured interview schedule was prepared on the basis of the objectives. Both primary and secondary sources of data were gathered for the study. Primary data was collected by using the interview scheduled by the investigator who personally interviewed the victims.

Findings

The major findings of the study:

1. Though domestic violence is prevalent among women regardless of age, education level, socio-economic class and family living arrangements, a majority of the cases are reported by women belonging to the 30–40 age group.
2. A great majority faced violence in their matrimonial homes. Most of them have faced violence from husbands and in-laws.
3. Alcoholism and dowry harassment are the two major factors behind domestic violence. This finding is similar to the findings of the studies conducted in Kerala by Vijayan (2003) and Mukhopadhyay (2007).
4. A great majority of victims were not aware of their rights of protection of life, liberty and so on when they entered into the marital life.
5. Most of the victims in this study only came to know that domestic violence in any form is a human rights violation and that they should fight for justice after filing the case.
6. Victims who understand this right are very cooperative with the justice system, particularly with lawyers. This awareness really helps them to overcome threats, including those of physical harm. Victims are ready to face any situations/obstacles.

7. Victims are ready to approach any one to get support to fight against the violence and to get justice.
8. Victims who face emotional/verbal violence are suicidal.
9. All the victims have received counselling.
10. Violence in all its forms causes immense damage to the physical and emotional well-being of the victims. It is a serious violation of basic human rights.
11. Violence distorts the emotional development of the victim's children (Radhika, 2005).
12. Victims often feel helplessness, depression, poor self-image and suffer from self-devaluation. This finding is inconsistent with the study report of Ganesmurthy (2008). Domestic violence affects women's health, self-esteem and ability to participate in development process.
13. Most of the victims initially tolerated harassment and kept silence towards all forms of violence by their birth family.
14. A great majority of the victims and their children face economic crisis due to violence.
15. The majority of the victims have high levels of satisfaction with the law.

CONCLUSION

From this study it could understand that women face multiple forms of abuse within the domestic environment Even though Women are not aware about their rights of protection of life, liberty and so on when they entered into the marital life, a considerable proportion of women have gained self confidence and assertive behaviour and fought for their rights .A great majority if women have expressed their satisfaction towards the provisions for protecting women in the domestic sphere.

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