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## GENDER BASED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SLUMS

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### **Abstract**

Violence is an extreme form of aggression, such as assault or murder. Violence has many causes, such as frustration, media, and exposure to violence in the home or neighborhood and a tendency to see other people's actions as hostile even when they're not. Violence against women has become a regular feature in the Indian society across caste, class and culture variation "violence" becomes all the more pronounced when aged women are at its receiving and more so in the slums dwellings. Violence is an act would refer to the use of force, intended to hurt, physically, psychologically or emotionally. Women in the slums are physically malnourished, emotionally possessed and psychologically distressed. These women at the twilight years of their life find it difficult to adjust in their own families. Health problem and lack of proper centers of care the plight of widowed aged in the worse as they are not in a position to exercise their agency in the family, or contribute economically.

Gender-based violence in the developing world is beginning to serious scholarly attention. However, much of research still overlooks violence against women still Gender based violence against women in slums area is a new work in the research. This research of 343 women between the ages of 15 to 70 + describes gender – based violence in slums of Agra. Prevalence and attitudes toward Gender-based violence among participants are compared to those measured in the general population. Because results of the survey show a higher rate of gender – based violence among women than the general population of Agra, it shows that interventions are urgently needed in the slums. At the same time women reported lower attitudinal of gender – based violence than he larger population, supporting the readiness to accept interventions if available. The logical result is social marginalization, which can also be referred to as social violence. Sociological research needs to be drawn to the causes and consequences of violence faced aged women in the slums dwellings as it is significant problem area.

<b>Nature of Violence "ever" experienced by women in Slums</b>
<b>Physical Violence</b>
<b>Psychological abuse</b>
<b>Psychology violence*</b>
<b>Mental violence</b>
<b>Economical neglect/ abuse</b>
<b>Sexual violence</b>
<b>*Psychological violence is defined as the presence of Physical and Sexual Violence along with Psychological / Emotional abuse.</b>

### **Keywords**

Physical Violence, Slums Women, Gender based Physical Violence.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Violence against women is a worldwide phenomenon, rooted deep in its tradition most pervasive and yet the least recognized human rights abuse in the world. Today violence against women in India has assumed an alarming proportion. According to one estimate, there are about thirty specific forms of violence being committed against women from the pre-natal stage to their death. The World Health Organization defines domestic violence as “the range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against adult and adolescent women by current or former male intimate partners”. Women can be victims of violence across their lifespan, yet neither the women’s domestic violence movement nor the ageing empowerment movement has mobilized to end violence against older women. Women have lacked status as battered women in domestic violence research and activism. Older women were often excluded in studies of violence against women and often completely absent, as though older women did not belong to the category of women. Older women experiencing domestic violence are an invisible group who fall into the gap between two forms of family violence: elder abuse and domestic violence. This article reviews the literature in both fields, describing each paradigm, how it explains and responds to its specific form of violence, and why neither has been able to provide an adequate response to domestic violence against older women. A collaborative response is needed, accounting for both the age and gender dimensions of the problem. Older women were often absent from discussions about shelters and hotlines, and there has lacked debate on the circumstances and special needs of older women victims of abuse that might affect help-seeking behavior. There is growing awareness of older women victims of family mistreatment, both in terms of prevalence and in terms of commonalities and differences when compared to younger battered women. Both quantitative and qualitative research studies have begun to identify salient factors in cultural differences, age-related needs, and service needs and gaps for older women victims. Clearly, definitional and measurement issues need to be addressed to obtain a clearer understanding of the prevalence of neglect, abuse and violence against older women. Violence against women include: any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. World-wide one of the most common form of violence against women is abuse by their male partners. Violence against women, by an intimate partner includes physical aggression, psychological abuse, forced intercourse and other forms of sexual coercion, and various controlling behaviors. This study found that 10% to 69% of women reported that they had experienced physical violence from a male partner during their life time. Violence occurs in all countries and transcends social, economic, religious and cultural groups. There are possible linkages between domestic violence and a range of adverse physical, mental, and reproductive health outcomes also. A recent community -based study<sup>8</sup> give an interesting detailed account of individual and community level influences on domestic violence in Uttar Pradesh, North India. Present study was conducted with the objectives: 1) To explore the reason of gender based physical violence among women in Slums. 2) To explore the nature of gender based Physical Violence among Women in Slums. 3) To understand factors contributing towards Physical Violence. 4) To explore the perceived consequences of violence on women's health.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURES**

**Arber and Ginn (1991)** examine the significance of gender differences among the aged and the key factors influencing dependence and independence. This book explores ageism and stereotypes, and focusing on continuity and change in culture image of elderly women and relating them to the gendered nature of power in society. They address gender difference in later life by assessing the

distributions of the promote independence. 3 key resources are shown to from an interlocking triangle, financial and material circumstances, health and access to domestic and personal care. A sophisticated analysis is developed to explain how those resources interact to influence the individual's level of independence and well-being in later life. From this, elderly women emerge as significantly disadvantaged. The authors conclude that changes in policy and attitudes to counter women's disadvantage and foster this empowerment would not only be just, last could benefit the whole society.

**Roy (2010)** "The power of gender and the gender of power: exploration in early India History" points out that it is possible to recover the histories of gender for early India? How can gender analyses enrich our understanding of early India today? Drawing upon a range of textual radiations, this unique collection examines the significance of gender is the reconstruction of India's Past. It goes beyond the simple binaries of a "high" and "low" status for women to explore the diversities and complexities of gender relation in early India. Roy draws attention to distinct strategies through which identities of men and women were constituted. She presents a gendered analysis of institutions and processes, ranging from the household to urbanism to denunciatory traditions to show how they remain critical for an understanding of early India history. The book also highlights the way in which rituals were used for socialization as well as evidence for the subversion of the normative traditions. The author explores classic Sastras- Manusmriti and Kama Sutra along with a range of Sanskrit, Prakrit and Paali literature, including text and inscription – as much for what they expressly state as for their implications, tensions and inconsistencies. She shows how such textual traditions were informed and structured by prevailing notions and conceptions of power.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) To explore the reason of gender based physical violence among women in Slums
- 2) To explore the nature of gender based Physical Violence among Women in Slums.
- 3) To understand factors contributing towards Physical Violence.
- 4) To explore the perceived consequences of violence on women's health.

### **Hypothesis**

- 1) Main reason of gender based Physical violence among slums women is money and narrow minded thinking.
- 2) The nature of gender based Physical Violence among Women in Slums is drag, kick & slap.
- 3) Economic factors are contributing Physical violence.
- 4) Depression and mental disbalance are main consequences of violence on women health.

### **OPERATIONALIZATION OF CONCEPTS**

**Aged** – Above 60 years of age treated as an aged woman and Men.

**Violence** –Violence is an act of physical, emotional, economic, socio-cultural abuse by one or more individual or other.

**Gender-** Culturally and socially constructed difference between men and women that varies from place to place and time to time. In comparison, 'sex' denotes biologically determined, thus unchangeable, difference between them.

**Gender Inequality** – Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It arises from differences in socially constructed gender roles as well as biologically through chromosomes, brain structure, and hormonal differences.

**Depression** - Depression is a treatable mental illness.

**Slums** – Slum as residential areas which are physically and socially deteriorated and in which satisfactory family life is impossible.

**Family** – A group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit.

## **METHODOLOGY & RESEARCH DESIGN**

### **Universe and Sample**

All women of slums of Agra city are the universe of study 120 slums have been selected randomly from the list produced by Nagar Nigam office of Agra.

Total women population	
Area	Shankerpuri
Total	343

**Target group (Women who are Suffering from Violence in Slums) = 120 (35%)**

**Source- Agra Nagar Nigam**

### **Research Design**

The research design is Exploratory and Descriptive.

### **Area of the Study**

Shankerpuri Slums area of Agra.

Area	Total population	Men	Women
Shankerpuri	600	257	343

### **Unit o the Study**

The unit of the study is women (15 to 70 +) of Slums of Agra city.

### **Variables**

- 1) Independent variable: Women in Slum.
- 2) Dependent variable: Mental health and depression.

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## Tools of Data Collection

Interview schedule has been used as tool of data collection. Technique of interviewing and observation has been used for gathering information.

### SAMPLING

Purposive sampling method has been used to select respondents from the universe.

## Sources of Data

Both primary as well as secondary data has been used.

Primary data has been collected from interview schedule and case study.

Secondary data has been conducted from books, journals, e-libraries, newspapers, magazines and Census Survey Report.

## Statistical Method

Percentage method has been used.

## Rapport Building

The researcher took pains to build – up rapport with the respondents. So that having build – up the rapport, the element of “trust” between the researcher and the respondent gets instituted. Hence this confidence – building measure is required.

### Data Collection Causes

You feel being of women you suffer from violence				
Often	Rarely	Sometimes	Never	Can't say
83 (69.16)	09 (7.5%)	12 (10%)	00 (0%)	16 (13.33%)



**69.16% women said that they feel being of women they suffer from violence where as 10% women said that they do not feel being of women is the reason of violence.**

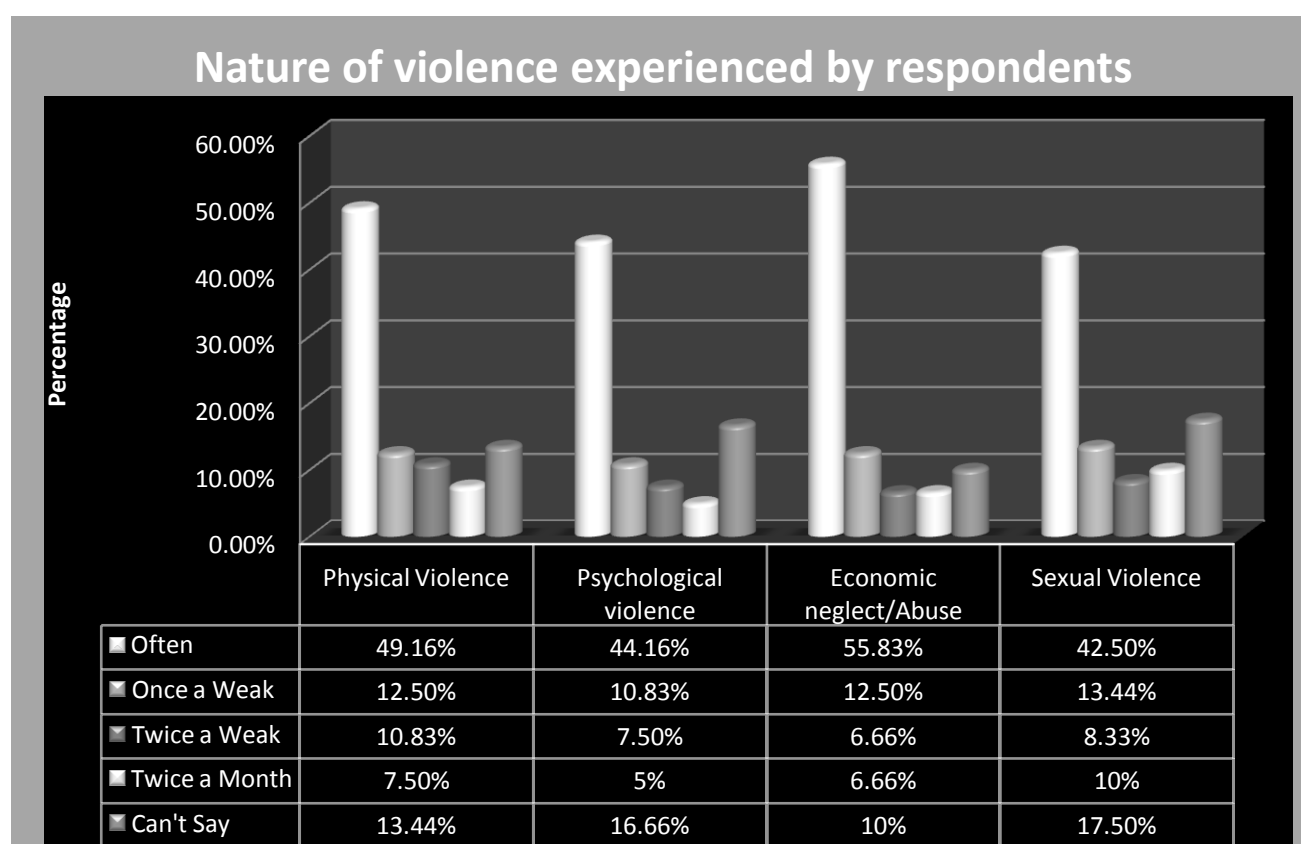
You feel property is main cause of gender based violence?					
	Often	Rarely	Sometimes	Never	Can't say
	71 (59.16%)	16 (13.33%)	15(12.5%)	02 (1.66)	16 (13.33%)



**71% women said that they feel property is main cause of violence where as 02% women said that they do not feel being that property is main cause of violence.**

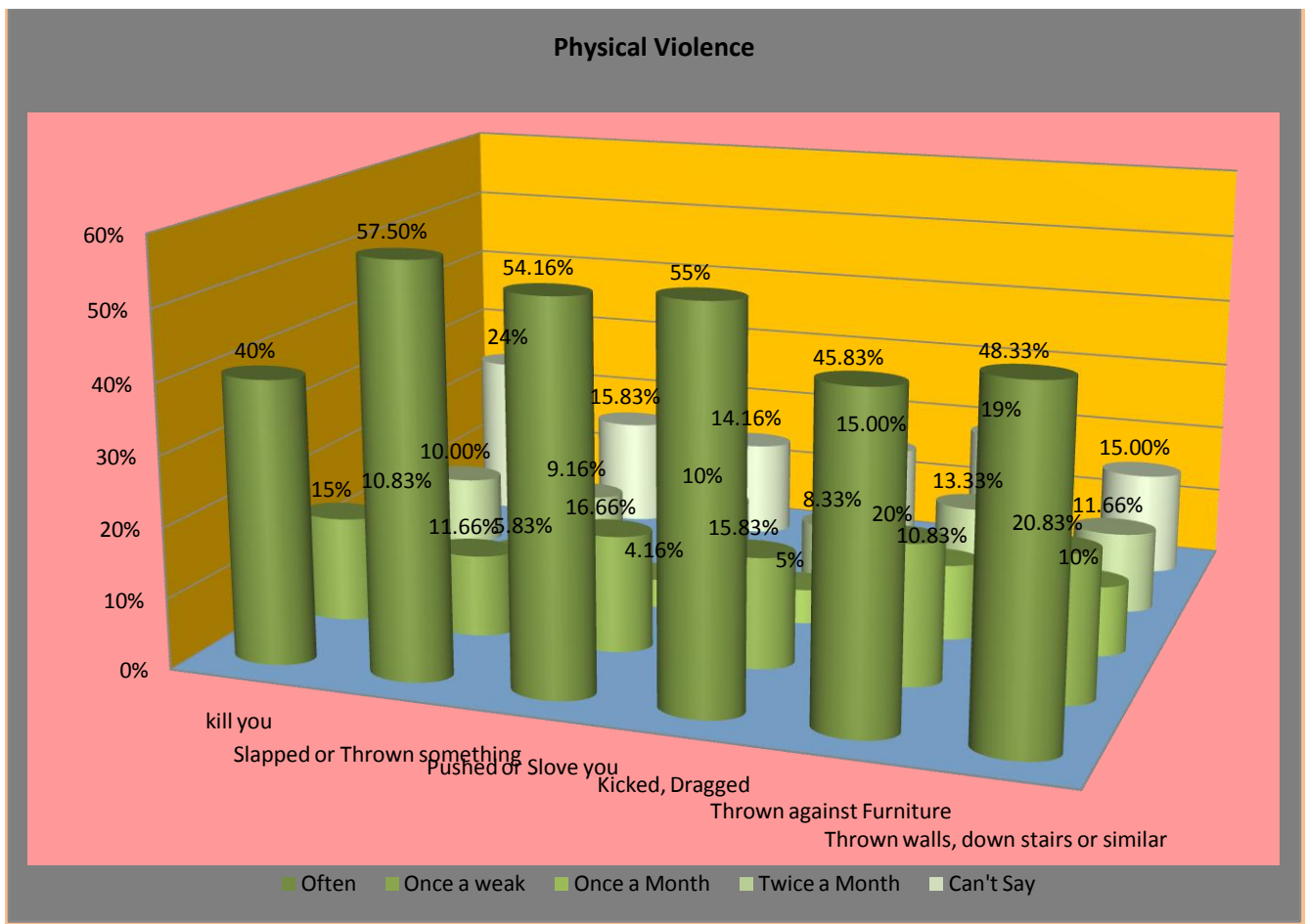
## NATURE OF VIOLENCE

Nature of violence experienced by respondents					
	Often	Once a weak	Twice a weak	Twice a month	Can't say
Physical violence	59 (49.16%)	15 (12.5%)	13 (10.83%)	09(7.5%)	16 (13.44%)
Psychological abuse	53 (44.16)	13(10.83%)	09 (7.5%)	06 (5%)	29 (16.66%)
Economic neglect/abuse	67 (55.83%)	15(12.5%)	08 (6.66%)	08(6.66%)	12 (10%)
Sexual violence	51 (42.5%)	16 (13.44%)	10 (8.33%)	12(10%)	21(17.5%)



Women said that they suffer many types of violence such as physical, psychological, sexual, and economic.

Physical Violence?						
Nature of Physical Violence	Often	Once a week	Once a month	Twice a month	Can't say	Total
Does they threaten to kill you and/or do you believe they are capable of killing you?	48 (40)	18 (15%)	13 (10.83%)	12 (10%)	29 (24.16%)	120
Slapped or thrown something at you that could hurt.	69 (57.5)	14(11.66%)	07 (5.83%)	11 (9.16%)	19 (15.83%)	120
Pushed or shoved you.	65 (54.16)	20 (16.66%)	05 (4.16%)	12 (10%)	17 (14.16%)	120
Kicked, dragged.	66 (55)	19 (15.83%)	06 (5%)	10 (8.33%)	18 (15%)	120
Being thrown against furniture	55(45.83)	24 (20%)	12 (10%)	16 (13.33%)	23(19.16%)	120
Being thrown walls, down stairs or similar	58 (48.33)	25 (20.83%)	13 (10.83%)	14 (11.66%)	18 (15%)	120
Being strangled, assaulted with knife or firearm	52 (43.33%)	22 (18.33%)	17 (14.16%)	07 (5.83%)	22 (18.33%)	120

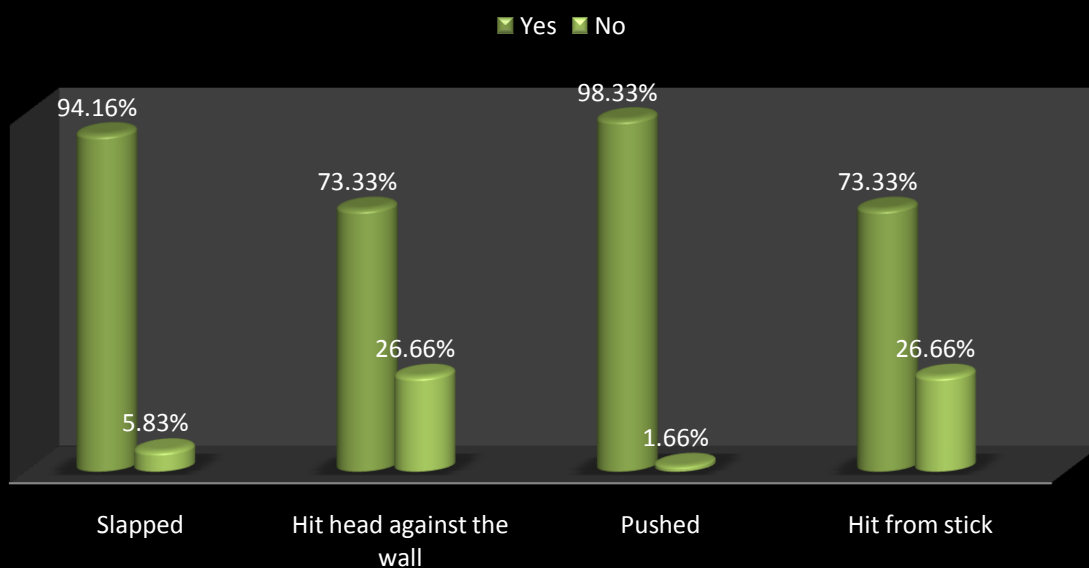


**Women said that they suffer many types of nature of Physical violence.**

Physical violence	At any time in your life (Yes/No)
A Slapped	113/07 (94.16% / 05.83%)
B Hit the head against the wall	88/32 (73.33% / 26.66%)
C Pushed	118/02 (98.33% / 01.66%)
D Hit from stick	88/32 (73.33% / 26.66%)



### Experienced Physical Violence from your family members

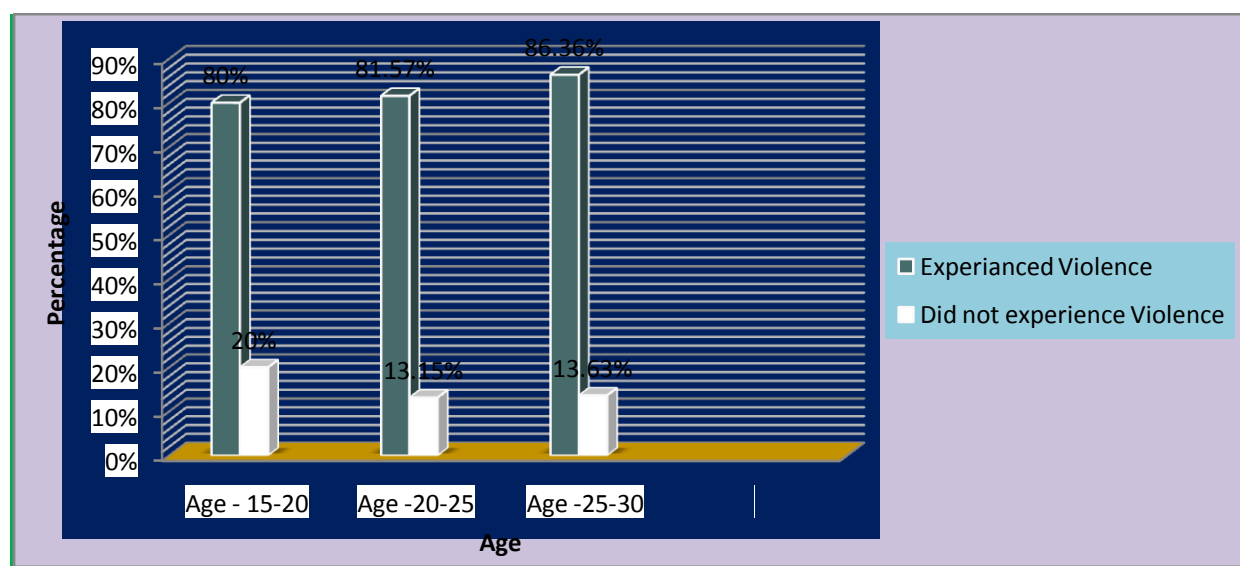


As the table show women suffered many form of physical violence in their life, such as slap, hit against the wall, pushed and hit from stick.

### Factors contributing towards Physical Violence

#### Distribution of ever-married women by lifetime experience of violence and age at first marriage

Age at first marriage (in years)	Experienced violence	Did not experience violence
15-20 (60)	48 (80%)	12 (20%)
20-25 (38)	31(81.57%)	05 (13.15%)
25-30 (22)	19 (86.36%)	03 (13.63%)



At the time of age 15-20 80% women said that they experienced violence. Age of 20-25 81.57% women said that they experienced violence. Age of 15-30 86.36% women said that they experienced violence. We can see that as well as age increasing frequency of violence is increasing.

Which family member demand for dowry ?			
	Husband's family demanded dowry	Husband's family is satisfied with dowry received	Husband's family demanded money or property after marriage as well
<b>Yes</b>	47(39.16%)	49(40.83%)	<b>52 (43.33%)</b>
<b>No</b>	41(34.16%)	44(36.66%)	<b>35 (29.16%)</b>
<b>Not sure/ No response</b>	32(26.66%)	27 (22.5%)	<b>33 (27.5%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>

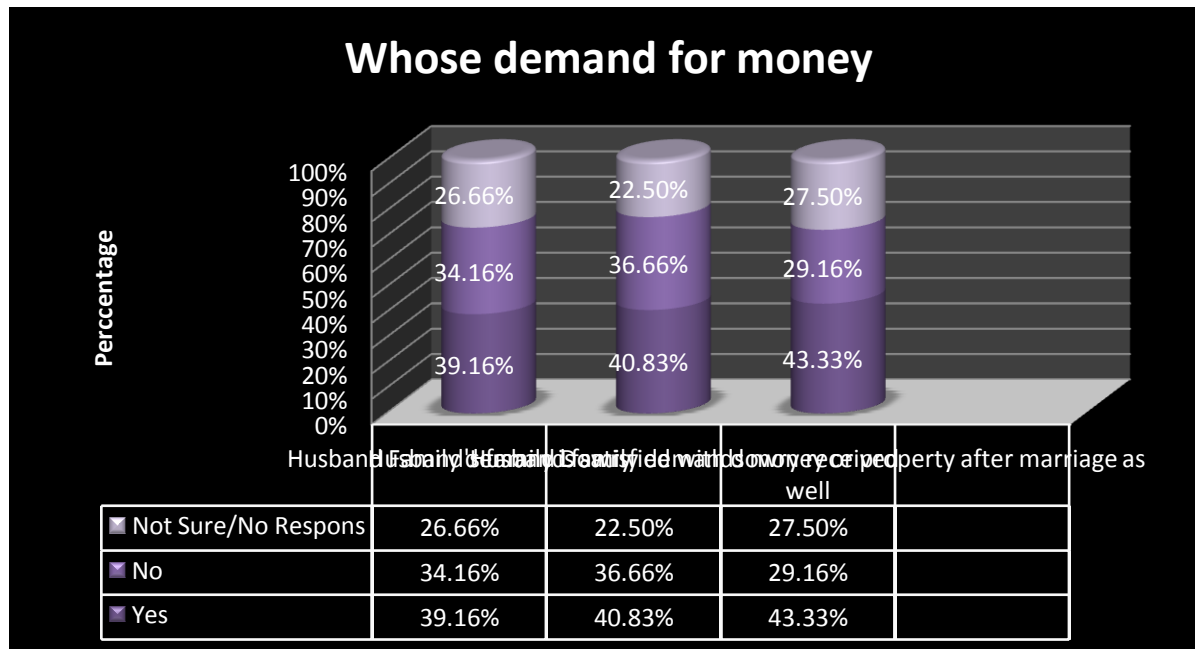
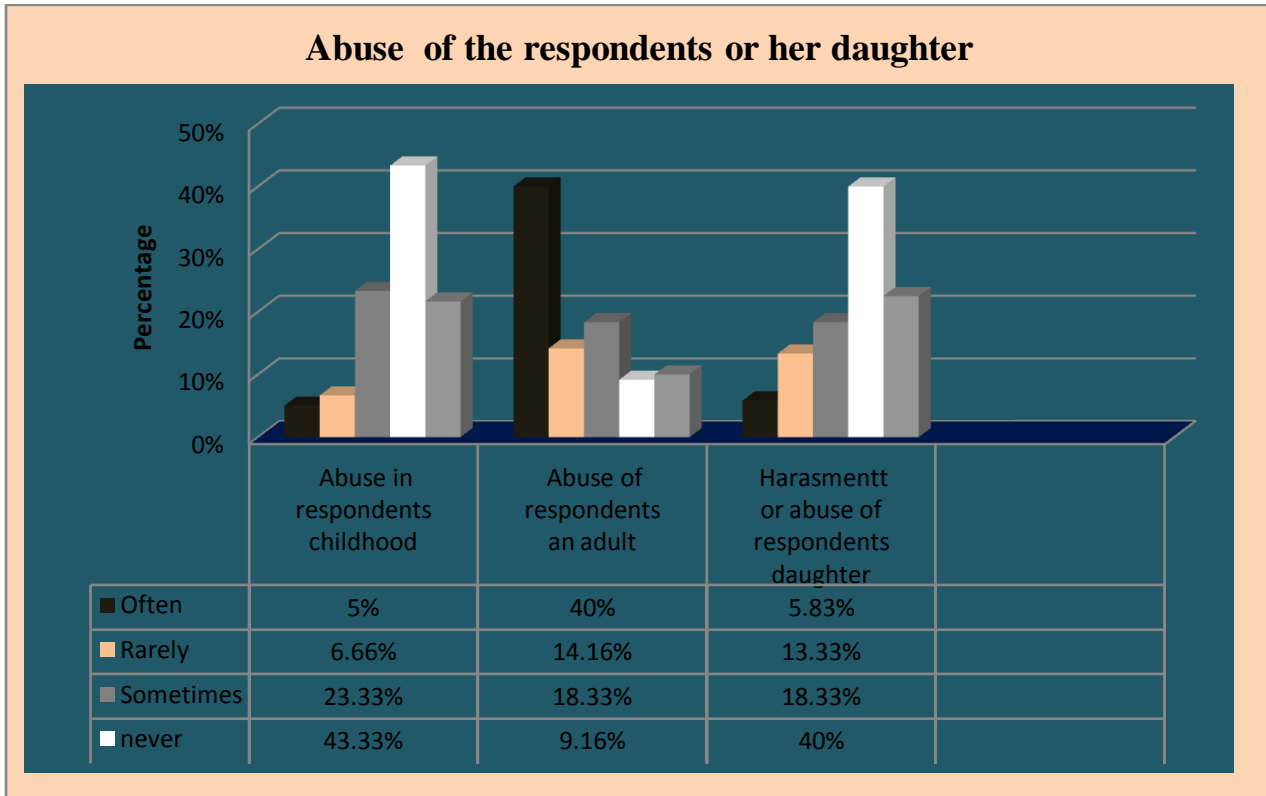


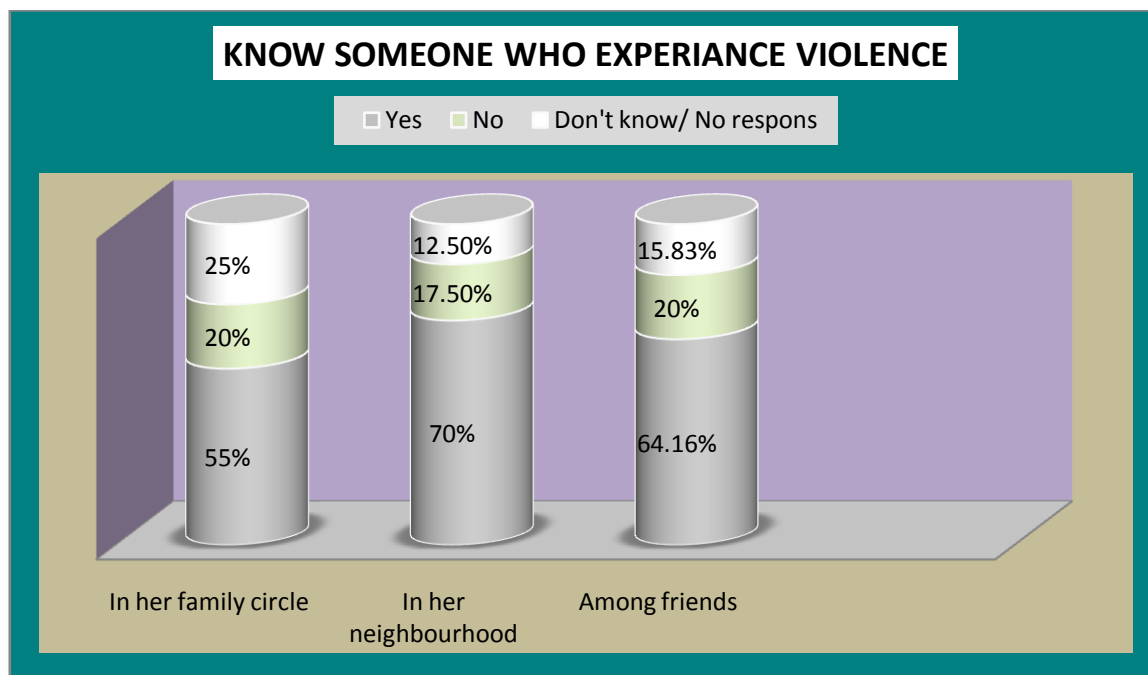
Table shows that husband and their family members demand for money at the time of marriage and also after marriage.

Because of dowry/ money experience of abuse of the respondent or her daughter						
	Often	Rarely	Sometimes	Never	Can't Say	Total
Abuse in respondent's childhood	06 (5%)	08(6.66%)	28(23.33%)	52(43.33%)	26 (21.66%)	120
Abuse of respondent as an adult	48(40%)	17(14.16%)	22(18.33%)	11(9.16%)	12 (10%)	120
Harassment or abuse of respondent's daughter	07(5.83%)	16(13.33%)	22 (18.33%)	48 (40%)	27 (22.5%)	120



As the table shows we can say women and girl suffered and also suffering from abuse, which show our society stand where, which society say that girls and women are the shadow of “Devi” those deny this also. This is ridicules thing.

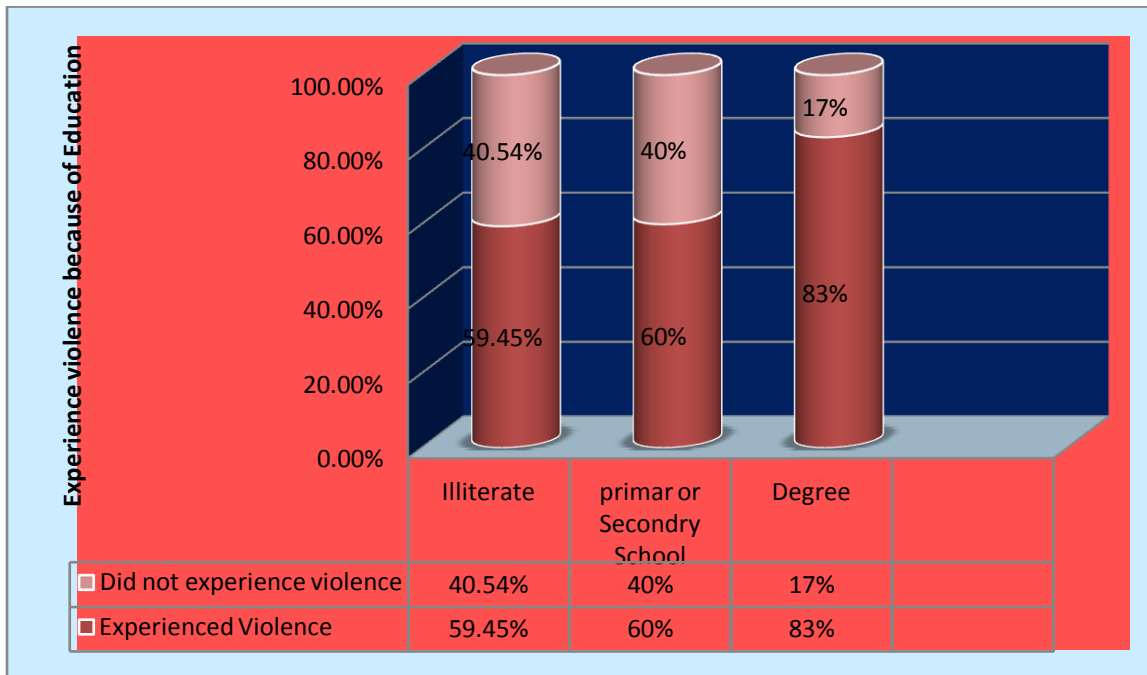
Know someone who is experiencing violence				
	Yes	No	Don't know/ No response	Total
In her family circle	66 (55%)	24(20%)	30(25%)	120
In her neighborhood	84 (70%)	21(17.5)	15(12.5%)	120
Among friends	77(64.16)	24 (20%)	19(15.83%)	120



Women respondents said that 55% women in their family circle expiring violence, whereas 70% women in their neighborhood and 64.16% women among them friends.

#### Experience violence because of Education

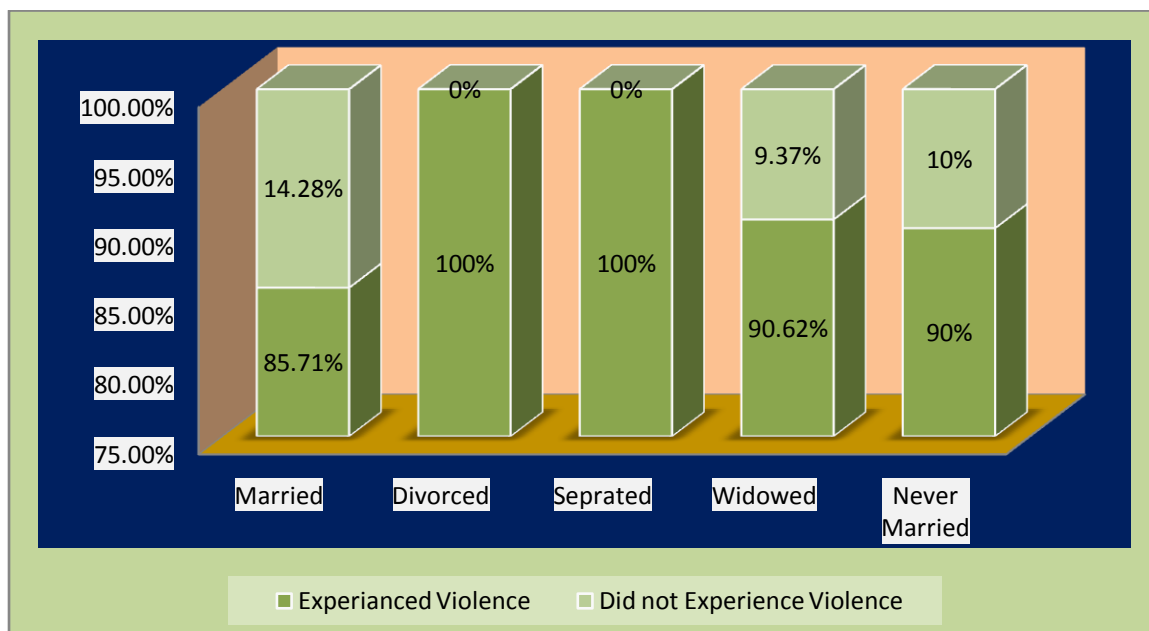
Education	Experienced violence	Did not experience violence	Total
Illiterate( 74)	44 (59.45%)	30 (40.54%)	<b>74</b>
Primary or secondary school (40)	24 (60%)	16(40%)	<b>40</b>
Degree (06)	83.33% (05%)	01 (16.66%)	<b>06</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>120</b>



Being of illiterate number in 44 out of 120 respondents said that they experience violence. 88.33% degree holder women also experienced violence.

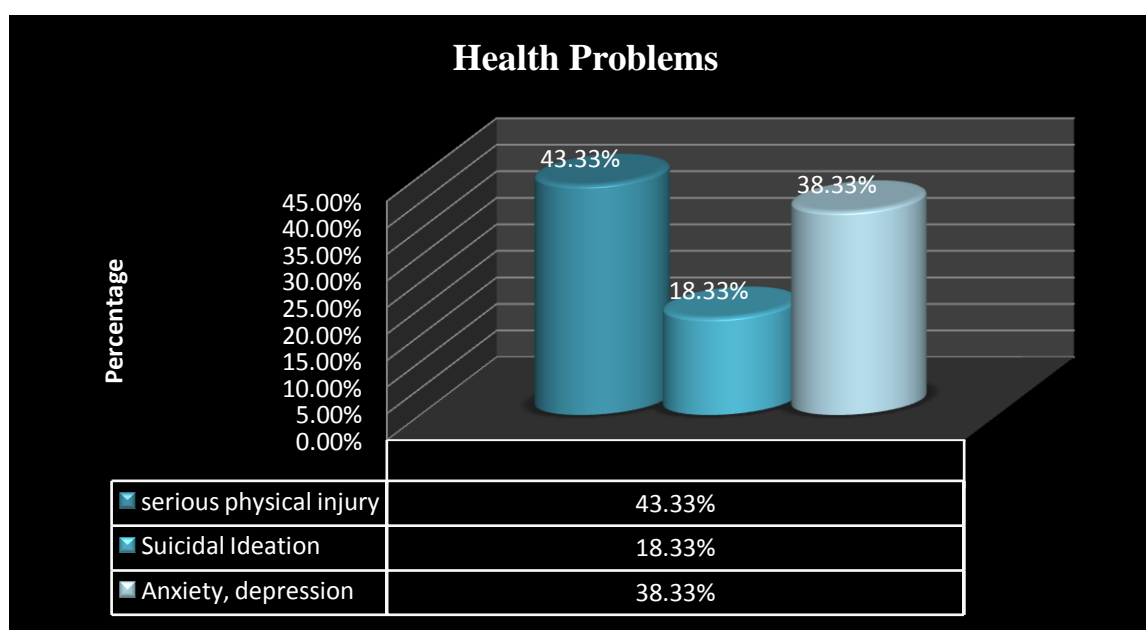
#### Distribution of women by lifetime experience of violence and marital status

Marital status	Experienced violence	Did not experience violence	Total
Married (42)	36(85.71%)	06 (14.28%)	42
Divorced (08)	08 (100%)	00(0%)	08
Separated (28)	28 (100%)	00 (0%)	28
Widowed (32)	29 (90.62%)	03 (9.37%)	32
Never-married (10)	09 (90%)	01 (10%)	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>120</b>



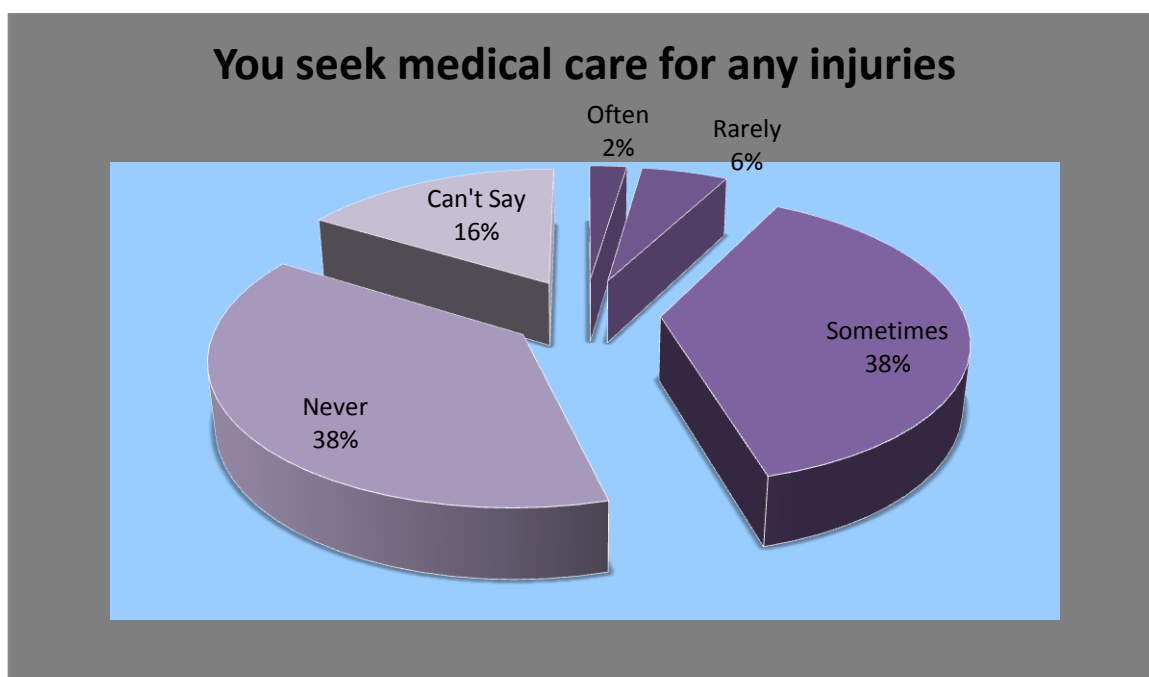
### Perceived consequences of violence on women's health

Health problems during experience of violence	
Health problems	Number (%)
Serious physical injury requiring medical attention (wounds, cuts, bleeding, loss of teeth, loss of hearing etc.)	52 (43.33%)
Suicidal ideation	22(18.33%)
Anxiety, sleeplessness, depression	46(38.33%)
Total	120



43.33% respondents said that because of Physical violence they suffer serious physical injury, like wounds, cuts, bleeding, loss of teeth, and loss of hearing. 38.33% said that they are suffering anxiety, sleeplessness, and depression

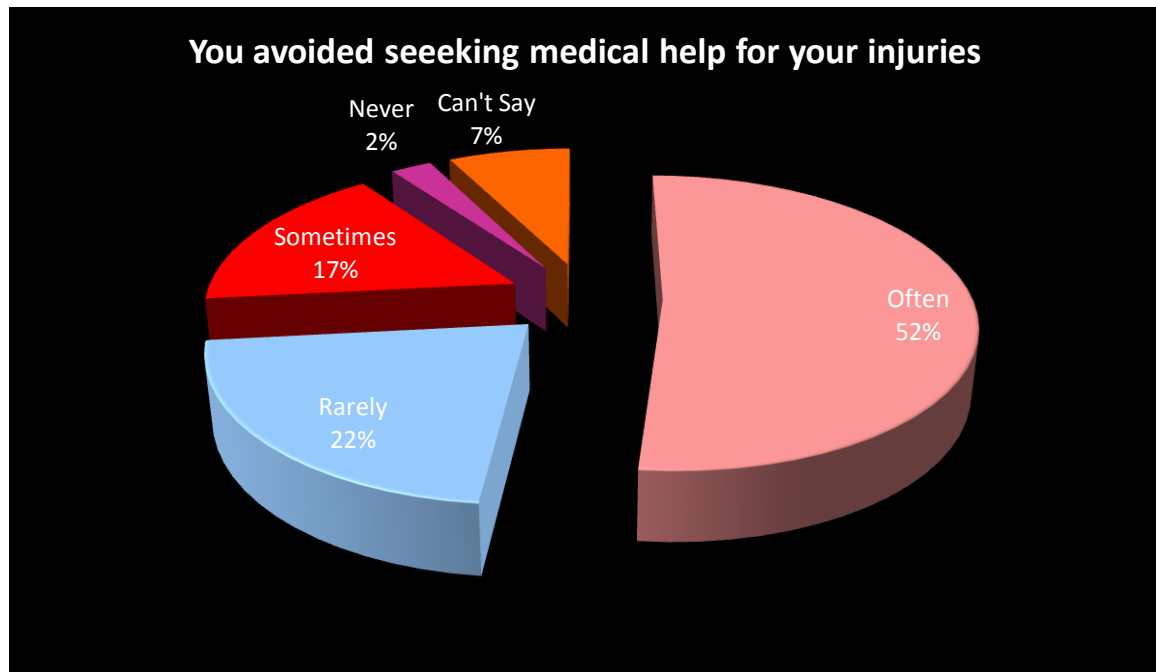
Have you seek medical care for any injuries sustained thus?					
	Often	Rarely	Sometimes	Never	Can't say
	03 (02.5%)	07 (05.83%)	49 (40.83%)	40 (40.83%)	21(17.5%)



40.83% respondents said that they sometimes and never seek medical care for any Injuries. 2.5% said they often seek medical care for any injuries.

### Have you avoided seeking medical help for your injuries?

Often	Rarely	Sometimes	Never	Can't say
62 (51.66%)	26 (21.66%)	20 (16.66%)	03 (02.5%)	09 (07.5%)



52% respondents said that often they avoided seeking medical help for their injuries. 16.66% said that sometimes they seek medical help for their injuries.

## **FINDINGS**

Most of the women said that their husband and family members bitten them. Some of the women said that their husband beaten them and their earn money snatch by their husbands. Women said that their family member does not treat them well and they do not give them proper food and basic necessary things.

Every decisions regarding children's, education, and house related is taking by their husband and their family members. Women said that they earned for their daily basic need and also for fulfill their family needs.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The concept of violence against women needs to be concern.
- Every woman has an equal opportunity to live as a human being because it is a basic human right.
- The society and government need to empathies with the violence against women and frame laws, policies accordingly.



- Propaganda can be channeled regarding their welfare through print, electronic media and also via social networking sites to generate awareness.

Every 'women', is a human being, be it in the formal or informal sector, and need to be treated with dignity.

## **FIELD EXPERIENCE**

- ✿ Many of the respondents were hesitant in responding to questions. This creates a problem to prove and interpret their answers.
- ✿ Financial constraint, limited area of research work and small sample size made the research work a little difficult.
- ✿ After complete the study researcher have feel difficulties encounter in the part of her research actually helped her.
- ✿ Competition of research made the researcher aware of the so marginalization faced by women in slums.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

Gender based violence should be dealt as a psychosocial problem apart from a medical problem. Risk of physical violence against women cannot be lowered merely by improving female literacy. There is a need of some further community-based psychosocial interventions to cope with Indian situations to tackle the problem.

## **CONCLUSION**

High prevalence rate of physical violence indicates that the problem should be dealt as a public health problem. There is a need of some further community-based psychosocial interventions to cope with Indian situations to tackle the problem.

## **MY HYPOTHESIS FRAMED HAS BEEN PROVED RIGHT**

- ✿ My first hypothesis has been proved that Main reason of gender based Physical violence among slums women is money and narrow minded thinking.
- ✿ My second hypothesis has been proved that the nature of gender based Physical Violence among Women in Slums is drag, kick & slap.
- ✿ My third hypothesis has been proved that economic factors are contributing Physical violence.
- ✿ My fourth hypothesis has been proved that depression and mental disbalance are main consequences of violence on women health.

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