

**Domestic Violence and Women Empowerment  
among Low Income Communities in  
Coimbatore City**

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## **CONCLUSIONS:**

To sum up, the study confirms that the level of violence experienced was high and pervasive among the low income communities in urban slums of Coimbatore. Women are constantly facing violence in the form of physical, psychological and economic abuse for a long time in their marital house but still don't ask for support. The basic reason is socio-cultural and economic, illiteracy and ignorance, about rights and remedies. The other reasons for not opting out of domestic violence are fear of being socially isolated, lack of alternative means of economic support, concern for the children and emotional dependence. Living in a violent relationship affects the sense of self-esteem of a woman and her willingness to engage in society and contribute to the economy's growth. Via vocational training, job opportunities and support networks, programmes to help women empower themselves need to recognise the possible negative effects for these women, such as an increased risk of domestic violence. Therefore, appropriate approaches and policies that can help effectively reduce domestic violence need to be created.

## **SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Attempts are being made by the government and voluntary organisations to end or reduce violence against women. The government's measures are in the form of enacting suitable legislation, issuing orders and introducing different welfare schemes for women. Their execution, however, still remains tardy, and government officials are not gender responsive at the lower level. The following recommendations to reduce / mitigate domestic violence are made in light of the above findings:

- ✓ Massive campaigns against Alcoholism, Dowry, drug abuse etc. should be organised to minimise the incidence of domestic violence.
- ✓ In order to move forward as a nation, significant changes in the socio-cultural structure of the country are required and can only be achieved by generating general awareness among the masses about the role of women and their empowerment and gender balance in society..

- ✓ A statutory legislation that includes a wider concept of domestic abuse should be in place. The term should include all physical, psychological, mental, sexual, and financial violence activities that injure or degrade the woman. Laws on the safety of women's rights and the prevention of domestic abuse without any loopholes should be made more stringent and enforced.
- ✓ Laws on the protection of women rights and the prevention of domestic violence should be made more strict and enforced without any loopholes.
- ✓ In order to eliminate gender inequality, policies and programmes should be developed and women should be given equal opportunities in all facets of life.
- ✓ Media should be used to sensitise the officials and the public percent regarding domestic violence and develop a constructive mindset towards women victims.
- ✓ Domestic violence victims are often uneducated, backward and economically deprived. It is important to make legal aid and advice accessible to them at no cost.
- ✓ Policies and developmental projects should be designed to give women more say in political, economic, and social matters. Strengthening communities around women in urban areas can foster a social norm against domestic violence.
- ✓ Given the potential of economic empowerment to increase conflict in the short term, programmes must predict these risks and integrate training for staff and safety preparation for women to minimise the negative effects of changes in household gender roles.
- ✓ Gender sensitisation and awareness generation programmes on domestic abuse should become a part of the school and university curriculum. This will help bring about a change in the mindset of generations to come.

- ✓ More counseling centers with highly trained counselors should be started in rural / urban areas that focus more on victims of domestic abuse. It is necessary to make pre-marital and post-marital counseling compulsory, resulting in the breaking down of families being mitigated.
- ✓ In order to recognise and respond more effectively to cases of domestic violence against women in particular and crimes against women in general, the federal and state governments should conduct annual training programmes for law enforcement officers, judges, other court officials and prosecutors.
- ✓ Data collection and coordination mechanisms should be implemented at the earliest, connecting police, prosecutors and courts to detect sexual harassment against women.

Domestic violence prevention at the national level relies on the level of public and government involvement to make prevention a long-term priority and to establish a cohesive, coordinated and integrated plan for each community. A national zero tolerance policy for domestic violence, taking into account the pervasiveness and risks of domestic violence, is required.

#### **Future Research:**

Some of the areas that need to be discussed are:

- ✓ Domestic abuse among elderly women.
- ✓ Effects of domestic violence on children.
- ✓ Domestic violence among females in live-in-relationship.
- ✓ Health effects of domestic abuse
- ✓ Community responses to the domestic violence issue.
- ✓ The attitude of women towards abuse.
- ✓ Domestic Violence among rural and urban women.