



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT - 2005: A STUDY IN WARANGAL DISTRICT

Dr. Donthi Ravinder

Department of Public Administration & HRM, Kakatiya University, Warangal.

Abstract

Globally, women make up slightly over 50% of the world population though they receive only a small proportion of the world's opportunities and benefits (Davison and Cooper 1981, Gender and Society 2004, SADC 1997, 1999, 2004). Although they do two thirds of the world's work, women earn one tenth of the world's income and own one hundredth of the world's property (United nations 2000). It has further been concluded that there is no country in the world in which women's quality of life is equal to that of men in terms of longevity, health status, education opportunities, employment and political rights.

Introduction

Women have a unique position in every society whether developed, developing or under developed. This is particularly due to the various roles they play during various stage of their life, as a daughter, wife, mother and sister etc. In spite of her contribution in the life of every individual human being, she still belongs to a class or group of society which is in a disadvantaged position on account of several social barriers and impediments. She has been the victim of tyranny at the hands of men who dominate the society. The position of Indian women is no better compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world. On one hand she is held in high esteem by one and all, worshipped, considered as the embodiment of tolerance and virtue. But on the other hand she has been the victim of untold miseries, hardships, and atrocities caused and perpetuated by the male dominated society.

The Status of Women during Vedic Period

During the Vedic period women had an exalted position and they enjoyed a fair amount of personal freedom and equality. The institution of marriage was a sacrament uniting the parties in an indissoluble union. The husband and wife stood on an equal footing. The position of the wife was an honored one in the household. She was regarded as an indispensable member of the family without whom the consummation of human life was not possible, without a wife. The home was not considered a home. She was the very centre of the domestic world and was its empress.

The seeds of Domestic violence were sworn by **Manu** and other Dharma Shastras. **Manu** describes wife as the divine institution given by **God** and that a husband cannot make any progress if there is no wife beside him to co-operate in all his activities, yet he also says, "Husband is the Lord and Master of his wife"

After Independence

Efforts have been the drafting of the constitution of this century enshrining the principle of equality, liberty and social Justice.

The framers of the constitution were aware of the sociology of the problem of emancipation of the female sex. They realised that equality was important for the development of the nation. It was evident that in order to eliminate inequality and to provide opportunities for the exercise of human rights it was necessary to promote education and economic interests of women. It became the objective of the state to protect women from exploitation and provide social justice. All these ideals were enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution..

The Indian Penal Code contains provisions to check dowry related offences. Section 304-B, - IPC deals with **Dowry Deaths**, Its does not deal with cruelty not referable to dowry harassment. Section 498 – A IPC formulated in 1983 address the cases of cruelty and harassment of woman at home by their husbands, or by the members of their family. This section empowers women to fight against **Domestic violence**. The main feature of the section is that it gives women quick relief as well as some bargaining power as the accused is taken into custody. Since its incorporation, this provision has become quite controversial with different points of view being put forward by the Police, Lawyers and Women's Groups. Due to certain deficiencies in the legal provisions and ineffective enforcement by the state machinery the offenders are going **Scot free**. The unfettered discretion of the judge in passing sentences has led to disparity in sentencing process. Gender injustice by the formal justice delivery system eroded the credibility of the Judiciary. In the process, the victims struggling for justice switched over to non formal justice delivery system given this background, the researcher also felt the need to study the cases filed under these provision of IPC.



Instances of the Most Common Forms of Abusive Behavior against the Married Women Are As Follows

Physical Violence: Direct Physical violence ranging from unwanted physical contact to murder. Also indirect physical violence, including destruction of objects, striking or throwing objects near the victim, causing harm.

Beating, Slapping, Hitting, Biting, Kicking, Punching, Pushing, Shaving or Causing bodily pain or injuring in any other manner fall under physical violence.

Sexual violence: This includes rape and instances of coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force, unwanted sexual acts and sexual assaults.

Forced sexual intercourse; forces one to look at pornography or any other obscene pictures or material; Any act of sexual nature to abuse, humiliate or degrade women, or which is otherwise violative of woman's dignity or any other unwelcome conduct of sexual nature, child sexual abuse.

Verbal and Emotional Violence: Verbal threats of Physical violence to the victim, the self or others, including children, ranging from explicit, detailed and impending to implicit and vague as to both content and time frame. Non verbal threats like gestures, facial expressions and body postures.

Insults, Name – calling, Accusations on women character or conduct etc; Insults for not having a male child; Insults for not bringing dowry, preventing woman or a child in woman's custody from attending school, college or any other educational institution; preventing woman from taking up a job; forcing a woman to leave a job; preventing woman or a child in woman custody from leaving the house; preventing women; course of events; Forcing woman to get married when women do not want to marry; preventing woman from marrying a person of her own choice; Forcing woman to marry a particular person of her own choice; Threat to commit suicide; Any other verbal or emotional abuse.

Economical violence: Controlling the victims money and other economic resources, preventing the Victim from seeing friends and relatives, actively sabotaging the victim's social relationships and isolating her from the society include forms of economic and social abuse.

Not providing women money for maintaining women or children, Not providing food, Clothes, Medicines etc., for women or women and children, stopping women from carrying an women employment or, Taking away women's income from women's salary, wages etc, Not allowing women to use women's salary, wages, etc; Forcing women to leave the house stopping women from accessing or using any part of the house, not allowing use of clothes, articles or things of general household use, Not paying rent if staying in a rented accommodation, etc. fall under economic violence meted against women.

Scope and Importance of Problem

Warangal is a historical place, is also known as "Orugallu", and once upon a time ruled by Kakatiya Dynasty is now known as Warangal. Warangal is a tri-city town (Kazipet, Hanamkonda, Warangal) along with all the revenue mandals in the District has been selected to collect the field data. Warangal is fast developing Municipal Corporation City, many revenue villages are adjacent to the district head quarters with in a radius of Six (06) Kilometers. This district is a fast developing district and over the years it has witnessed a tremendous spatial and lateral development. Warangal is also known for Educational Institutions, Agriculture, business, etc., as such large number of people is migrated from rural areas to Urban areas (Warangal, Hanamkonda, Kazipet). Hence 'Warangal' has been selected for the purpose of field study. The field area is also, chosen keeping in view of the 'convenience' of the researcher. Since very few studies have been conducted on "Gender and Violence – Case studies of Victims of Domestic Violence in Warangal District", the researcher felt that any 'area' may be equally representative to present the data. For the purpose of study, secondary data was collected from Project Director and Protection Officer, District Women and Child Development Agency, Warangal District the data are recorded as per proformas.

The number of cases registered with Protection Officer in Warangal District are 203, solved are 87. The Domestic Incident Reports filed are 85 cases, withdrawn or no response cases are 23. No. of cases compromised after Domestic Incident Report filed are 8.

Objective of the Study

1. To examine the causes leading to domestic violence of women.
2. To portray the socio – economic profiles of a few victims of domestic violence in Warangal District.
3. To assess the role of Protective Mechanism in the implementation of Domestic Violence Act, 2005.



- To study the welfare measures provided by the State Government through Women and Child Development Agency to accommodate the victims of domestic violence.
- To suggest the remedial measures.

Methodology

The primary data was also collected with the help of questionnaire served to the victims of domestic violence and interviews were held with Project Director and Protection Officer of District Women and Child Development Agency in Warangal District.

The secondary data was collected from the Bare Act i.e. Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The data was also collected from reported cases and relevant articles published in Journals, News Papers and Magazines' and Seminar Papers and columns regarding Domestic Violence and Thesis.

Limitation of the Study

- Due to time and energy constraints the primary data was collected from the victims of Domestic Violence Act, 2005 where the cases occurred between October 2006 to October 2008 a two year period, of Warangal District.
- Further case studies of all the victims especially of pending cases were also not studied as they were under observation.

As per the Domestic Violence Act – there is prescribed format in which Domestic Incident Report is written and forwarded by the Protection Officer to the Magistrate. It is signed by the Protection Officer and bears her signature with office seal and date. A copy of Domestic Incident Report is forwarded to

- Local Police Station
- Service Provider
- Aggrieved Person
- Magistrate

Table – I: Status of the Cases Registered Under Domestic Violence Act (October 2010 to October 2015)

Sl. No.		Total	Percentage
1.	Number of cases compromised at Counseling level	86	43
2.	Number of Domestic Incidental Reports filed	84	42
3.	Number of cases withdrawn (No response)	22	11
4.	Number of cases compromised after filing the Domestic Incident Report	8	4
	Total number of petitions received under Domestic Violence Act 2005	200	100

Source: Women and Child Development Agency, Warangal District, .

The total number of cases registered with Protection Officer is 200, solved are 86 and the cases available at the stage of Counseling Level are 86. Domestic Incidents Reported filed with the office of Protection Officer before Magistrate are 84. The above said cases have been studied by the Researcher by selecting Five cases from each category of Four different types of Domestic Violence. One case pertaining to economic settlement was settled below 60 days by the court of law. It was studied in detail. The cases withdrawn or cases with no response are 22. Number of cases compromised after filing Domestic Incident Reports are 8 in number.

The Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is a Central Enactment, and its enactment is entrusted to the State Government. It is the State Government which appoints the Protection Officers, identifies the Service Providers and authorizes the Medical Facility and Shelter-Homes to receive the aggrieved women. The Magistrate and the Protection Officers are the active agents who enforce the provisions of this Act effectively.

Table – III: Category Wise Status of Cases Registered Under Domestic Violence Act - 2005 as On October 2015

Sl.No.	Nature of Violence	No. of DIRs
1.	Verbal & Emotional	32
2.	Sexual	8
3.	Physical	21
4.	Economic	24
	Total No. of DIRs	85

Source: Women and Child Development Agency, Warangal District.



Table – III gives the information pertaining Domestic Incident Reports filed by the victims of Domestic Violence in Warangal District. Out of 85 cases have been booked under Verbal and Emotional Category are 32. Verbal and emotional offences are being committed against the women by the Respondents (husband). Generally it is the spouses, in laws who often pick up quarrels on petty things with the victims in the presence of children. As a consequence the children suffer both mentally and physically. Usually it is the arrogant behaviour of spouses that leads to verbal and emotional offences in the family.

In eight cases registered under sexual harassment category the reasons are as follows, husbands insisting unnatural sexual practices upon the wives, forcing the wives for sexual inter course despite their gynaecological problems. At times husbands insist the wives to entertain dearselves and others.

In the present study about 21 cases are registered under physical harassment. Most of the husbands in intoxicated state owing to excess consumption of alcohol and drugs, subjected the wives to physical violence by way of beating, slapping & kicking etc.

The Domestic Violence Act, 2005

There can be 4 (Four) types of reasons for the occurrence of Domestic Violence.

- 1) Verbal & Emotional Harassment
2. Sexual Harassment
3. Physical Harassment
4. Economic Harassment

Verbal & Emotional Harassment

Use of cheap language and gestures aimed at insulting or ridiculing the women and their associates and their children with a view to see to send the women out of the household. Repeated acts of intimidation and depriving the woman of the benefits of shared house-hold will also come under verbal and emotional abuse.

Accusation / Suspicion of wife's character insulting the wife for not bringing the dowry & not conceiving, children & more so a male child. Demeaning remarks, statements, ridicule, name calling, forcing the wife not to attend school, college or any other-educational institution, preventing her from leaving the home and preventing her from meeting any particular person fall under verbal & emotional harassment.

Though all 85 cases, of victim of Domestic Violence have been studied by the researcher, 32 cases fall under verbal and emotional category. For the purpose of present study the researcher has picked up 1 cases for a detailed study under the same category. They are

Dhanamma

Dhanamma is a resident of Mutyalammagudem of Thorrur Mandal in Warangal Dist. She is a housewife, aged about 38 years. Her husband Machaiah is about 45 years. Their marriage was performed at Mutyalammagudem according to Hindu Customs and rites, at the parent's house of Dhanamma. They were married 18 years ago, in the year 1990. Immediately after the marriage Dhanamma joined the family of her husband at Thorrur in Warangal District. After one year Dhanamma was blessed with a female child. Her daughter Mamta is 18 year old now.

Dhanamma and Machaiah led a very happy life for nearly of 10 years. Thereafter she was subjected to harassment by husband. Domestic Violence inflicted on her by way of beating, demeaning, humiliating or with ridiculous remarks Machaiah never gave enough money to his wife for running the family and neglected the daughter, she was looked down upon when it was questioned by Dhanamma, Machaiah used to abuse her in filthy language and often beat her for raising voice against him.

Dhanamma was in her husband's house at the time of filing the Domestic Event Report to protect her from her husband under the Domestic Violence Act. As per the desire of the aggrieved person, the counsellor has taken steps in arriving at a settlement in the case.

On occurrence of Domestic Violence, Dhanamma reported the matter to the Protection Officer on 24-11-2006. Dhanamma submitted her application to the Protection Officer, Domestic Violence Act (cell) and Legal Aid and Family Counselling Centre, situated in Collectorate Warangal. But the Domestic Incident Report (DIR) was submitted to the Magistrate by the Protection Officer on 6.11.2007. The researcher observed that there was enormous delay in the process of finalisation of the case. There was a delay of 11 months 12 days in submission of DIR, Owing to delayed counselling.



Based upon the complaint of the aggrieved Woman (Dhanamma), proceedings were initiated against her husband, As part of the proceedings, family council proceedings were also taken up, for resolving the matter. It is learnt that there is a possibility of arriving at consensus of the problem to the satisfaction of the aggrieved person in the near future.

Sexual Harassment

Any incident, gesture aimed at securing sexual contact and all such gestures which otherwise humiliate, denigrate or violate the dignity of women amount to sexual abuse. Touching delicate parts of women constitute sexual abuse.

1. Forcing unnatural sexual practice upon the wife.
2. Husband insisting on sexual intercourse with the wife despite her unwillingness owing to gynaecological problem.
3. Forcing the wife to entertain others.
4. Forced to watch pornography or other obscene material.
5. Child sexual abuse.

Due to sexual harassment the aggrieved woman is under depression, at risk of repetition of such act, facing attempts to commit such acts. Apprehension of aggrieved person, regarding sexual violence:

- 1) Repetition, 2) Escalation, 3) Fear of injury 4) May be other specific reasons also.

It was found that not even one case was disposed off within 60 days of stipulated period, 8 cases were kept in pending though the specific period of 60 days for disposal has lapsed. Now in this chapter the Researcher made a modest attempt to examine 1 case subjected to sexual harassment to examine the problem at length. They are:

Bhagyalaxmi

Bhagyalaxmi aged about 34 years is a housewife. Her parents live at Ganguwada village, Tungaturty Mandal of Nalgonda District. Bhagyalaxmi got married to Mallaiah in the year 1987. Now he is 46 year old. At the time of marriage Bhagyalaxmi was very young and could not even understand the meaning of marriage when she got married.

After the marriage the New Bride Bhagyalaxmi and the Bridegroom (Mallaiah) came to Nellikuduru Village together which is the conjugal home of Bhagyalaxmi. They lead their matrimonial life at Nellikuduru. After one year, they were blessed with a female child, Anitha. She is 14 year old now. Thereafter, with a gap of two years for each issue – two female children were born to Bhagyalaxmi and Mallaiah. They are Saritha & Kavitha who are 12 year and 10 year of age now.

After the birth of the last daughter Kavitha, Mallaiah started abusing his wife for not giving birth to male child. Mallaiah was an easy going person and never felt responsible to earn money to run the family. Therefore, he used to insist his wife to entertain others to make easy money. This was not liked by Bhagyalaxmi, and she used to fight with her husband on this issue.

Mallaiah was sadist and used to harass and beat her for no fault of hers and use to force the wife for sexual intercourse. He started preventing his wife from going out of the shared house even to meet daily domestic needs. Mallaiah always used filthy language in a drunken state and forced her to entertain other men-to-earn money, to lead a comfortable life. Mallaiah did not permit his wife in utilizing her Stridhan which she got from her parents at the time of marriage. He did not bother to provide her food and clothes to his wife and children for quite sometime.

Bhagyalaxmi tried her best in changing the behaviour of her husband with the help of others, but her attempts became futile. As there was no other way to compromise over the issue she approached the Protection Officer of Domestic Violence Act (cell) and Legal Aid and Family Counselling Center, Warangal, with a written complaint against her husband, Mallaiah. The Protection Officer received the complaint and Domestic Incident Report was prepared and was submitted to the Magistrate D.V.C. No.4/06. The application was received by the Magistrate on 22-12-2006. The case was registered under the cause of Sexual Harassment. The Domestic Incident Report prepared and submitted to the Magistrate by the Protection Officer on 3.11.2007. There was a delay of 10 months 11 days in submission of DIR due to delayed counselling.

The aggrieved woman Bhagyalaxmi's parents live at Nalgonda District. Presently she is also residing with them at Nalgonda. The efforts were made for counselling, for bringing about reconciliation between the wife and husband, by the Counselling Centre through the counselors.



There was enormous delay in arranging counselling for husband and wife to sort out the issue. In the present case the claimant and her children were not immediately provided shelter by the Women and Child Development Agency. Since the aggrieved party hails from Nalgonda district delay occurred in the case due to communication problems too.

However, the case was registered under sexual harassment about one year ago. Still the case was pending in the concerned Magistrate's Court of Law.

Physical Harassment

Physical Violence is the intentional use of physical force for causing injury, harm, disability or death. Injuries inflicted on women can be external injury on the body or internal injuries to the body. The injury may be simple, grievous or fatal injury. The aggrieved woman can get medical facility under section 7 of the Act. Beating, Slapping, Hitting, Biting, Kicking, Punching, Pushing, Shaving or causing body pain or injury in any other manner comes under physical harassment.

Any willful conduct by the husband which is of such a nature as is likely to drive the wife to commit suicide or to cause grave injury to danger to life, limb or health whether mental or physical harassment inflicted by the husband.

In the foregoing pages 1 case of women who are subjected to physical harassment by their spouses are presented for an in-depth analysis of domestic violence meted out to women. They are:

Lalitha

Lalitha (30), is a housewife and Lalitha's parents and in-laws belong to the same village Redlawada (V), Nekkonda (M) of Warangal District. Lalitha got married to Raghu 11 years ago in the year 2007. Her marriage was performed as per Hindu Customs and tradition at her natal home. After the marriage Lalitha joined the matrimonial society of her husband. They led a happy matrimonial life for nearly 5 years. Thereafter Raghu subjected Lalitha to Domestic Violence by way of making defamatory allegations against her, insulting her, abused her and humiliated her & he sent her away forcibly from the shared household.

Lalitha's husband did not provide her food, clothes and medicine. He did not give money even for the daily domestic expenditure. Raghu used to beat Lalitha stating that she could not conceive children for him. He tortured her both mentally and physically every day. She did not complain to any one about the harassment of her husband, keeping in view of the family respect with a ray of hope that her husband would change his attitude in near future.

But there was no end to physical harassment in fact it was increased. Hence, she approached the "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (Cell) and Legal Aid and Family Counselling Center, Warangal", with a written complaint and complained against her husband Raghu. The Protection Officer received the complaint on 12-12-2006 and the Domestic Incident Report was prepared and submitted to the Magistrate (Domestic Violence Case No.16/06). The case was registered under the cause of Physical Harassment. The Domestic Incident Report (DIR) was submitted to Magistrate by the Protection Officer on 01.06.2007. There was delay of 5 months 19 days in filing DIR due to delayed family counselling.

Under the General order, pertaining to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Rules – 2006, Lalitha sought the relief to stop the Domestic Violence as complained / reported. She could have sought Residence order Under Section 19 of the Act. At the time of writing the Dissertation, the case was pending in court of law and the case was not concluded within 60 days as said in the Act. The researcher expected amicable settlement between the two parties i.e., the applicant/aggrieved woman and the respondent/ husband.

Economic Harassment

This refers to deprivation of all or any economic or financial resources to which the aggrieved person is entitled under Law. Whether payable under an order of a Court or otherwise or which the aggrieved person requires out of necessity including, but not limited to, household necessities for the aggrieved person and her children, if any Stridhan, property, jointly or separately owned by the aggrieved person, payment of rental related to the shared house hold and maintenance.

Disposal of household effects, any alienation of assets whether movable or immovable, valuables, shares, securities, bonds and the like or other property in which the aggrieved person has an interest or is entitled to use by virtue of the domestic relationship or which may be reasonably required by the aggrieved person or her children or her Stridhan or any other property jointly or separately held by the aggrieved person and prohibition or restriction to continued access to resources or facilities which the aggrieved person is entitled to use or enjoy by virtue of the domestic relationship including access to the shared house hold.



Stridhan includes movable or immovable property. Movables such as cash, ornaments, etc., immovables include land or house etc.

Ornaments may be given to daughter by the parents at the time of marriage for her exclusive use. Neither the husband nor her in-laws should use it for their benefit and such ornaments form the part of Stridhan.

Economic harassment is multi dimensional. Not providing money to the aggrieved woman, for maintaining herself and the children, not providing food, clothes, medicines, etc. stopping woman from continuing employment, or disturbing her in her employment, not allowing her to take up an employment; or taking away her income, wages etc. not allowing her to use her salary or wage etc., forcing her to vacate the house, stopping the her from having access or using any part of the house, not allowing to use clothes, articles or things of general household & not paying rent if staying in a rented accommodation etc., fall under economic harassment.

Shrivani

Shrivani (35) is a housewife. She got married to Rajaram about 19 years ago in 1990. Rajaram is 42 year old. The marriage was performed as per the Hindu Customs and Rites at the parents' house of Shrivani at Gollapally Village, Kamalapur Mandal of Karimnagar District. At the time of marriage the parents of Shrivani had given dowry and other valuable household articles to in-laws.

After marriage Shrivani joined the conjugal society of her husband at Mallareddypalli Village, Hasanparthy Mandal of Warangla District. Out of the wedlock they were blessed with three children. They are Archana (15), Srinivas (10), Alekya (8). Her husband maintained a very good and cordial relation with Shrivani till the birth of the third child. Thereafter the husband Rajaram subjected the wife and children to Domestic Violence. Due to this the children became panic and suffered from severe anxiety, fear sleeplessness and disturb.

The Respondent Rajaram demanded that the victim should bring more money from somewhere. He denied food, clothing & shelter to wife & children. Apart from subjecting her to Domestic Violence, the husband harassed and demanded the wife to get additional dowry. This irresponsible behaviour of her husband continued and was not ended, inspite of the efforts made by the Shrivani and elders in changing his behaviour.

The aggrieved woman Shrivani approached the "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence act (cell) and Legal Aid and Family Counselling Center, Warangal", with a written complaint and complained against her husband Rajaram to the Protection Officer. The Protection Officer received a complaint on 22-12-2006 and the Domestic Incident Report was prepared and submitted to the Magistrate under Domestic Violence (Case No.05/06). The case was registered under the economic harassment. The Domestic Incident Report prepared and submitted to the Magistrate, by the Protection Officer on 03.11.2007. However there was a delay of 10 months 11 days in submission of Domestic Incident Report, due to delayed counselling.

At the time of giving the complaint, the aggrieved woman and her three minor children were not living in the shared household. Though she was entitled for the relief of getting Residence Order under section 19 of the Domestic Violence Act, from the Magistrate, the applicant preferred for counselling expecting that the authoritative attitude of husband comes to an end. So that she can lead a happy matrimonial life in the shared household with her husband.

The counselling proceeding was yet to yield fruitful results. The counselling was done by the family experts and legal experts. The Cell, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence and Legal Aid Centre and Women & Child Development Agency were doing their best in changing the atmosphere of unpleasant home into a happy home.

Conclusion

Women are generally treated as subordinate to men. Despite constitutional provisions and equal rights to women is not treated on par with men because of prevalent patriarchal culture in our society. From her birth to death she is subjected to discrimination and harassment treated as inferior then the male members of the family. Even after her marriage many a woman in a majority of the families are subjected to mental or physical harassment.

The forms of Domestic violence inflicted on the women by her husband and relatives include 1) Verbal and Emotional, 2) Sexual Harassment, 3) Physical Harassment, 4) Economic Harassment.



Misunderstanding, egoism, frustration are on increase for various reasons. Nowadays matrimonial peace has been shattered in the families. These problems are highly complex as they involve human relationship.

The protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (43 of 2005) and the protection of women from Domestic Violence Rules 2006 (w.e.f. 26.10.2006), had been enacted by Parliament to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the constitution who are often victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

In spite of Domestic Violence Act enacted by the Central Government. The progress remains far from reality since the laws are more honoured in theory rather than in execution. But in all other cases were not solved within the stipulated period of 60 days. As a result, the purpose for which the Domestic Violence Act 2005 has come into vogue has been deleted and the purpose was not served. The delayed counselling proceedings and the lack of prompt action to resave the victims and children was not due in true spirit.

The Act says cases registered under Domestic Violence must be cleared within a stipulated period of 60 days. In Warangal District over a period of two years 203 cases have been registered 23 withdrawn after counselling so many complaints have been filed with protection officer later Domestic Incident Report, have been filed in court of Law. Cases have been filed under verbal, emotional, sexual exploitation physical and economic exploitation. But out of cases it is only in one case i.e. in Kamamma's case where the son had taken possession of her mother's land and denied her minimum food the court come to her rescue and gave an injunction order to prevent such harassment and to look after the nonagenarian mother.

Suggestions

1. The patriarchal attitudes of the society should be changed drastically. Without changing the patriarchal culture it is impossible to change the fate of women.
2. The concept of gender equality has to be incorporated in education system and it should be taught to children right from KG to give equality to women.
3. Girls should be given an opportunity to stand on their own. This will give them a much-needed identity to defy male chauvinism and oppression.
4. The number of Shelter Homes & Special Care Centres to be increased to receive the aggrieved women under the Act at the District Level.
5. At each mandal level, Shelter Home need to be established. The Government should provide sufficient funds for maintaining the shelter homes.
6. The Protection Officers seem to enjoy more powers under the Act. The Act does not speak about its implementation in rural areas where women are subjected to Domestic Violence at a much higher level. The leaders or members of DWCRA and Self-Help Groups can be chosen as Service Providers and Counsellors to tackle the situation at grass roots.

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