

# Domestic Violence against Women as a Human Rights Violation: A Study of the District Of Balasore

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**Abstract:** As human beings individuals are entitled to human rights. Human rights are universal, indivisible and precious for them. But, today human rights are being violated in each sphere. Especially, women are badly victims of these violations and their lives have been affected even in domestic relationship. Innumerable women are victimized throughout world by domestic violence. In this paper, the problems at both global as well as local level have been highlighted. This is a part of Doctoral work carried on in four sample areas in the district of Balasore in the state of Odisha highlighting acute condition of domestic violence. For this study multistage purposive sample design has been undertaken. The work has been done on the basis of primary source. From the study, it is found that highest percentage of Muslim and tribal women are unaware of their human rights for which they face more cases of violation whether it is inside house or outside. It has been suggested that community based education and awareness should be made involving SHGs, NGOs and Civil society for checking this problem).

**Keywords:** domestic, dowry, empowerment, human rights, violation.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Home; Sweet home, no more holds true for multitudes of victims of domestic violence (Singh, 2010)<sup>1</sup>. Domestic or family violence has been a major cause of human rights violation of human rights of women. This situation is prevailed in almost every country in the world. It normally damages the women's autonomy and sense of self-worth. By domestic violence, the perpetrator usually inflicts bodily injuries, verbal threats and harassment, emotional abuses, proprietary damages, as means of coercion, control, revenge and punishment on the person in an intimate relationship. He commonly does this to control the victims and her action. In consequence of frequent abuses the victim feels herself morally damaged and powerless. This may make her unable to avoid or escape the abuses. Ultimately, the victim is affected with mental disorganization. And this may lead to end one her life. It is studied that one among two women faces domestic violence during her life time in India. Further, in every six hours a newly bride is burnt to kill, killed or cause to suicide in any place in the country. (75% women face domestic violence, 2009)<sup>2</sup>.

On the other hand, the law enforcement officials frequently reinforce the abuser's attempts to demean and control his victim. The police and judicial authorities often dismiss it as 'private' matter. All sorts of abuses like rape, murders, battering are criminalized in all most all countries. But these abuses are tolerated as norms. In many places, who commit domestic violence are prosecuted less vigorously and punished more leniently. In every sphere women face barriers to prosecute the abusers. They, in return, are being mocked by the justice system. Exemption of 'marital rape' in legislations, refusal of police to arrest abusers, pressure for withdrawal of complaints, application of exceptions like 'heat of passion' and 'sudden provocation' in criminal trial, play significant role to make free the abusers from liability.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

The researcher is very clear about the aims and objectives of the research study. Literally, aim means what one wants to achieve while objective is what one will do to achieve that. In this view, the researcher has the objectives below.

- (a) To determine the reporting percentage of cases of domestic violence leading to violation of human rights of women in the district.
- (b) To study the perception of male folk towards the female.
- (c) To study socio, economic, education status of women from Scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, Muslim in comparison to other high caste women in the district of Balasore .
- (d) To envision the activities of civil society, SHGs, NGOs and Governmental agencies to check domestic violence leading to violation of human rights violation of women.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methods that are adopted in the pursuit of a research study are very significant in order to make it scientific, unbiased, and logical. The present study is based on the collection of primary and secondary data. Primary data have been collected through a schedule which was printed. The schedules were made for different categories of respondents like the victims, the relatives of the victims, police, and judges. It contains different questions to get information from different groups of respondents in their respective sphere which have been administered by the researcher in the sample areas like the blocks named Nilagiri, Jaleswar, Bahanaga and Municipal area of the district of Balasore. In short, the questions were made expecting to have inferences on attribution, knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, opinions and behavior of the respondents.

Secondary data have been also collected from several books, journals, news papers, court judgments, data from the courts, etc. Again, data have been collected by visiting several libraries of the state and national library. Materials downloaded from the internet have also facilitated the research work. Methodology applied to a broad category of respondents was emphasized. Again, it was made with building up personal rapport with observation and participation techniques. In case of personal interviews the questions were asked cautiously not damaging the reputation of the respondents which is the biggest challenge in the research work.

### Hypotheses

The research will be based on the following hypotheses:

1. Many cases of domestic violence against women remain unreported and unnoticed in the district of Balasore .
2. Men folks are biased against the women.
3. Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Muslim women are more vulnerable than other high caste women in socio economic status in the district of Balasore .
4. Socio-economic empowerment will help in protecting women from domestic violence.
5. Civil society, SHGs, NGOs, are effective in checking domestic violence against women in Balasore.

## IV. MEANING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a violation of women's human rights. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition, domestic violence is: "the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another; also: a repeated /habitual pattern of such behavior" (Domestic violence, 2013)<sup>3</sup>. However, domestic violence today, as defined by international conventions and by governments, has a much broader definition, including sexual, psychological, economic abuse, threats and isolation. The Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence states that: "domestic violence" shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim" (ibid.)<sup>4</sup>.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) classifies violence against women into three categories: that occurring in the family (Domestic Violence) that occurring within the general community and that perpetrated or condoned by the State. Family violence is defined as follows. "Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation"(ibid.)<sup>5</sup>. Domestic and family violence takes many forms. It involves violent, abusive or intimidating behavior carried out by a partner, care taker or family member to control, dominate or instill fear. It doesn't have to be physical abuse alone. It can be emotional, psychological, financial, sexual or other types of abuse also.

## V. FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS PREVALENCE

Domestic violence has a broader meaning having sexual and psychological harassment, physical and economic forms as discussed below:-

### (A) Sexual harassment:

Before discussing sexual and psychological harassment in the domestic sphere one is to understand sexual harassment. Sexual harassment in India is termed eve teasing and is described as: unwelcome sexual gesture or behaviour whether directly or indirectly as sexually coloured remarks; physical contact and advances; showing pornography; a demand or request for sexual favours; any other unwelcome physical, verbal/non-verbal conduct being sexual in nature and/or passing sexually offensive and unacceptable remarks. Highlighting the societal attitude of man regarding problem Simone de Beauvoir pointed out how women are treated as the other, unknown factor, a deviant from the normal and accepted as –she is simply what man decrees; thus she is called 'the sex', by which is meant that she appears essentially to the male as a sexual being.(Beauvoir, 1997)<sup>6</sup>.

**(I) Stalking:** Stalking is a pattern of harassing or threatening behaviors. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) defines stalking as "repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear". (USDOJ, 2013)<sup>7</sup>. In a 2006 study the DOJ defined "conduct" as: "making unwanted phone calls, sending unsolicited or unwanted letters or emails, following or spying on the victim, showing up at places without a legitimate reason, waiting at places for the victim, leaving unwanted items, presents, or flowers, [and] posting information or spreading rumors about the victim on the internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth." (Catalano, 2013)<sup>8</sup>. Other behaviors that can qualify as stalking include, but are not limited to, looking through the victim's property, taking the victim's property, collecting information on the victim, or taking pictures of the victim.

**Technology-Aided Stalking:** With the rising use of and reliance on technology, stalking opportunities have expanded. The use of technology for stalking ranges greatly. Technology-aided stalking is widespread and difficult to control or stop. The most common methods of technology-aided stalking are as follows:-

**Personal Information and Social Media-** Social media can also be a dangerous tool for stalkers to gain and spread information about victims. Stalkers often use social media sites to see who the victim's friends are, what activities she participates in, and where she goes. Stalkers can find this information in pictures, event calendars and other common applications. In addition to gaining information about a victim, the web provides stalkers with tools to easily disseminate photos of and information about the victim. In addition, content can easily be falsified by a stalker, with negative consequences for the victim.

**Contacting the Victim through Technology-** Just as stalkers often contact their victims in person, they can also make use of technology to send unwanted emails, phone calls, texts, instant messages and other methods of interaction such as Twitter and facebook to connect with their victims at an inappropriate and often overwhelming rate. Contacting victims inappropriately through technology is largely prevalent in cases of juvenile stalking, often within current or past romantic relationships. Many youths may not recognize this behavior as stalking. The stalkers also misutilise the Global Positioning System (GPS) available in the cell phones. And this method of stalking has been common for juvenile recently.

**(II) Dating:** Dating violence is a pattern of abusive behavior including emotional, physical, sexual and financial abuse used to exert power and control over a dating partner. It can affect anyone, anywhere, at any age, of any race, class, religion, gender, or sexual identity, and can be present in any dating relationship, whether serious or casual, short-term or long-term, monogamous or not Ibid. It can occur in face-to-face interactions or through technology (text messaging, social networking sites, etc.). And it can occur during a relationship and after a relationship has ended. In fact, the period following a break up is often the most dangerous time for a victim.

**Teen Dating-** Abuse is often hard for teens to recognize in a relationship because they do not have as much dating and relationship experience as adults. Therefore, many teens who experience abuse believe it is a normal part of a relationship. Physical abuse is usually the easiest form for teens to recognize, while others, especially digital abuse, can be much more difficult to identify.

### **(B) Physical Violence:**

**(I) Dowry related violence:** Dowry-related violence is a serious problem that affects the lives of women and girls. Dowry includes gifts, money, goods or property given from the bride's family to the groom or in-laws before, during or anytime after the marriage. Dowry is a response to explicit or implicit demands or expectations of the groom or his family. The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women defines dowry-related violence or harassment as "any act of violence or harassment associated with the giving or receiving of dowry at any time before, during or after the marriage." (UNDAW, 2009)<sup>9</sup>.

While dowry is practiced in many countries in different parts of the world, dowry-related violence is most prevalent in South Asia, in the nations of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The most common forms of dowry-related violence are battering, marital rape, acid throwing, wife burning, and other forms of violence. Perpetrators may also use methods of starvation, deprivation of clothing, evictions, and false imprisonment as a method of extortion. They often use violence disguised as suicides or accidents, such as stove or kerosene disasters, to burn or kill women for failing to meet dowry demands.

**(i) Dowry Torture:** - In modern times dowry is a contemptible social evil. It reduces the sacred institution of marriage to a business transaction. It degrades a young maiden to the level of a saleable commodity. Poor people have to incur heavy debts to provide their daughter with a handsome dowry. This wrecks them financially. The daughters of poor parents consider themselves a burden on their family and they either opt for a life of disgraceful spinsterhood or commit suicide. The dowry system is also an evil since it perpetuates the myth of male superiority. It has ruined the lives of many brilliant girls, because their parents could not afford to give sufficient dowry to satisfy their in-laws. Sometimes the girls commit suicide when their in-laws and husbands torture them to bring more and more money from their parents.

In India the cases of dowry torture is accounted 32.4% of crimes against women in the country in 2012. It is in an increasing trend except a break in 2010. In 2009 numbers of dowry torture cases registered is 5650. In the year 2010 total 5182 numbers of dowry torture cases were registered. In 2011 and 2012 the numbers of the dowry torture are accounted as 6619 and 9,038 respectively. And all these cases are purely dowry related as are registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. The cases under this Act have increased by 36.5% during the year 2012 as compared to the previous 2011. In this year Odisha positioned at second place with 1,487 cases in India. This figure is 16.5% of total cases at the national level. There is also an increasing trend in the figure of dowry torture in the district of Balasore. In 2009 the numbers of this crime was 207. This figure decreased to 171 in 2010. Again, the numbers of this kind of crime increased to 189 in 2011.

Again, dowry related and normal cases of torture (but dowry intended) are registered U/s 498(A) i.e. 'cruelty by husband or his relatives' of Indian Penal Code to prevent both dowry as well as non-dowry related domestic violence against women. In India nearly 1, 06,527 cases have been accounted by the National Crime Record Bureau in 2012. 'Torture' cases in the country have been increased by 7.5% over the year 2011 (99,135 cases). The numbers of cases are also increasing yearly. In 2009 the numbers of such crime reported are 89,546. This number increased to 94,041 in 2010. Again, in 2011 the numbers of this crime increased to 99,135. Further, the numbers of this crime increased to 1, 06,527 in 2012.

**Table.1. Year wise Cases of Dowry Torture (Sec. 498 (A) IPC) in India, Odisha and Balasore from 2009 to 2012**

Sl.No.	Year	India	Odisha	Balasore
1	2009	89,546	2,047	244
2	2010	94,041	2,067	211
3	2011	99,135	2,320	279
4	2012	1,06,527	2,638	307

(Source: National Crime Record Bureau and the information availed from different police stations in the district of Balasore through Right to Information Act 2005).

In Odisha, the numbers of the crime are also increasing yearly. In the year 2009 the numbers of such cases were 2047. In 2010, 2067 numbers of cases have been registered. Again, this numbers increased to 2320 in 2011. Further it is increased to 2638 in 2012. And Odisha placed itself at 12<sup>th</sup> position in 2012 in India.

The situation of the district of Balasore is also very critical. The numbers of cases are increasing with a sharp trend. In 2009, 244 numbers of such cases were registered. This number increased to 211 in 2010. Again 279 and 307 cases were registered in 2011 and 2012 respectively. However, it is pathetic that the district topped each of these years being on 1<sup>st</sup> position in the state in this regard. The intensity of the occurrences is due to the growing gap between social legislation and social practices to hypocrisy and double standards.

**(ii) Dowry Death:** - The cases of dowry deaths in India have decreased by 4.5% during the year 2012 over the previous year 2011. But, from 2009 to 2011 there was an increasing trend of dowry death cases in the country. In 2009 the numbers of such cases reported were 8,383. This numbers increased to 8,391 in 2010. Again, in 2011 the numbers of such cases reached at 8,618. But, in 2012 this number deceased to 8,233 in 2012. 27.3% of the total such cases reported in the country were reported from Uttar Pradesh (2,244 cases) alone followed by Bihar (1,275 cases) (15.5%). The genesis of such deaths lies in the tension created by persistent demands, accompanied by torture for dowry. The greed for money, the aggressiveness increased by resistance to the demands and the ease with which the weaker sex can be exploited, all combined to encourage family members to take the bride's life (Ahuja,2009)<sup>10</sup>.

**Table.2: Year wise Cases of Dowry Death in India, Odisha and Balasore from 2009 to 2012.**

Sl.No.	Year	India	Odisha	Balasore
1	2009	8,383	384	46
2	2010	8,391	388	40
3	2011	8,618	465	45
4	2012	8,233	525	43

(Source: National Crime Record Bureau and the information availed from different police stations in the district of Balasore through Right to Information Act 2005).

Further, the numbers of the cases registered in the state of Odisha has been increasing year wise from 2009 to 2012. In 2009 the numbers of such cases registered in the state is 384 whereas this number increased to 388 in 2010. Further, 465 and 525 numbers of such crimes were registered in the year 2011 and 2012 in the state respectively. And it is more painful that in 2009 in the national level the state was at 6<sup>th</sup> and in 2012 it was placed at 5<sup>th</sup> position.

In the district of Balasore in 2009 the numbers of the cases registered was 46. In 2010 this figure decreased to 40. Again, in 2011 this figure increased to 45. And, in 2012 this numbers decreased to 43. It is slightly relaxed that, though the district was continuing in 1<sup>st</sup> position from 2009 to 2011 but in 2012 it placed itself 2<sup>nd</sup> position being next to Jajpur(51).

### **(C) Non-Dowry and Economic related violence:**

Non-dowry related violence against women includes spouse quarrel, torture etc out of extramarital relation of the husband. It also happens out of poverty of the family. Sometimes, due to misunderstanding the husband and other family members keeps themselves aloof from the housewife not talking for a long period. Violence also occurs when the wife doesn't obligate to illogical, unwarranted matters of the husband and the in-laws of the family. Some cases, harassment, and torture inflicted upon the female members of the family barring the economic access.

This kind of crimes is reported and registered u/ss 498(A) and 509 of Indian Penal Code in India, Odisha and Balasore. So, the prevalence of this crime can be studied from earlier paragraphs wherein they are mentioned.

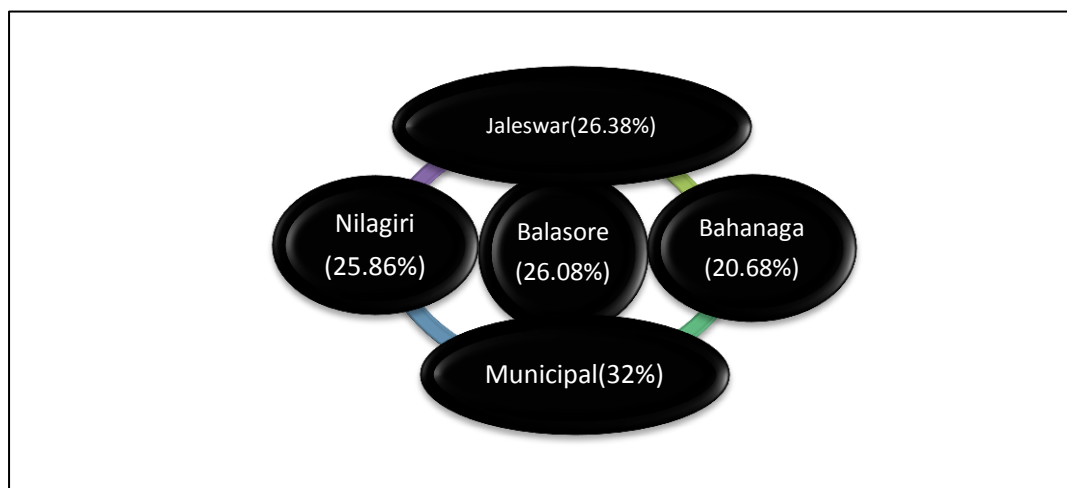
## VI. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Above figures of crime relating to domestic violence in the district of Balasore compelled to have a rigorous study in the district. Further to testify the hypotheses the researcher has studied the problem on the basis of castes and religions. For a successful study the researcher interviewed the victims, their relatives, police and judges to examine their perceptions and experiences.

### Hypothesis 1: Most of the cases are unreported.

From the study it is found that percentage of victims reporting to police is very low irrespective of religions, castes and areas. In Nilagiri the reporting percentage is 25.86% of total domestic violence cases occurred. In Jaleswar block this percentage is 26.38%. In Bahanaga and Municipal area of the district the percentage of cases reported is 20.68% and 32% respectively. Further it is studied that low reporting is experienced in cases of minorities especially Muslim in all areas in comparison to Hindu except municipal area. From these figures it is observed that Municipal area has comparatively more reporting of these cases than other block areas. And it is also pertinent to mention here that Jaleswar has comparatively more percentage of reporting than Nilagiri and Bahanaga as there is less scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population.

Figure 1: Reporting Status of the Cases in the district of Balasore.



Whereas Nilagiri and Bahanaga have lesser percentage of reporting than others as they are scheduled tribe and scheduled caste dominated areas respectively. From this it is presumed that lack of awareness and education among scheduled tribe and scheduled caste victims bar to high reporting of the cases of domestic violence against women. And it may also be presumed that the close proximity of the police station to the victims is also a factor for reporting. This has been proved in case of highest percentage of reporting in the municipal area than other sample blocks. Further, in municipal area urbanization has been able to sensitize the victims to put effort against the domestic violence.

From the study it is also found that the response of the police officers with regard to the quantum of victimization on the basis of religion, caste and status is contradictory to the response of the victims in the areas. For example, according to the response of the victims in the sampling areas more Muslims, Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes women are victimized with different abuses. On the other hand more police officers (41.2%) responded that the human rights of educated/rich/higher caste/Hindu women are mostly violated. This contradiction results in an interesting finding. Perhaps, the cases of the victims of the Scheduled castes/ Scheduled tribes/ Muslim women couldn't have been reported to the police. So, police officers may not have knowledge about the real picture of the grass root level of the society. Further, it is also revealed from the maximum percentage (82.35%) of response of the police officers that most of the cases are not

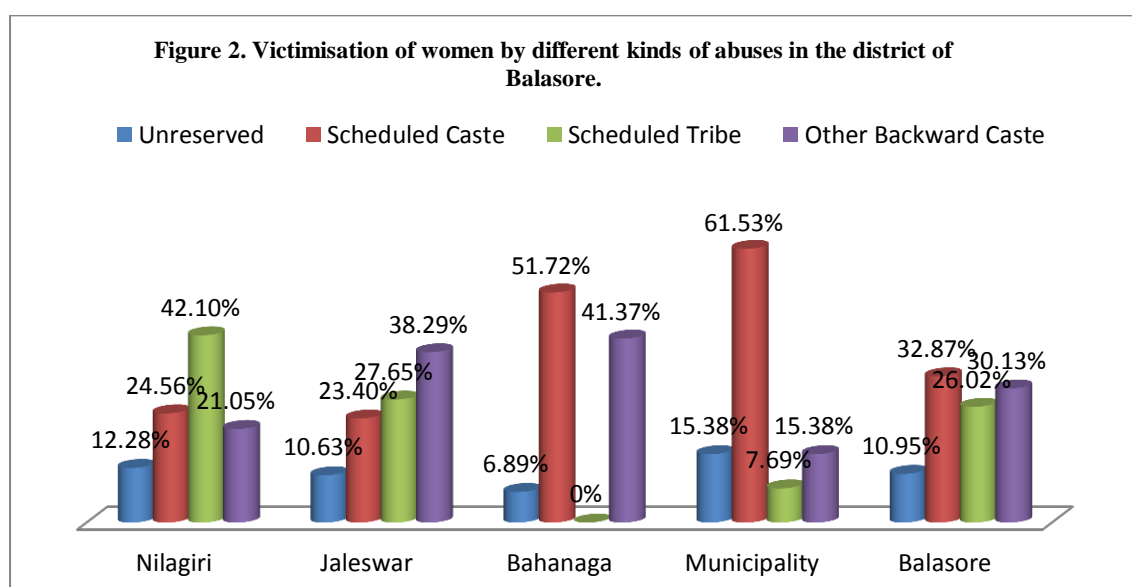
being reported. The logical deduction out of above figures clearly proved that there is less reporting among Muslims, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe victims.

And the causes of this under reporting according to police officers are many like illiteracy, rites and customs, threatening by the perpetrators, feeling uncomfortable in the police station. Excluding these factors, 6(42.85%) police officers answered that factors like compromise at the village level, non-cooperation from parents and family members, political pressure not to report the cases both on victim as well as police, family prestige etc are primarily responsible for non-reporting or under reporting the cases of violation of human rights of women.

### Hypothesis 2: Minorities, SCs and STs are more vulnerable than other high caste women.

The researcher has tested the above hypothesis on the basis of different kinds of violence perpetrated against the victims. From this it is found that rebuking/fisting/pulling hair/beating with stick is the common mode of abuse which is perpetrated against maximum numbers of victims. To clarify the intensity of violence against women among the different religions in the whole district, one important thing has been carefully considered. Of four sample areas the numbers of victims from the minority religions found are very negligible. It happened as the numbers of people in the minority religions are very less not only in these areas but also in the district as whole. Only in the sampling areas like Jaleswar and Municipality a sizeable population of victims has been found. Again, these negligible numbers victims of these two blocks cannot be considered for comparison with victims of other major religion i.e. Hindu only on the basis of percentage of total numbers of victims victimised. So, to know the intensity of violence both percentages of victims as well as the personal experience of the researcher has been considered. Also, analysis on the basis of typical form of abuse has been considered. Further analysis of two sampling areas like Jaleswar and Municipality regarding intensity of violence has been generalised for the district as whole. It is studied that in Jaleswar the percentage of both Muslim and Christian victims in total interviewed are less than Hindu victims (i.e. Hindu 43, Muslim 18 and Christian 11). In spite of it, more percentage (27.27%) of victims among Muslims have been denied food than the victims of Hindu (16.26%) community. Again, the percentage of victimisation by rebuking/fisting/pulling hair/beating with stick is more among Christian (54.54%) in comparison to victims of Hindu (53.48%) and Muslims (50%). Further, in Municipality it is studied that the percentage of victimisation by rebuking/fisting/pulling hair/beating with stick among Muslim (91.66%) is more than victims in Hindu community (76.92%). Above all, the researcher has observed that huge rate of victimisation is among the minority especially Muslim community in Jaleswar and Municipality area. From the above figures and observations violence against women among minorities especially Muslim community has been more acute than in other community.

Further it is studied that of four sample areas except Jaleswar Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe women have been more victimised. In Nilagiri 42.10% scheduled tribe women have been victimised. In Bahanaga and Municipality 51.72% and 61.53% Scheduled caste women are found to be victimised respectively.

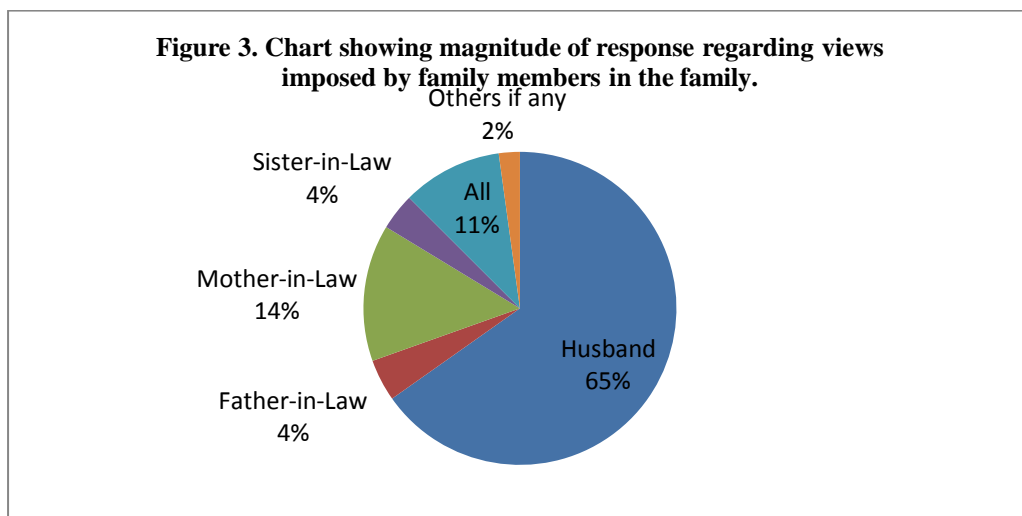


Again, in the district as whole 32.87% Scheduled caste women are found to be victimised by different kinds of violence. Also, in the overall district 78(53.42%) women are victimised by Rebuking/Fisting/pulling hair/sticking. From this statistics it is revealed that the above hypothesis is true.

But it is experienced that due to illiteracy, apathy and lack of outlook they tolerate as if it is nothing. And they have also adapted themselves to these abuses. This may be another cause for increasing of violation of human rights of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women.

### Hypothesis 3: Male folks are biased towards women.

In the research study it is found that a huge percentage (65%) of victims subscribed to the view that husbands frequently impose their views on them in the family. They also added that the views imposed on them were baseless and unreasonable. 4% victims put blame on fathers-in-law to have imposed their views unreasonably on them.

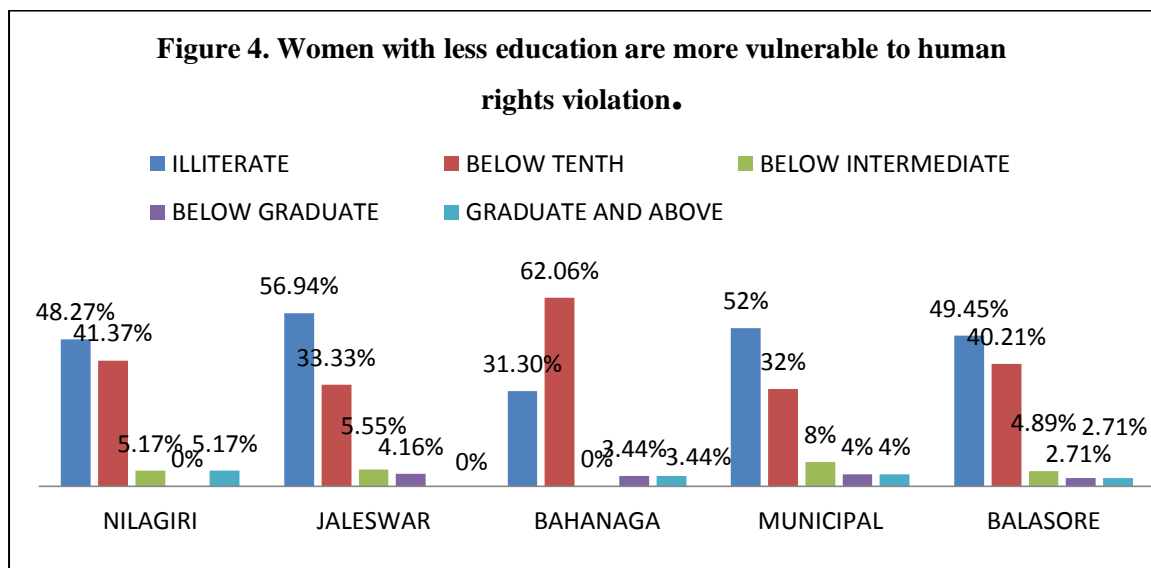


In this way a majority percentage of victims blamed the male members as most imposing persons in the family. This unreasonable and baseless imposition of their views is out of the direction of their attitude of patriarchy. This attitude of supremacy of male hood proved them to have been biased towards female members in the family. It is also a fact that during the field study the researcher has also been criticized bitterly by the male persons in some places. Even some male public officers and advocates had vehemently opposed the legislations in favour of women. This proves that male folk is biased against women. So, the above hypothesis is accepted.

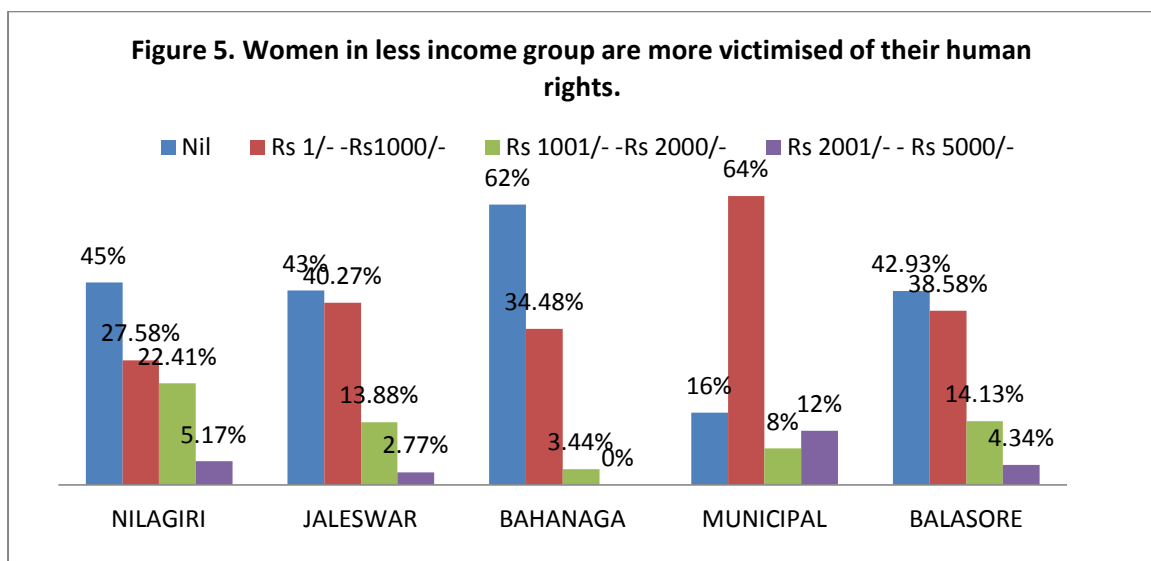
### Hypothesis 4: Social, economic empowerment helps to check violation of human rights of women.

From the study it is revealed that less educated women are more vulnerable to their human rights. Especially, illiterate women are the most targeted group in this respect followed by the women under matriculation. In different study areas like Nilagiri, and Jaleswar blocks 48.27% and 56.94% illiterate women respectively were victimized with different types of violations of their human rights. 31.30% and 52% illiterate women were victimized with different types of violations of their human rights in Bahanaga and Municipal area respectively. The intensity has been decreased in case of women with under matriculation. In study areas like Nilagiri, Jaleswar, Bahanaga and Municipal 41.37%, 33.33%, 62.06% and 32% under matriculation were victimized. It is also studied that in overall district of Balasore 49.45% illiterate and 40.21% under matriculation women were victimized by the different types of violations of their human rights. On the other hand the intensity of abuse is very negligible in case of women having higher qualification. And it is experienced and an admitted fact that the increasing conversion from illiteracy to literacy and again to higher education has been possible through different educational programmes and schemes adopted by governments. Ultimately this literacy among women has some extent prevented violations of human rights against them. Hence, it is determined that empowerment of women through different schemes and legislations targeting higher education will be a check to the frequent occurrence of violation of human rights violation of women. Hence, the above hypothesis is verified to be true.





Another interesting finding was also derived from the study. It is studied that women from less income group are more victimized by the different types of violation against their human rights. The women from nil income groups is the most affected in all the study areas including the district except Municipal area. Whereas the victimization trend has been decreased pacing with the increasing trend of the higher income group. But the situation of Municipal has little different from other areas. The victimization rate among women from income ranges of Rs 1/- to Rs 1000/- is more than women from nil income. The detailed statistic has been given in figure no.5.

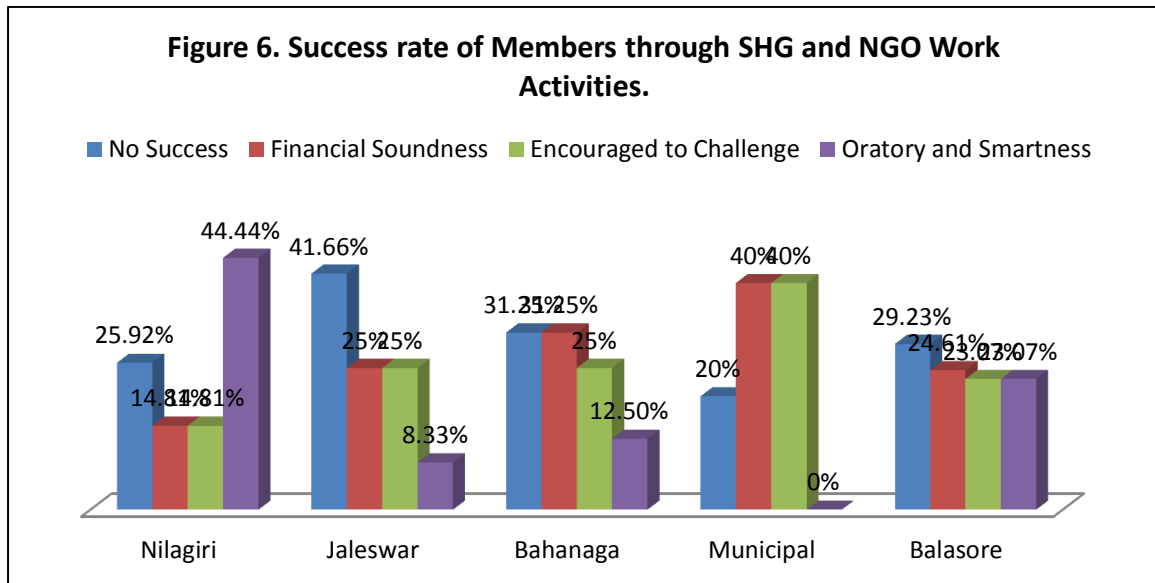


On the other hand the intensity of abuse is very negligible in case of women having higher income except municipal area. And it is true that the increasing income capability has been possible through different self employment programmes and schemes like Mission Shakti etc adopted by governments. Ultimately this good income among women has some extent prevented violations of human rights against them. Hence, it is determined that empowerment of women through different schemes and legislations targeting to develop economic status will be a check to the frequent occurrence of violation of human rights violation of women. Hence, the above hypothesis is verified to be true.

#### **Hypothesis 5: Civil Society, Self Help Groups and Non Governmental Organizations' Help to Check violation of human rights of Women.**

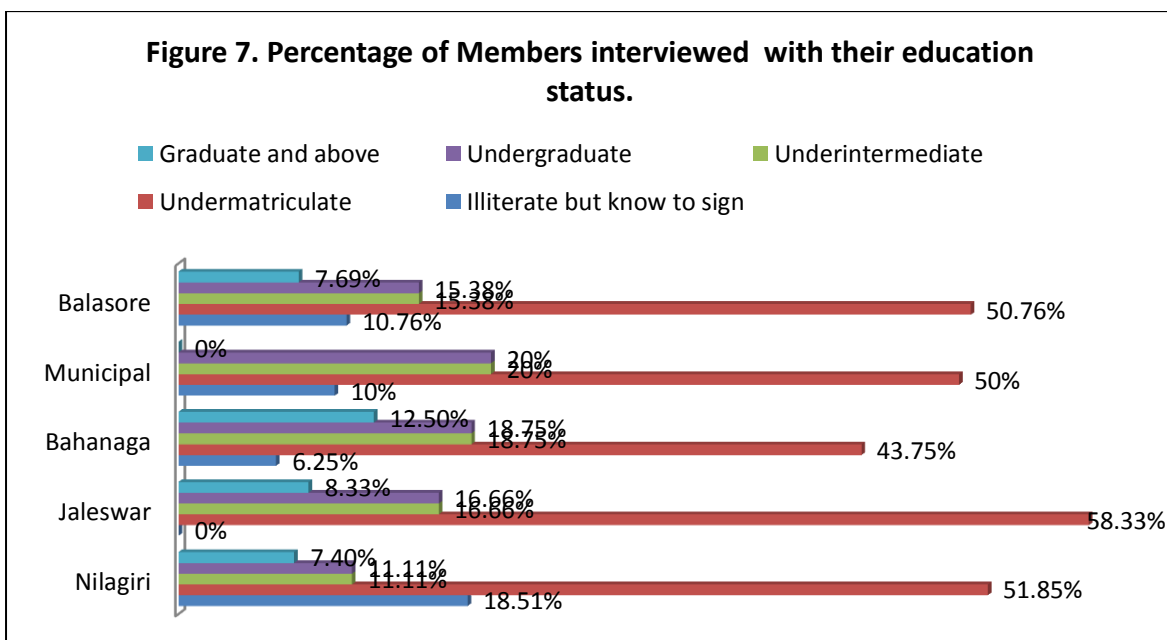
In the present time the role of SHGs and NGOs has been matter of discussion so far the subject is concerned. If one pays a retrospective look, it may be crystal clear that feminism was one of the major initiatives through which women got

together to look at their own problems and found ways and means to sort out their problems. And these SHGs and NGOs might carry on these feminist movements in future. So the result of their activities has been analyzed by the researcher. From the study, it is studied that In jaleswar and Balasore district as whole more members responded to have not achieved anything by these activities. But in other sampling areas like Nilagiri, Municipal and Bahanaga maximum members admitted to have achieved success as shown in figure no.6. And they also felt proud of these activities.



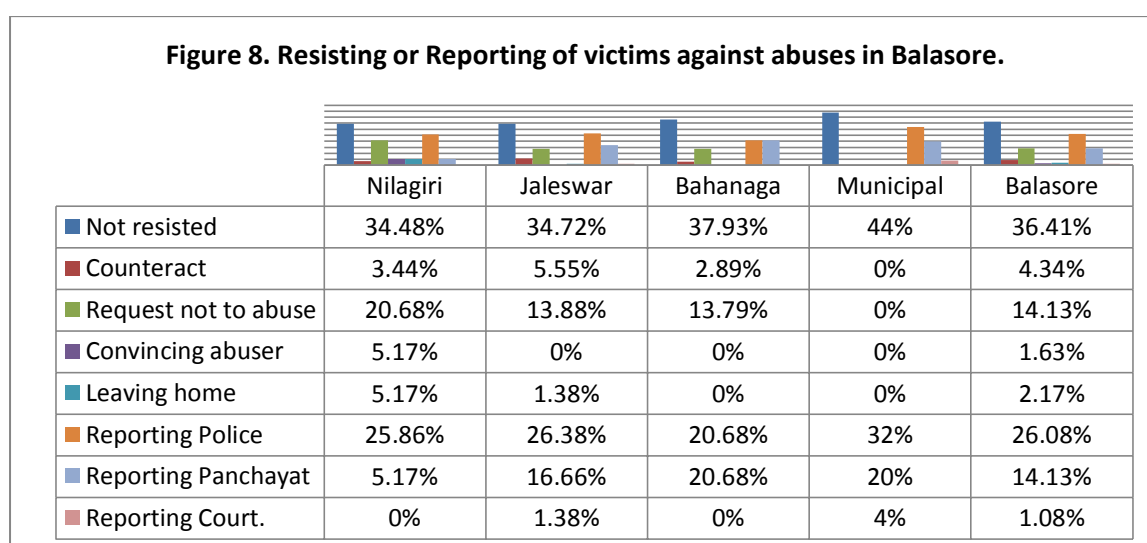
Again, it is true that in all the sampling areas percentage of members responding unsuccessful is much lesser than the members responding successful. And they have been successful by being financial soundness, encouraged to challenge any problems and also being orator and smart to deal the society. Moreover, it will not be wrong to say that all these are essential to check the violation against human rights of women. Further, it is true that as they are working at the grass root level in the society, they can immediately deal with the problems and be able to check the problems. From these facts and figures the above hypothesis is verified to be true. For this they also face many problems which are needed to be addressed.

On the other hand the chemistry behind the rate of response regarding being unsuccessful in SHG activity (29.23%, 25.92%, 41.66%, 31.25% and 20% response on unsuccessful in the district of Balasore as whole, Nilagiri, Jaleswar, Bahanaga and municipal respectively) is either illiteracy or low education among the members.



Of total numbers of members interviewed, 10.76% and 50.76% illiterate (but know to sign) and under matriculate females are found. So, it is presumed that this total 61.52% illiterate and under matriculate females are the cause for 29.23% response of being unsuccessful as has been earlier mentioned. The researcher has also experienced that some SHGs are in dormant due to lack of educated members.

It is earlier mentioned that in the study reporting to panchayat does not imply reporting to the formal village panchayat. It means reporting to village headmen, assembly, well wishers, and judicious persons in the village/panchayat/local areas. In other words it is understood as civil society. From the study it is found that 5.17% and 16.66% victims have reported the matter of abuse at panchayat level in Nilagiri and Jaleswar blocks respectively. 20.68%, 20% and 14.13% victims have reported the matter of abuse at panchayat level in Bahanaga, Municipal area of Balasore and the district of Balasore as whole respectively shown in figure no.8. That means except Nilagiri in all other sampling areas including district as whole a sizable numbers of victims have reported the matter at panchayat next to police reporting. It may be interpreted that panchayat might have to some extent redressed the problems of the victims earlier. So that they immediately report to panchayat as they pose faith on that.



From above figures and facts it is understood that in these areas panchayat or civil society is to some extent actively working to check the human rights violation of women. So, above hypothesis is verified to be true. But, as Nilagiri is tribal populated area, civil society has not been able to be much active as others.

Further, it is revealed from the maximum percentage (82.35%) of response of the police officers that most of the cases are not being reported. And the causes of this under reporting are many like illiteracy, rites and customs, threatening by the perpetrators, feeling uncomfortable in the police station. Excluding these factors, 6(42.85%) police officers answered that factors like compromise at the village level, non-cooperation from parents and family members, political pressure not to report the cases both on victim as well as police, family prestige etc are primarily responsible for non-reporting or under reporting in the cases of violation of human rights of women. Among them, it is also seen that maximum respondents opined that village compromise has been major cause for non-reporting of these cases. Hence, it is presumed that village panchayat which is part of civil society has been accepted as a faithful mechanism to settle the matter.

## VII. RECOMMENDED MEASURES

From the above findings it may be suggested that police personnel should be sensitive towards the cases. They should be caring to the victim's grievances. Their behavior towards the victims should not be rude and unpolished. Again, presently number of police stations is less as per the proportion of the population position. It overburdens police personnel to entertain all the cases. So, more police stations are to be opened. The laws governing sexual assault should be defined in terms of women's dignity and bodily integrity (Kashyap, 2011)<sup>11</sup>. Further, women in general and especially in the vulnerable communities and castes ought to be properly educated general as well as legal education to report the matter in proper time and manner.

From the study it is observed that in almost all the study areas high degree of lack of awareness is prevalent among scheduled tribe followed by scheduled caste women. So the problem is omnipresent. This problem requires a balanced treatment. The problem of education and poverty is to be tackled promptly at the grass roots level. The issue oriented awareness programmes are to be community based. They are to be organised through both audio as well as video programmes. Maximum effort is to be made to make the people aware using the language intelligible to them. Above all, the awareness should be up to the level of each family.

Male members of the society should be properly sensitized about the bad consequences of human rights violation of women in the society where they also live in. There should be man-to-man teaching method. For a longer understanding between man and women both of them need to stop offering the method of caring they would prefer and start to learn the different ways their partners think, feel and react (Gray, 2012)<sup>12</sup>. It is also observed that some biased male police officers generalize a single case of woman arrogance for all the women as well as for all cases of violation of human rights deal with during their service tenure. This tendency among the public officers those who are in charge of policy implementation should be strictly curbed even with stringent legal as well as administrative action.

Higher education among women is a good check against the violation of their human rights. By this women can be capable to counter any mishap. For higher education of the women firstly ill attitude of the parents is to be suppressed. Child marriage is to be strictly implemented. From the experience of the researcher it is found that law implementing and interpreting authorities are in maximum time being involved in child marriage tactfully and knowingly for their narrow interest. They should be aware of the issue and in cases of avoidance should be strictly punished. Along with it, the girl students continuing higher education ought to be promoted.

In most of the cases education and good income are co-related. For good income, women must be properly educated. So, they can upgrade their economic status by utilizing their educational ability and intelligence. If females were considered equal to males, dowry would no longer have any purpose. The in-laws demand dowry because the bribe cannot work and earn money like the husband can. Without dowry, there would be no purpose for bride burning and bridal abuse would eventually become non-existent (Sen, 2009)<sup>13</sup>. Again, loopholes of the ongoing governmental schemes and programmes for the development of economic status of women are to be sincerely plugged on. It is studied that in maximum SHGs there is lack of proper accounting and managerial ability. For these lacunae they are in defunct condition. For this reason, the persons with high educational qualification and interested towards the concerned profession ought to be engaged to assist members in proper management. In this regard, SHGs, NGOs and civil society are to be more facilitated. Sufficient resources are to be allotted to enhance their work capacity. Proper follow up action with strong feedback system is to be adopted to energize the group members. Police power may be given to the SHGs which are involved in prompt action against the cases of human rights violation of women. Regular and periodical supervision has to be made for the smooth functioning of the Groups and NGOs. If any SHGs and NGOs aided by government are found defunct and there is no chance of revival even if with assistance within a fixed period they ought to be closed and after proper investigation person with liability should be brought to the purview of penal law.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

One can finally conclude that the women victims of domestic violence are mostly unaware, uneducated and are drawn from minority communities. The low income status of the victims facilitates the perpetration of violence against them. Uneducated and poor victims' feeling uncomfortable in police station are quite understandable. In this regard, Innocent Digest also recommends that domestic violence is a health, legal, economic, educational, developmental and human rights problem (Innocenti Digest, 2000)<sup>14</sup>. Strategies should be designed to operate across a broad range of areas depending upon the context in which they are delivered. Key areas for intervention include advocacy and awareness raising, education for building a culture of non-violence, training, direct service provision to victim-survivors and perpetrators, legal reform, monitoring interventions and measures, early identification of 'at risk' families, communities, groups, and individuals. This may go a long way in ushering in much needed social change and establish a society based on healthy man-woman relationship. So, it is with the support and understanding of men that women can earn their emancipation (Mukherjee and Ramaswamy, 1995)<sup>15</sup>. In fact the society will prosper if both of them can draw mutual enrichment from their differences.

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