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# Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Domestic Violence Cases in Jammu District, J&K (U.T)

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MOHD AQIB ASLAM<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*Domestic violence affects people of all ages and backgrounds. It safeguards everyone who is at risk. This article, which focuses on one of these vulnerable groups, is about women and children. The escalation of 19 COVID cases in the United States has exacerbated the already awful situation of domestic violence victims. Quarantine had a negative impact on the company, the economy, and people's mental health. In India, women's violence has long been considered a severe issue. On the other side, the sickness has been discovered to exacerbate the precarious status of women in households. According to government statistics, 1-3 out of every 10 women aged 15 to 49 had been sexually abused. This is an egregious infringement of basic human rights. The goal of this research is to figure out what's causing these severe repercussions, especially during an epidemic. Legislation pertaining to women's rights has been explored. In addition, the impact was more precisely assessed, and a comparative study in other countries was carried out. The WHO study on the present topic also takes a comprehensive look at the issue. The paper also strives to recommend solutions to improve women's lives in these difficult times.*

**Keywords:** COVID19, Reports, Intimate Partner violence, Quarantine, Terrible Impact.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Quarantine has been a major criterion in the control of illnesses, notably pandemics, since the 14th century. Cultures in the past were effective in establishing a link between symptoms and time. This was a problem in 1377 A.D., when ships and people were left for 30 days and 40 days, respectively.<sup>2</sup> From the moment COVID 19 was declared pandemic and no early-stage vaccine was identified, quarantine was the best course of action. This has had a huge impact on the lives of people all around the world. These methods worked successfully once the

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<sup>2</sup> Wen Nie, "The Origin Of Quarantine", *Global Partners in Education Journal*, Special Edition, (online), Vol. 5(2), pp.24–31(2015), Available at <http://www.gpejournal.org/index.php/GPEJ/article/view/108> (Last Visited on 1 Jul. 2021).

disease had been confined to some extent. This transformation, however, had unexpected consequences, such as economic insecurity, isolation, loneliness, and mental health difficulties. One of these undesirable repercussions is domestic violence based on gender.<sup>3</sup> Gender violence is limited to domestic violence in this article and is referred to as such. Domestic violence refers to a far broader range of wrongdoing that a single phrase can convey. Women are far more likely to be assaulted than men. Women have been considered as weak and exploited since the beginning of humanity. Women's fundamentally weaker physical structure in compared to men was one of the most traditional causes. The old patriarchal structure, which has enslaved women economically and emotionally, is another well-documented issue. Domestic violence/abuse/intimate partner violence is defined by the United Nations as an attitude pattern in a relationship that is used to gain, maintain, and manage dominance over an intimate partner.<sup>4</sup> Physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological activity are all different, and maltreatment is a hazard to all of them. India does not have a good record when it comes to crimes against women. This isn't a groundbreaking discovery. Violent rape appears to be in the headlines virtually every day. Domestic violence accounts for the bulk of crimes against women, despite the fact that these situations stand out. According to the NCRB, domestic violence against women accounted for 30% of all domestic violence. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were the states that acted so harshly.<sup>5</sup> The year 2019 saw the highest number of crimes against women. Domestic violence reports increased during the lockdown, according to the National Commission for Women (NCW). According to the World Health Organization, "any act of gender violence that causes or is likely to cause bodily, sexual, mental, or women's pain or suffering, including threats, coercion, and arbitrary loss of freedom, whether in public or private."<sup>6</sup>

## II. BACKGROUND

With COVID-19, family violence is a hidden epidemic, encompassing domestic violence and mistreatment of children and the elderly by intimate partners. Domestic abuse instances are constantly rising, and women and children have been disproportionately affected and

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<sup>3</sup> Amber Peterman, Alina Potts, Megan O'Donnell, Kelly Thompson, Niyati Shah, Sabine Oertelt Prigione, and Nicole van Gelder, (2020), "Pandemics and Violence Against Women and Children" *Centre for Global Development*, (online), (2020) Available at: <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/pandemics-and-violence-against-women-and-children> (Last visited on 2 Jul. 2021).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations COVID-19 Response, "What Is Domestic Abuse?" (online) Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/what-is-domestic-abuse> (Last visited 3 Jul. 2021).

<sup>5</sup> Himanshi Dhawan, "Not rape, domestic violence is top crime against women" *The Times of India*, 5 Oct. 2020. Available at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/not-rape-domestic-violence-is-top-crime-against-women/articleshow/78494876.cms> (Last visited on 5 Jul. 2021).

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organisation, "Violence against women" (online), Available at: [https://www.who.int/health-topics/violence-against-women#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/violence-against-women#tab=tab_1) (Last visited on 6 Jul. 2021).

vulnerable during this time.

### **(A) Statement of Problem**

Although quarantine is required to prevent the spread of Coronavirus infection in the population, it has major psychological and social consequences. The quarantine paradox is named from the fact that it leads to an upsurge in sexual violence. However, there is a substantial void in the scholarly literature on the subject. As a result, the current paper aims to incorporate gender violence into the COVID-19 lockdown. Because the legal system for protecting women's rights is ineffective, this study will concentrate on the concerns and challenges surrounding court administration.

### **(B) Objectives of the Study**

The goal of this study is to compile a data analysis of public discourse on family violence throughout the lockout period. In this study, the critical need for women's protection and the threat of domestic violence must be identified and emphasised.

### **(C) Scope of the Study**

Women and children are tremendously complicated subjects that require thorough research, deliberation, planning, and implementation. The investigation is comprehensive because there are various issues to be resolved. In essence, the goal of this study is to alleviate as much as possible the problem of women's and children's safety. We need to investigate the reasons for women's silence, as well as efforts to implement effective women's protection legislation, the outcomes of these efforts, and what else needs to be done.

### **(D) Purpose of the Research**

Background information is gathered, terms and conditions are defined, issues are clarified, study goals and objectives are established, and questions are answered in exploratory studies.

### **(E) Research Questions**

Based on the suggested study, the following research questions were answered:

1. Are there more incidents of domestic violence under COVID 19?
2. Is it so difficult for a woman to report a domestic violence abuse case during COVID19?
3. Can just economically disadvantaged households be affected by domestic violence?
4. Is the household violence offender always a man?
5. Is domestic violence exposure affecting children?

6. Do children prone to be physically abused in the same households where domestic violence is taking place?
7. Is the child's feelings about their parents affected by domestic violence?
8. If anybody grew up in an abusive family, would he or she repeat intimate partnerships the same behaviour?
9. Is it academic of the child getting affected by household violence?
10. Helplines, medical aid, online services, etc, helping in controlling domestic violence during a lockdown?

#### **(F) Work Plan and Research Methodology**

The research technique employed in this study will be empirical and non-empirical on two levels. Many international instruments, national and state laws, policies, reports, and judgments will be thoroughly analysed on the non-empirical side. The empirical component would be focused on the working parameters.

The empirical study is exploratory and analytical in nature. Exploratory research is similar to a feasibility or pilot study in that it looks into a subject where the viability of a particular probe is unknown or understudied. Exploratory research is to provide context, define terminology, explain issues, create study priorities and goals, and provide answers to questions. In an analytical approach, the investigator critically examines pre-existing facts or information. Primary and secondary sources are both utilised. Secondary data from published sources such as books, Indian and international reviews, online journals, research papers, and other websites on the subject is acquired for study and analysis.

#### **(G) Method of Data Collection**

Data is collected using the section-over research approach, which comprises one-time interactions and one-time data from the same person.

The "Questionnaire Method" was used to collect data for this study. Experimental study was used to look into the subject and see what others thought about it.

The "Questionnaire Method," which is a "structured or standardised questionnaire," was used to collect the results of this study. The questionnaire approach is one of the most successful tools for researching socio-legal topics. The two types of structured surveys are closed-form and open-end. There are only a few options in a closed-form inquiry. They can be yes/no (dichotomous) or multiple-choice (multiple-choice) inquiries, in which the respondent must choose one answer from a list of possibilities (Cafeteria Questions).

### **(H) The universe for the collection of data**

The study's major purpose is to come up with concepts that can be used all over the world. This goal necessitates the collection of sufficient and reliable data. The researcher looks in a specific area known as the "universe" to gather such information.

Jammu, in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, is the universe's data-gathering hub.

### **(I) Literature Review**

The current research examines the literature on the emergence of gender-based violence in contemporary and historical pandemics such domestic violence and child abuse. Public papers, legal sites, judicial cases, and media coverage of the growth in gender-based violence in society, its implications, and the government's response to the matter were also examined.

## **III. WOMEN AND PATRIARCHAL CULTURE**

Women have been watching patriarchal culture for a long time. They were taught that it was okay for others to do likewise. According to the National Family and Health Survey, 52% of women and 42% of men believe that a husband has a legal right to beat his wife. In seven different settings, data on justifiable attitudes regarding violence against women was revealed by men and women.

- i. When a lady leaves the house without telling her husband.
- ii. When the wife or kids don't seem to care about the house.
- iii. After a quarrel with her spouse.
- iv. She is firm in her refusal to have sex with him.
- v. If she isn't preparing the dish properly.
- vi. If a husband suspects his wife of infidelity.
- vii. When a wife expresses disdain for her husband's in-laws.<sup>7</sup>

A husband's "right" to govern over his wife's life included violence. The most obvious conclusion is that women are only capable of doing certain functions. Domestic violence is the solution they seek when their wives are perceived to be significantly diverted from their responsibilities. Domestic violence has gotten virtually unnoticed in Indian society. It was ingrained in the public's psyche that it is OK for a guy to hit a woman and that the woman must pay the repercussions. This type of criminality is not limited to the lowest levels of society; it

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<sup>7</sup> National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), *International Institute for Population Sciences and ICF*, p.514, (2015-16), Available at: <http://rchiips.org/nfhs/nfhs-4Reports/India.pdf> (Last visited on 6 Jul. 2021).

has roots in the upper strata as well. Although the numbers may change, such tragedies remain obvious. Pandemics are the leading cause of social infrastructure collapse, according to the UNFPA, increasing existing vulnerabilities and conflicts. As a result, pandemic conditions exacerbate current gender inequities. According to data, similar outcomes have been seen in previous calamities. Domestic violence was at an all-time high in Haiti in 2007, following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the eruption of Mount Saint Helens in the 1980s.<sup>8</sup> Gender-based violence against women has long been recognised around the world as a violation of fundamental human rights. However, it is still a question that can be answered. First and foremost, the seriousness of the offence must be understood. A crime committed at a higher level of violence than usual. There have been reports of eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, burns, shattered bones, punctured teeth, and other catastrophic injuries.<sup>9</sup> Worst of all, the victim must live with the criminal every day, provide him with the luxuries he desires, and suffer the horrific repercussions of a fundamental human error.

#### **IV. CONCEPTUAL MODEL RULES FOR WOMEN'S PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC HARM**

Everyone has the right to live in a fear-free environment. Domestic violence undermines moral vision by encroaching on this key human rights concept. The Protection of Women from Domestic Abuse Act 2005 is a unique piece of legislation in India that deals with domestic abuse against women (43 of 2005). Section 3<sup>10</sup> of Domestic violence is defined Domestic abuse is defined by law as any act, conduct, omission, or behaviour by one individual while in a relationship with another person:

- a. physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse, and economic abuse all jeopardise the aggrieved person's health, safety, life, limb, or well-being, whether mentally or physically;
- b. harasses or threatens any other person connected to the individual in order to fulfil any illegal request for dowry, property, or security; or
- c. endangers the aggravated person's health, safety, life, limb, or well-being;
- d. causes bodily or emotional harm to the aggravated person.

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<sup>8</sup> A.M. Campbell, "An Increasing Risk of Family Violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Strengthening Community Collaborations to Save Lives," *Forensic Science International*, 2 Dec. 2020, (online) Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7152912/> (Last visited on 10 Jul. 2021).

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Section 3 (online) Available at: [https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/15436/1/protection\\_of\\_women\\_from\\_domestic\\_violence\\_act%2C\\_2005.pdf](https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/15436/1/protection_of_women_from_domestic_violence_act%2C_2005.pdf) (Last visited on 12 Jul. 2021).

This is an important step toward protecting women from domestic abusers. Women had the option of going to court under section 498A of the Indian Penal Code prior to the passage of this legislation. Domestic abuse is not specifically mentioned in the IPC, but if a woman went to court, she would be obliged to leave her marital home. There was no provision in the law that enabled her to stay in her married home while speaking out against such a crime. Legislators were motivated to pass these laws because of these concerns. The term of abuse in the law has been kept broad enough to cover all forms of crimes against women, including as physical violence, sexual assault, verbal or mental abuse, and financial abuse. The Indian courts recognised many rights in the case of *Francis Coralie Mullin v. Union Territory, Administrator, Delhi*, including the right to violence, the right to dignity, and the right to shelter,<sup>11</sup> same in *Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation v. Nawab Khan Gulab Khan*,<sup>12</sup> and *Chameli Singh v. State of U.P.*<sup>13</sup> correspondingly. Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian Constitution would guarantee women's rights under the domestic abuse statute. Although men, women, and children are all victims of domestic abuse, there is an understandable gender split, which is especially true for women.

## V. HOW TO REPORT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING PANDEMIC

In every analysis, the most crucial component is data. Different hazards, service availability, access to services, and evidence-based policies and programmes can all be addressed using this information. Because it is unable to collect data face-to-face and travel during the COVID-19 outbreak, data collecting is the most challenging duty. The WHO paper published in April 2020 emphasises violence against women as a concern to women's health in emergencies, despite the lack of statistics. Women over the age of 50, as well as women with impairments, are subjected to increased dangers and responsibilities. Women who are refugees or have been displaced from their homes and live in conflict-prone areas are considerably more likely to face these dangers. The health problems caused by violence, especially violence perpetrated by intimate partners, are also substantially higher. Sexually transmitted illnesses, HIV, and unintended pregnancies are just a few of the difficulties that demand immediate attention. It may be difficult for women to meet up with relatives and friends if their movement is restricted. The victim and the perpetrator spend more time together than normal, making it harder to contact them. The victim privacy is severely harmed at home. Despite the dangers, remote data collection can be made easier. Because the victim is limited to the criminal who uses mobile

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<sup>11</sup> *Francis Coralie Mullin v. The Administrator, Union Territory Of Delhi & Ors* (1981).

<sup>12</sup> *Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation v. Nawab Khan Gulab Khan* (1996).

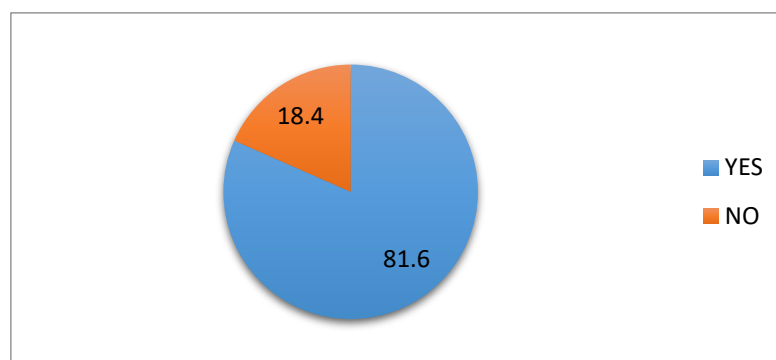
<sup>13</sup> *Chameli Singh v. State Of U.P* (1995).



phones or SMS, the likelihood of violence may increase as electronic information is erased. If the abuser learns that the woman is talking about her storey and seeking treatment, the odds of her being raped increase.<sup>14</sup> Data, on the other hand, should not be misunderstood. The fact that the assistance lines receive fewer calls than typical during pandemics does not imply that violence has diminished. One of them claimed that during the lockdown, the number of calls received by a Delhi-based NGO that operates a 24-hour hotline was significantly fewer than before the lockdown, owing to women's incapacity to seek help. Victims may minimise the number of calls they make to avoid confrontation, which could lead to more abuse. The victim's predicament has worsened as a result of the fear of a pandemic, and neighbours who provide first-hand help are hesitant to intervene. In such cases, non-governmental organisations operate admirably, providing help while public authorities deal with the epidemic. Governments and authorities have been encouraged to provide victims with quick assistance. Even if they are far away, health facilities should be able to offer information. Survivors are encouraged to contact the organisation, and health-care providers are taught how to manage the services effectively. More efforts on women's empowerment must be promoted in order for women to feel at ease at home. Furthermore, community members must be made aware of the higher danger of domestic violence at that specific period in order to give a helping hand while maintaining the necessary physical distance.<sup>15</sup>

## VI. EMPIRICAL STUDY ON IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JAMMU DISTRICT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (U.T)

### 1. Are there more incidents of domestic violence under COVID 19?



<sup>14</sup> Violence Against Women and Girls Data Collection during COVID-19, *UN Women* (2020), Available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/issue-brief-violence-against-women-and-girls-data-collection-during-covid-19> (Last visited on 15 Jul. 2021).

<sup>15</sup> COVID-19 and violence against women What the health sector/system can do, *World Health Organization*, 7 April 2020, Available at <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/331699> (Last visited on 15 Jul. 2021).

**Figure 1**

The author created the question in order to learn about the status of domestic abuse cases during the COVID period. 19. 81.6 percent of respondents said yes when asked if the number of domestic abuse cases rose during COVID-19, while 18.4 percent said no.

**2. Is it so difficult for a woman to report a domestic violence abuse case during COVID19?**

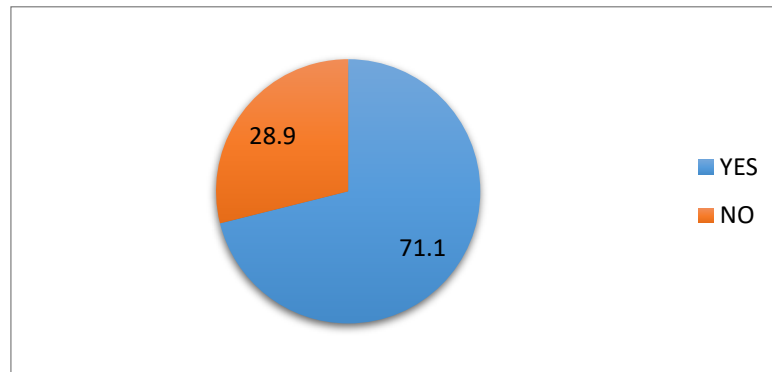
**Figure 2**

Figure 2 shows that a huge majority of respondents, 71.1 percent (yes), thought it was difficult for a woman to disclose domestic violence abuse instances during COVID19, while 28.9% said (no).

**3. Can just economically disadvantaged households be affected by domestic violence?**

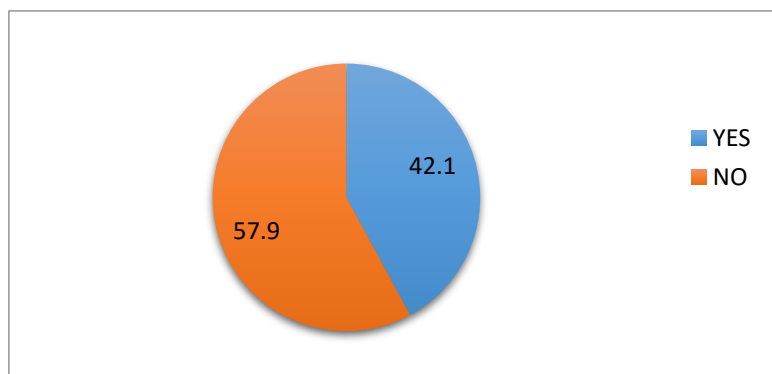
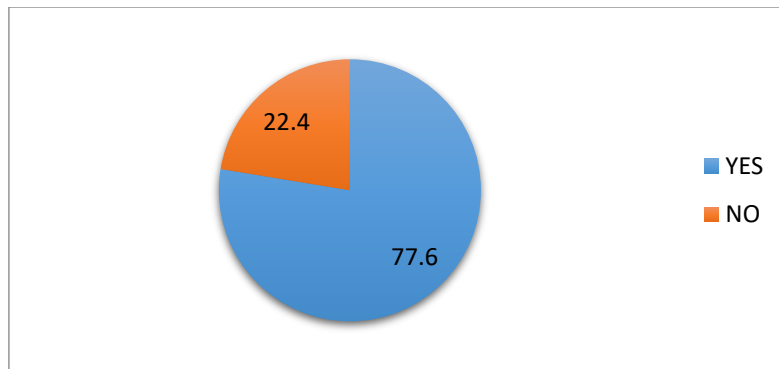
**Figure 3**

Figure 3 shows that 57.9% of respondents believe that not only economically disadvantaged households are affected by domestic violence, but that other factors have also contributed to an increase in the number of domestic violence events during COVID-19, while 42.1 percent believe the above-mentioned factor is the main cause of domestic violence cases during COVID-19.

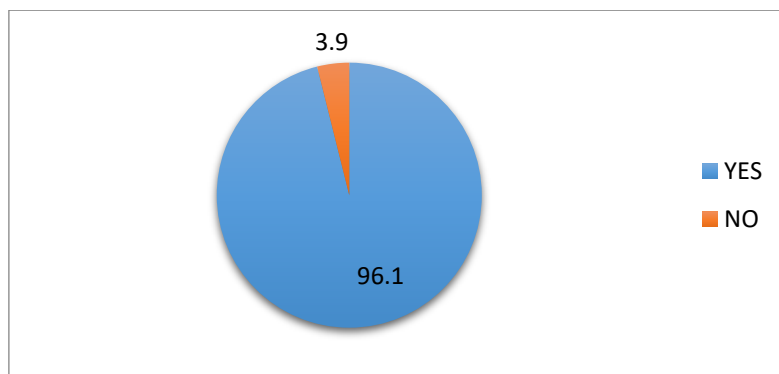
#### 4. Is the household violence offender always a man?



**Figure 4**

The author posed this question to determine the general public's awareness of the status of men and their role in domestic violence incidents. Figure 4 shows that during COVID-19, 77.6 percent of respondents believed that the perpetrator of domestic abuse was invariably a man, whereas 22.4 percent disagreed.

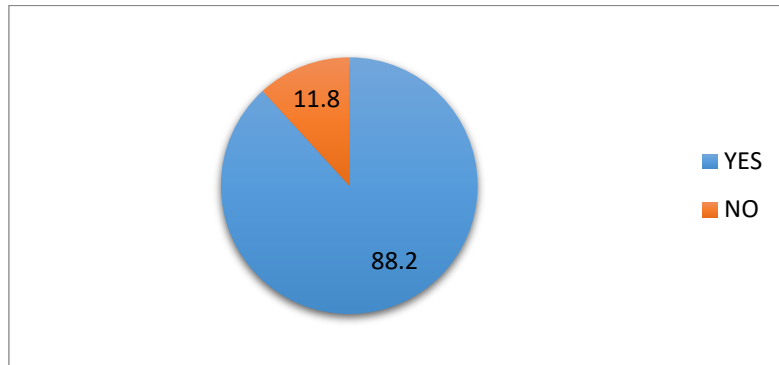
#### 5. Is domestic violence exposure affecting children?



**Figure 5**

Figure 5 show that the majority of respondents (96.1%) agree that domestic violence incidents have an impact on children's lives.

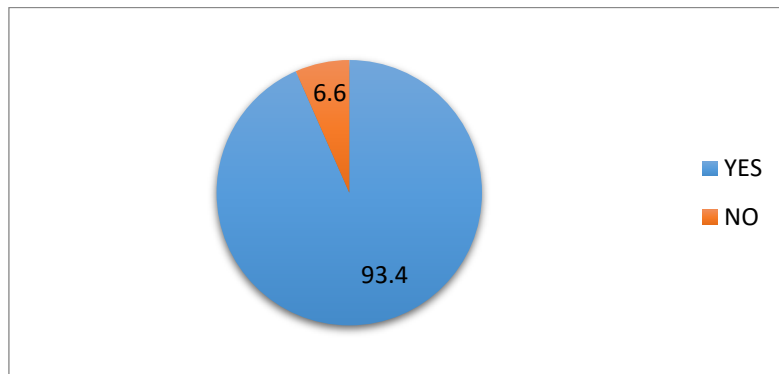
#### 6. Do children prone to be physically abused in the same households where domestic violence is taking place?



**Figure 6**

According to the data in figure 6, the majority of respondents (88.2%) feel that children are more likely to be physically harmed in households where domestic violence is present.

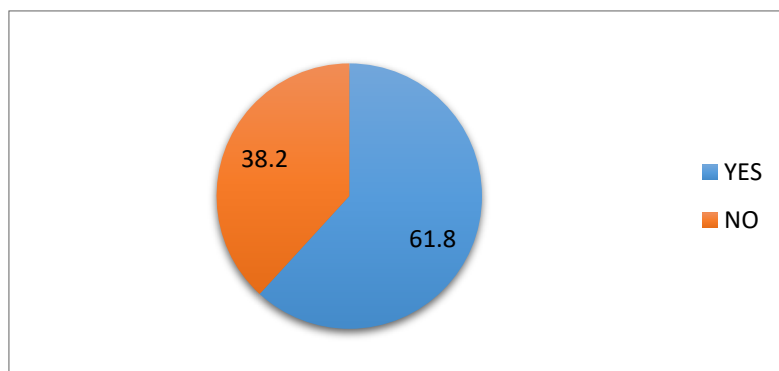
**7. Is the child's feeling about their parents affected by domestic violence?**



**Figure 7**

The author posed this question to get the respondent's thoughts on the subject of children's mental illness as a result of domestic violence. Figure 7 show that the majority of respondents (93.4 percent) believe that domestic violence has an impact on children's views about their parents.

**8. If anybody grew up in an abusive family, would he or she repeat intimate partnerships the same behaviour?**



**Figure 8**

Figure 8 shows that 61.8 percent of respondents believe that if someone grew up in an abusive home, they will replicate abusive behaviours in intimate relationships, whereas 38.2 percent disagree.

**9. Is it academic of the child getting affected by household violence?**

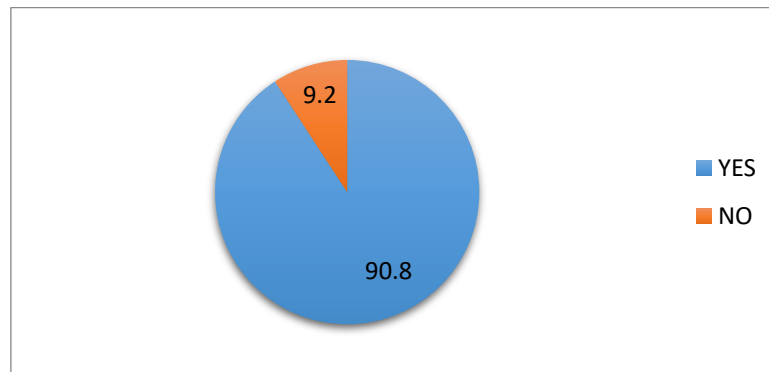
**Figure 9**

Figure 9 show that the majority of respondents (90.8%) believe that domestic violence instances have an impact on children's academic lives.

**10. Help lines, medical aid, online services, etc, helping in controlling domestic violence during a lockdown?**

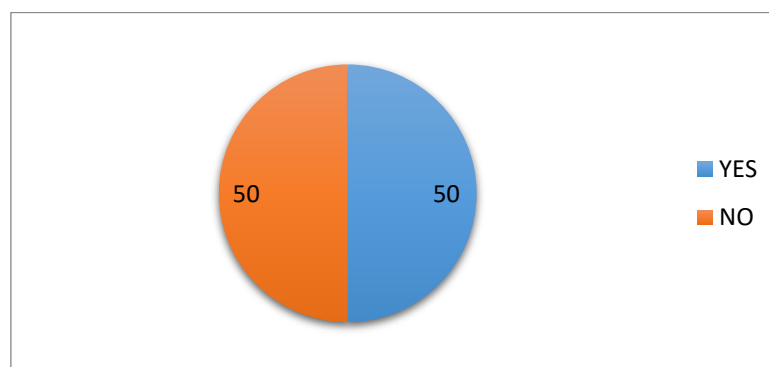
**Figure 10**

Figure 10 shows that half of the respondents, or 50%, believe that help lines, medical aid, online services, and other resources helped control domestic violence during lockdown, while the rest responses disagree.<sup>16</sup>

## VII. PREPARATION OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES DURING COVID 19

The National Commission for Women received 257 complaints in the first week alone,

<sup>16</sup> Data is collected through a google form available at <https://forms.gle/itfE86MDkc2dbA5f7>.

according to estimates. According to women's organisations in India, girls are being encouraged to reconsider underage marriage because their access to school and livelihoods is uncertain. People who work from home and use modern technology are increasingly vulnerable to cyber bullying, electronic harassment, and intimidation all over the world. There was more hotline contact and police reporting, and when strict anti-COVID laws were implemented, female abusers faced even more barriers to help. Despite the fact that there is less data on this topic due to less media coverage and fewer organisational reports, the findings paint a frightening picture of the epidemic's rise in violence. Intimate partners in the United States also used the epidemic to physically separate women from resources. Domestic violence has also resulted in serious injuries to women.<sup>17</sup> According to one alarming statistic, family violence deaths in the United Kingdom more than doubled between March 23 and April 12, compared to the preceding ten years.<sup>18</sup>

The reality behind a shadow pandemic is as terrible as these stories might be. As the globe is encouraged to stay at home to prevent COVID19, partners in violent relationships face a significant risk. During these moments, children may become trapped in the clutches of spousal abuse. As a result of its impact on individual social, economic, and political circumstances, COVID19 has had a considerable impact on global remedial institutions, such as courts. Lockdown measures made it difficult for countries courts to continue to operate. Some nations continued to hear or prioritise essential cases. Botswana, Bulgaria, Poland, and Turkey, for example, maintained their courts open, but only to deal with emergency situations such as domestic violence and family disputes. In Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic, virtual hearings were held. Malaysia's free system for seeking protection orders, refuge, and legal aid for persons has been digitalized. Peru and Puerto Rico go a step further by making security orders available through social media platforms like WhatsApp and e-mail. Protective orders that would have expired during the lockdown time in Brazil were also extended greatly. Because the market was only open to a limited number of people due to the lockdown, anti-violence programmes and survivor support were made available in Belgium, France, Italy, and Spain, in addition to food stores. The police reaction codes were created using code phrases such as "masque 19" and "mascarilla 19." Domestic abuse complaints could now be made anonymously, not just by victims, but also by neighbours and even family members, according

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<sup>17</sup> A. H. Gupta, and A. Stahl, "For Abused Women, a Pandemic Lockdown Holds Dangers of Its Own" *The New York Times*, 24 Mar. 2020, Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/us/coronavirus-lockdown-domestic-violence.html> (Last visited on 16 Jul. 2021).

<sup>18</sup> J. Grierson, "Domestic abuse killings "more than double" amid Covid-19 lockdown, *Support the Guardian*, Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/15/domestic-abuse-killings-more-than-double-amid-covid-19-lockdown> (Last visited on Accessed 16 Jul. 2021).

to a police application in Youpol, Italy. The Indian government has taken steps to ensure that the country's operational programmes are not jeopardised. The One Stop Centre, Ujjawala Homes, and the Emergency Response Support System were all operational. The NCW's WhatsApp hotline, which opened in April 2020, has received 33% of complaints.<sup>19</sup>

## VIII. SUGGESTIONS

Despite the fact that gender-based violence exposes women's vulnerability, this epidemic, which includes social, economic, and political instability, raises a number of problems. The World Bank has proposed a number of comprehensive strategies for coping with the COVID 19 pandemic are risks. Domestic violence is being prevented and responded to through the World Bank's crisis strategy, which includes providing protection, offering support services, and activating reporting mechanisms in a number of easily accessible areas. Among the reporting options are hotlines and programmes dedicated particularly to sexual assault victims. To prevent violence between spouses and within families, this technique examines behaviour change and provides social support. Digital technology is being used to give access to redress mechanisms and reporting via mobile phone as the best technique for dealing with the matter. Other essential factors include allocating finances and providing sufficient training to health-care staff.

## IX. CONCLUSION

A family is a place to call home where you can find serenity, love, and care, but for women who are victims of domestic abuse, a house is no longer a safe haven. At the onset of the COVID 19 outbreak, the victims of this abuse were in close proximity to their perpetrators. The tension that made it a safe refuge for forced cohabitation by women, job losses, stress, and anxiety among the general public. Women's already vulnerable situations during lock-out are exacerbated by limited movement and inadequate communication with their native families. Despite the notion that women should be the safest, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres properly remarked in April that many women are encircled by violence with no way out. With knowledge and wealth, the belief that a man should hit his wife decreases, and this is true for both men and women. The percentage of women who agreed declined from 59 percent to 43 percent, and the percentage of men with more education dropped from 49 percent to 37 percent. "It is education that bridges the gap between human beings and human beings," Swami

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<sup>19</sup> M. Nikore, "With Covid-19, comes the "Shadow Pandemic": How the surge of domestic violence gripped India's women in 2020", *Times of India*, 24 Nov. 2020, Available at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/irrational-economics/with-covid-19-comes-the-shadow-pandemic-how-the-surge-of-domestic-violence-gripped-indias-women-in-2020/> (Last visited on 16 Jul. 2021).

Vivekananda properly recognised. Investing in the cessation of gender-based violence promotes the country's growth and is a sensible financial option. Women's growth is hampered significantly by violence against them. Legislators, law enforcement officials, civil society organisations, service providers, and researchers must all work together to assist and support women who are caught in the terrible cycle of domestic abuse. To strengthen women's place in society, strong rules and regulations must be enacted. The UN Entity for Gender and Women's Empowerment (UN-Women) introduced the "Shadow Pandemic" during COVID 19, a public awareness campaign aimed at combating the global rise in domestic abuse. It is important to urge women all over the world to be more conscious in this way so that they feel unified in their fight against abuse. This issue should be given more attention and funding.

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