

# Repercussions of Covid-19 Pandemic on Indian Women in the Embodiment of Domestic Violence

Fiona Cyril Creado

*Department of history, university of mumbai*

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## ABSTRACT

Domestic violence includes any type of physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse. It can be implemented by a partner or any member of the family. Domestic violence is deeply rooted and widespread in India. The National Criminal Records Bureau (NCRB) 2019 reported that of the 405,000 crimes against women, 30.9% were registered under article 498A of the Constitution of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This research article seeks to understand the small factors that have contributed to the increase in domestic violence cases in India. Various psychodynamic theories of domestic violence, such as object relations, have been used to analyse the causes and consequences of women's psychology, behaviour, development, and social growth. The research also worked to determine the basis of the vicious circle of domestic violence and its direct link to the COVID19 pandemic. The sudden rise in unemployment, lack of social mobility and economic burden are the main reasons for the increase in brutal domestic violence cases in India.

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, women, object relationship, COVID19, pandemic, rape, object relationship, Exosystem, psychological, economic burden, WHO, gender.

## Importance of Topic:

- ❖ The vulnerability of women who suffered domestic violence during the new global corona pneumonia pandemic has placed tremendous mental pressure on women's overall health.
- ❖ The research work also contains the judicial interpretation of domestic violence and has tried to study the legislative debate on Article 498A and its relation to domestic violence in India in the context of the COVID19 pandemic.
- ❖ The Psychodynamic Theory such as the Object Relations Theory of Family Violence and the Social Theory of origin of Domestic Violence such as Exosystem Factor Theory has been examined to relate the rudimentary nature of

COVID-19 Pandemic-driven Domestic Violence.

- ❖ The Research canvasses the inter-link between an Increase in complaints of Domestic Violence, the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Role of Activists in the Prevention of such heinous acts against Women.

## Aims and Objectives:

- 1) To Understand the Forms of Domestic Violence and its different aspects in COVID-19 Pandemic in India
- 2) To Study the Strategies utilized by married adults to deal with Domestic Violence in India amidst COVID-19 Crisis.
- 3) To Scrutinize the Case study of Domestic Violence in COVID-19 imposed lockdown and its harmful effects on Social Functioning.
- 4) To examine the Judicial Interpretations and other legal aspects such as Domestic Violence Act 2005 for providing mitigation against Domestic Violence in India. 5) To Apply and interpret the Psychodynamic Theory of Object Relations and Social Theory of Exosystem Factor of Domestic/ Family Violence.
- 6) To Cogitate the Phenomenon of Inter- Linkage between Increase in Complaints of Domestic Violence, COVID-19 Pandemic and Role of Activists in palliation of such flagitious Crimes.
- 7) To have the deeper insight of repercussions of COVID-19 Pandemic imposed Lockdown on surge of Domestic Violence cases against Indian Women.

## Research Methodology:

- 1) 'Historical Research' Methodology has applied.
- 2) 'Analytical-Empirical' Research Methodology has extensively used.
- 3) 'Application Theory' Research Methodology has applied.

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### Concept of Domestic Violence in COVID-19 PandemicIndia:

Domestic Violence is widespread and it was prominently reflected in COVID-19 Lockdown. The Impact of the Lockdown was majorly affected Migrant workers, Daily Wage Labourers, Domestic Workers, Women, Marginalised Groups. The Lockdown exacerbated the Factors contributing to Domestic Violence. Pandemic has unleashed enormous upshots to Women's Life in particular such as forceful confinement of Women to their homes with lack of Social support. Patriarchal Dogma is evidently seen in every sphere of life. The National Crime Records Bureau Report of 2018, which disclosed the Cruelty committed by Husband or his relatives on Women comprises 31.09% of total reported cases. World Health Organization defines 'Violence' as the Intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or against a particular group or community that either result in or has a high likelihood of resulting in Injury, Death, Psychological Harm, Maldevelopment or Deprivation.

### Rise in Crime Rates among Women in India: Major Concern

India's Patriarchy is an increasing rampant serial killer ever since times have been challenging for women. Over 38% of Murders of women are committed by current or former partners as evidenced in National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and Indian women account for 36% of Global Female SuicideDeaths. Violence against women affects an estimated 736 Million globally.

**Case Study-1:** The final year Bachelor student of Ayurveda had married S. Kiran Kumar on March 20, 2020. Her parent reported that she was unhappy despite A New Car had given to her husband as Dowry in her Marriage. And She found dead in the first week of July at Kollam in Kerala. Her cousin sister 'Vismaya Nair' sent photographs as proof of brutal assault on her by her husband.

**The NFHS-4 Data** unveils that 26% of Urban Poor Women are more prone to Domestic Violence by their spouses. In One Cross Sectional study, 7.4% study participants faced domestic violence during Lockdown.

**National Commission for Women (NCW)** rose sharply in 2020 and it received a total of 23,722 complaints of crimes against women in 2020. A year after lockdown, NCW continues to receive over 2000 complaints of crimes against women each month with nearly 1/4<sup>th</sup> of them related to

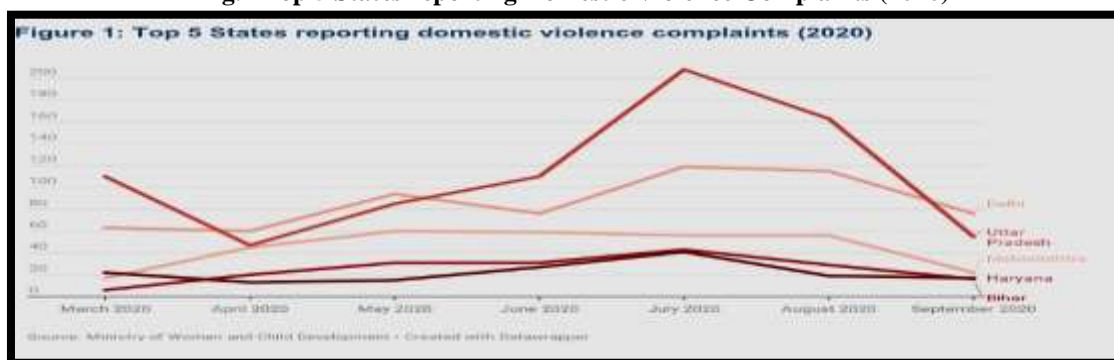
domestic violence. Pandemic Situations has shown both positive and negative effects, Negative Consequences such as such as loss of Job, Economic Vulnerability has mounted the Psychological stress which directly impacted the Women in Lockdown.

**Persona of Women Activists in Creation of Social Awareness among Women Mob:**

Women Women Activist like YogitaBhayana who leads the People Against Rape in India (PARI) the social women’s organization explained the reasons for a high rate of complaints being

registered under the Domestic Violence Act of 2005, she also remarked the speculation of a high amount of awareness among the women for the cause of the Women’s Movement. The chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Rekha Sharma had indicated the plausible causes of the rise of Domestic Violence cases in COVID-19 imposed Lockdown, are Economic Insecurity, Anxiety, Lack of emotional support of family members that has resulted in rise in cases of Domestic Violence.

**Fig.1 Top 5 States reporting Domestic Violence Complaints (2020)**



**Evidence also witnessed the Improvement of Women’s Agency and Financial Independence of Women,** there rehabilitation links to second equally important pillar **Community Support Systems** which is founding

stone for boosting women to file a FIR against such Crimes. It is crucial to strengthen the such mechanisms that facilitate ease of reporting by women against Domestic Violence.

**Surge in Domestic Violence Cases in India during Pandemic**



**Case Study-2:** A Study conducted by researcher **Priyanshi Chauhan** found that “Approximately 22.5% of married women as compared to zero men and unmarried women worked for more than 70 hours per week” during

the Lockdown. The study also displayed the unemployed women witnessed the highest increase of 30.5% percentage points for those who spent more than 70 hours per week.

**Table 1. Reports of domestic violence across the 5 months of pandemic (March–July 2020) published in three newspapers, The Hindu, The Times of India, and DainikJagran**

	The Hindu	The Times of India	DainikJagran
March	4	2	9
April	33	22	11
May	10	18	15
June	14	9	13
July	1	2	6

**Legislative Debates:**

A study of the Lok Sabha Debates between 1982-86 shows that, during these years, Lok Sabha had principally focused on the Issue of Domestic Violence. Section 498 A of Indian Penal Code that criminalised domestic violence was passed in 1983. Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1986 in a spirit of providing Justice to women and as an affirmative reaction to protests of women’s organizations all over the country.

**Judicial Interpretation of Domestic Violence:**

Judicial Interpretation leans to support the accused in Domestic Violence cases against women. The Survey conducted in Maharashtra unveiled the most of the domestic violence cases have occurred between 3-5 years before a judgment was passed at the Sessions court. It has been argued that Section 498A creates a situation of ‘Double Jeopardy which replicates the provisions of Section 4, Dowry prohibition act.

**Role of WHO in combating Domestic violence during COVID-19**

The WHO analysed the different ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic and measures to address it, such as staying at home, could accelerate the risk of domestic violence against women. Hence, it highlighted the importance of ensuring that support and medical care services for women and children affected by such violence are maintained and what health providers/services can do to reach out to the vulnerable and the victims, including through identifying and offering referral options. It provides recommendations on what measures governments, health providers, community members and others can take to mitigate such violence and its impacts. It also provides tips for coping with stress at home and actions women who are experiencing violence or their family members can take.



### Object Relations Psychodynamic Theory of Domestic Violence:

This Theory suggests that Humans are motivated from their earliest childhood need for significant relationships with others. 'Others' are referred to as objects, Fairbairn suggests that these early relationships in addition to playing a role in the psychic development of an Individual. The Development and utilization of defences during Infancy and Childhood is highly adaptive which allows the survival within difficult Family Situations which prevents one from entering an Abusive Relationship.

### Exosystem Factor Social Theory of Domestic Violence:

This Theory focuses on Life stressors which are considered to be Specific Life Events or the Experiences that are adapted by an Individual as exceeding that person's resources. Stressors such as Job Loss, an extramarital affair, daily hassles including a personal history of growing up in a violent family, low marital satisfaction and social isolation which gradually develops the Violence.<sup>18</sup>

### CONCLUSION:

There are multiple origins of Domestic Violence, Pan According to Psychodynamic Theory, Inter-Relation between different people and the Development of Psyche of an Individual in early childhood triggers the sign of development of Domestic Violence, Daily hassles play the role of Life stressors that leads to the creation of Domestic Violence. Women Activists like **YogitaBhayana** heading Women's Organizations such as People Against Rape in India and **NFHS-4 Data** indicates 26% of Urban Poor Women are more prone to Domestic Violence. COVID-19 Pandemic has been witnessing an increase in reporting complaints of domestic violence as per the National Commission of women. We hope for better improvement of Women's well-being in near future Financially, Socially, Psychologically without any tussle and obstacles that inhibit the Growth and development of Women with Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Dignity. A great thanks goes to Social Media that served as important tool in addressing Domestic Violence to the people and the WHO too, who came up with a voice to safeguard women's rights and with apt solutions for the victims. Thus, this study has provided a glimpse of this pernicious violent scenario, whereas the real picture is no better than any another pandemic.

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