

Domestic Violence against Women in Dhaka City

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Abstract: *The present study unveils the nature and consequences of domestic violence against women (DVAW) which is considered the serious violation of Human Right of Women. The prime objective of the study is to know the magnitudes of the problem of Domestic violence against women, its nature, causes and consequences. In this study Sample survey has been used as a main method. The Study reveals that the common form of domestic violence against women are wife beating, slapping, punching; throwing, hair pulling, underestimation, stop speaking, dowry and so on. The study also unveils that main reasons of violence against women such as dowry, dominating tendency of male, male dependency, low economic status, lack of proper implementation of laws etc with its consequences for both the wider society and the individual victim. It causes pain, fear and distress, reduces the capacity of victimized women to contribute productivity to the family, the economy and public life. From the study discovered the study suggest that all out united effort is required for addressing domestic violence against women in collaboration with Government Organizations (GOs) and Non-government Organizations (NGOs) on urgent basis.*

Keywords: Violence against Women; Domestic Violence; NGO; Physical Tortures; Mental Tortures

Introduction

Violence against women is a common occurrence in most societies whether the violence is physical or mental. In South Asia it is a daily and often deadly fact of life for millions of women and girls. Women and girls are generally looked down upon, trapped within cultural framework, molded by rigid perceptions of patriarchy. As a result violence against women is viewed as a normal phenomenon even from the women's perspective (Farouk Sharmeen A, 2005). In Bangladesh it is a daily and often deadly fact of life for millions of women and girls.

Being in a patriarchal society, powerlessness and vulnerability is associated with women's lives where they are dominated and subjugated by the men. In Bangladesh, women face various forms of violence, ranging from wife abuse to rape, dowry killings, acid throwing, sexual harassment, and sexual slavery through trafficking in women (Zaman, 1999), among which domestic violence is widely prevalent both in urban and rural areas as an everyday matter of women's lives. Deeply rooted subordinate positions

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of women allow men to dominate and control not only their families and resources (Schuler et al., 1998 stated in Hossain, 2007) but also lives of women. Consequently, societal norms and traditional values associated with gender roles and supremacy within households and society tend to trigger, dictate and provoke domestic violence against women in Bangladesh (Koenig et al., 2003).

Violence against women remains a prevailing social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Brutal attacks on women have become commonplace and widespread across the country. Daily news reports are filled with atrocities including physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, dowry related violence, trafficking, forced prostitution, coerced suicide and murder. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen consistently and at an alarming rate, especially since the early 2008. The following data has been taken from the daily news with respect to the violence against women.

Table-1: Comparative Frequency of Different Forms of Violence by Year

Types of Violence	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 (Jan-Jun)
Salish and fatwa	20	35	22	59	24
Acid Attack	80	63	93	62	31
Dowry Induced	296	285	395	502	300
Torture on Servant	110	78	81	117	54
Rape	486	446	626	939	-
Family Violence	312	281	397	-	-
Total	1004	1188	1614	1679	409

Source: *BMP data compiled from the national dailies – Shangbad, Janakontha, Muktokntha, Bhorer Kagoj, BanglaBazar Patrika, Dinkal, Ittefaq, The Daily Star and Prothom Alo, 2008-2012.*

It is worth noting that the information above represents cases that have interfaced with the news media. When different sources are used to gather information a different picture is observed. Recent observation on Violence against Women in Bangladesh shows that the most common forms of violence are identified respectively as torture for dowry and battering, threats, abduction, rape, trafficking, murder, abandonment, acid burn, burns from fire, 101 lashes or fatwa-related-community violence.

According to the Constitution, the State takes responsibility to ensure non-discrimination among its citizens and maintain gender equality. However, in the personal sphere, the state does not specify its responsibility to ensure non-discrimination. Similarly in spite of the declaration of equality in the Constitution, women are deprived of their guaranteed rights by some of the discriminatory civil and religious laws. The reasons for selecting domestic violence against women as an issue to investigate in the study were manifold. This particular social practice undermines women's basic human right to a life or dignity, worth and equality. It promotes inequality between men and women, by creating a dominant and subordinate order between the sexes and it thus breaches the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In the face of

actual or threatened violence, women cannot develop to their full human potential or participate in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political arenas on equal terms with men. From that perspective it can be said that it is a burning issue related to development and the high time to take effective programs consistent to our socio-cultural context as existing programs are not so effective. Now to start new programs highlighting women concern authority needs latest information. So if we can present the real situation of the nature and consequences of domestic violence against women. It will be help full for policy maker, social worker and concern authority to formulate policy, plan and programs. Further more in recent time policy maker are giving preference on indigenous knowledge to solve problems and sustainable development. So we believe that it will find out the nature and consequences and some effective recommendations' to improve the situation and to launch programs for the victims.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to find out information with respect to the nature and consequences of domestic violence against women in Dhaka city.

Objectives:

01. To know the socio economic, psychological and demographic information of victim's women.
02. To understand the magnitudes of this problem, its nature, causes and consequences.
03. To draw some recommendations how to combat domestic violence in Bangladesh.

Conceptual Clarification

Women

In this study women means the victims who are getting facilities from ASK (Ain o Salish Kendro) and Narinirjaton Protirod Cell.

Domestic Violence against Women

Violence is a product of social, cultural, religious and traditional values, which perpetuate patriarchal attitudes at different level of society and restrict female empowerment. Domestic violence against women (DVAW) encompasses physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, slapping, dowry related violence and other traditional practices harmful to women, violence related to exploitation.

Methodology of the Study

The present study is quantitative in nature. This research is mainly a social research to exploit facts. Sample survey has been used as research method in this study. The research is based on the victim's women in Dhaka Metropolitan City who are taking services from following organizations. These are 1.Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) 2.Nari Nizzaton Protirod Cell. The reason behind choosing is easy access to respondents, good communications are mentionable. All the women of research area are the population of

the study and each woman is the unit of analysis in this study. Purposive sampling has been used in this study. Firstly, two organizations have been selected purposively. These are Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Nari Nizzaton Protirod Cell. Secondly, sixty women from each organization have been selected purposively.

Table- 2: Data has been collected on the light of following schedule Organizations Pattern

Categories of Respondents	GO	NGO	Total
Educated(above HSC)	15	15	30
Little educated(Under HSC)	15	15	30
House Wife	15	15	30
Working Women	15	15	30
Total	60	60	120

This research is a basically depends on primary data and secondary data also be used to enrich the study .The sources of primary data are individual interview, observation. These have been carried out to obtain the views of women. So interview schedule and observation techniques of data collection applied in this study. The collected data edited properly. Then it classified according to its characteristics. Various statistical methods and tools used to process and analyze the data. Quantitative data have been analyzed through various statistical procedures. Finally all the information has presented in a report.

Findings of the Study

This chapter contains the findings of research interview. The researcher conducted interviews with victims. For maintaining the heterogeneity, we took different age level, profession. To dig out the different point of views and ideas of victims, we chose four types of respondents.

Table- 3: Age of the Respondents

Age Victims	Age				Total
	15-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	
Educated	5(16.66)	13(43.33)	6(20.00)	6(20.00)	30
Little Educated	13(43.33)	7(23.33)	6(20.00)	4(13.33)	30
House Wife	11(36.66)	8(26.66)	6(20.00)	5(16.66)	30
Working Women	5(16.66)	6(20.00)	12(40.00)	7(23.33)	30
Total	35	33	30	22	120

*Figures within parentheses indicate percentage

*Average Age-24.47 years.

Data furnished in table 3 portray a clear picture of the age of the respondents who have experienced on untold suffering of violence. In this regard, as many as 63.33% and 60.00% of educated and working women respectively in the 21-30 years age bracket faced any sort of violence throughout their life. In respect of the age of victims, another worth mentioning majority of house wife (63.33%) and little educated women (66.66%) suffered torture between the age of 15 and 25. From the above information presented in the table indicates that women in the 15-25 age bracket face maximum number of incidence.

Table-4: Income of the Respondents

Income Victims	1000-5000	5001-10000	10001-15000	15000-20000	20000-25000	Total
Educated	-	10(33.33)	11(36.66)	6(20.00)	3(10.00)	30
Little Educated	14(46.66)	10(33.33)	6(20.00)	-	-	30
House Wife	25(83.33)	5(16.66)	-	-	-	30
Working Women	5(16.66)	11(36.66)	9(30.00)	4(13.33)	1(3.33)	30
Total	44	36	26	10	4	120

*Figures within parentheses indicate percentage

Average Income (Monthly)-8266.95 taka

The data given above show the monthly income of the respondents. The table reveals that a significant majority of educated(69.99) and working women's(66.66) monthly income is between the taka of 5000 and 15000. On the other hand, another worth mentioning numbers of house wife and little educated women's monthly income is below 10000 taka. So it is clear that house wife and little educated women are not financially solvent.

Table-5: Causes of Torture

Causes	Frequency (N-120)	Percentage
Dowry	115	95.83
Marital conflict	40	33.33
Economic Insolvency	15	12.50
Lack of security	9	11.66
Drug Addiction	14	7.5

*More than one response

Data presented in the table, explicitly point out that dowry is the vital factor with regard to violence against women and majority of the respondents (95.83%) are found in support

of this proposition. Of the other reasons, marital conflict, economic insolvency, lack of security and drug addiction of husband have been indicated by 33.33%,12.50%,11.66% and 7.5% of the respondents respectively. Research has shown that in all the six organizations, beneficiaries have stated that violence due to “Dowry” is the most severe problem in their areas. Other Statement also proved that there is a strong dowry-violence link. Dowry breeds many-fold sufferings for women like mental and physical torture, polygamy, marriage as money making business, early marriage, divorce. All these types of violence and its side effects are somehow associated with the practice of dowry. Many frightening incidents are heard about where not only the wife but also the children and other family members have fallen victim to inhuman cruelty and torture by the husband or family members. In such cases, meeting the demand of dowry becomes compulsory to retain the marriage on the part of the wife and her family.(Study Report on VAW: 2009,27).The above findings reveal that dowry is a major factor for violation against women. Dowry is a ruthless practice in Bangladesh. This practice also has created an unhealthy competition among the rich families of the society, and as a consequence, the women and girls of the poverty stricken families are the worst victims. Lack of economic and self-sufficiency of women is also responsible for severe violence.

Table-6: Nature of Physical Tortures

Victims Nature	Educated (N-30)	Little educated (N-30)	Working women (N-30)	House wife (N-30)
Slapping	12(40.00)	13(43.33)	11 (33.33)	14(46.66)
Punching	8(26.66)	17(56.66)	7(23.33)	19(63.33)
Throwing	7(23.33)	21(70.00)	6(20.00)	23(76.66)
Hair Pulling	10(33.33)	18(60.00)	9(30.00)	17(56.66)

*More than one response

Data furnished in the table reflects the nature of physical torture faced by women. Study has shown that physical violence is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, injury or harm. Physical violence includes but not limited to: scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing, biting, graving, shoking, shaking ,poking, hair pulling, slapping ,punching, the use of restraints or one’s body size or strength against another person, and use of a weapon(gun, knife or object).Several physical violence is defined as physical violence that is likely to lead to external or internal injuries.(Violence against women in south asia,2003:2)

In this regard, a significant number of educated (40.00), little educated (43.33), house wife (33.33) and working women (46.66) suffered slapping. In respect of the nature of physical torture about 56.66% and 63.33% of little educated and house wife respectively suffered more punching than educated (26.66) and working women (20.00).Another worth mentioning majority of house wife(76.66) and little educated women(70.00)

hampered by throwing. And a small portion of educated (23.33) and working women (20.00) faced same suffering. And a remarkable percentage of respondents faced hair pulling. About 56.66% and 60.00% of house wife and little educated women respectively put forward their opinion in favor this proposition.

Several violence was defined, being hit with a fist or some other object, kicked, dragged or beaten up or choked or burnt or threatened or actually injured by a weapon. (Naved,2002).

From the above analysis it can be conclude that it is an act that inflicts physical harm to the body of the women. Acts such as hitting, biting, kicking, slapping, pushing, shoving, grabbing, beating, choking and assaults with different objects and weapons would all fall within this category.

Table-7: Nature of Mental Tortures

Victims Nature	Educated (N-30)	Little educated (N-30)	Working women (N-30)	House wife (N-30)
Verbal abuse	23(76.66)	21(70.00)	22(73.33)	23(76.66)
Underestimation	17(56.66)	11(36.60)	13(43.33)	9(30.00)
Stop speaking	22(73.33)	16(53.33)	19(63.33)	12(40.00)

*More than one response

Psychological violence is a major health issue. In global studies it has been noted that some women report that they are more disturbed by psychological than physical violence. However, this issue is not search in south Asia. And unfortunately it has not been paid due attention by the governments, physician and health care providers. (Violence against women in south Asia, 2003:7)

The presented data in the table shows the nature of mental torture faced by women. The table implies that an over whelming majority of house wife and little educated women are tortured mentally by verbal abuse. Besides these, a significant number of educated and working women also faced same violence. In this regard, another worth mentioning majority of house wife, little educated, educated and working women suffered untold sufferings by stop speaking. And small number of the respondents faced underestimation problems, about 43.33% and 36.60% of house wife and little educated women respectively put forward their opinion in favor this statement. In the ICDDR, B-Naripokkha study 43 percent of the ever-married reproductive aged women in Dhaka and 31 percent in Matlab reported being emotionally abused.

From the analysis, it can be said that educated and working women faced more mental torture than other victims. It can be explained that the higher rate of reporting of emotional abuse from educated women as follows: The section of mental torture includes

questions about insults and humiliation. It is clear that the perception about these things may vary quite a lot from little educated to educated women. Higher level of education may have made the respondents more sensitive to insults and humiliation, whereas little educated women may not consider such thing enough to report.

Table-8: Nature of Economic Torture

Nature \ Victims	Educated (N-30)	Little educated (N-30)	Working women (N-30)	House wife (N-30)
Stop subsistent support	13(43.33)	22(73.33)	11(36.66)	24(80.00)
Dowry related	24(80.00)	25(83.33)	26(86.66)	28(93.33)

*More than one response

The presented data in the table reveals the nature of economic tortures of the respondents. In this regard, an overwhelming majority of the victims are tortured for dowry related matters. Research has shown that in Bangladesh, dowry is a major factor for violation against women. The above findings reveals that It breeds many-fold sufferings for women like mental and physical torture, polygamy, marriage as money making business, early marriage, divorce. In all the six organizations, beneficiaries have stated that violence due to “Dowry” is the most severe problem in their areas. Other statement also proved that there is a strong dowry-violence link (Study Report on VAW: 2009, 23).The ICDDR,B-Naripokkho study in Bangladesh showed that marriage involving dowry and others demands from the husband side are risk factor for physical violence. These women are 1.81 times more likely to be physically assaulted by her husband than those who was not expected. Besides this a significant number of house wife (80.00) and little educated women (73.33) did not get subsistence support and educated (43.33) and working women (36.66) also faced such types of sufferings. From the above discussion, it is clear that most of the victims faced dowry related problems. It indicates the vulnerable situation of women in our country.

Table-9: Consequences of Violence

Consequences \ Victims	Educated (N-30)	Little educated (N-30)	Working women (N-30)	House wife (N-30)
Physical	26(86.66)	28(93.33)	23(76.66)	29(96.66)
Mental	19(63.33)	21(70.00)	18(60.00)	20(66.66)
Economic	16(53.33)	19(63.33)	19(63.33)	15(50.00)
Social	9(30.00)	12 (40.00)	11(36.66)	13(33.33)

*More than one response

Research from industrialized countries suggests that violence against women has far reaching consequences. Violence does not only effect only women's health and well-being, but also may limit their participation in society. Study has shown that the consequences of violence directed against women are difficult to ascertain because the crimes are in visible. However, it is very clear that fear is perhaps the greatest consequences. Fear of violence actually prevents many women from their independent lives. Fear curtails their movement so in many parts of the world. Fear of violence requires that they seek out male protection to prevent violence. The protection can result in a situation of vulnerability and dependence, which is not conducive to women empowerment. (Violence against women in south Asia, 2003:7)

The table indicates the effects of torture on respondent's life. It can be seen from the table third-fourth majority of the each category of respondent are physically hampered. Beside these, a significant number of educated, little educated, house wife and working women affected mentally due to untold sufferings. In respect of the consequences of violence, another remarkable number of the respondents are economically hampered. And about 63.33% and 50.00% of little educated and working women respectively put forward their opinion in favor of this proposition. In this regard, a little portion of house wife (33.33) and little educated women (40.00) are forced into corner socially. Among the respondents 30.00% and 36.66% of educated and working women respectively suffered same consequences. From the table it can be said that violence against women has several types of consequences which include physical or health, psychological, social and economic. The different types of effects are almost similar for all kinds of violence.

In Naripokkho's Pilot Study on Violence against Women (Azim, 2001) case studies of women survivors of violence showed that depression, trauma related symptoms (such as sensory associations, sleep disorders) and suicide ideation were common effects of violence. From the analysis it can be concluded that VAW has immediate and far reaching consequences affecting all spheres of women's life-her autonomy, her productivity, her capacity to care for herself and her children and subsequently also her overall health status and quality of life.

Table-10: Nature of Physical Consequences

Nature \ Victims	Educated (N-30)	Little educated (N-30)	Working women (N-30)	House wife (N-30)
Injury	23(76.66)	26(86.66)	25(83.33)	25(83.33)
Chronic headache	10(33.33)	17(56.66)	11(36.66)	18(60.00)
Unwanted miscarriage	9(30.00)	6(20.00)	8(26.66)	4(13.33)

*More than one response

Data presented in the table indicates the affect of violence on women life. In this regard most of educated (76.66%), little educated (86.66%), house wife (83.33%) and working women (83.33%) have suffered injuries as a results of violence. Injury is the most common outcome of violence. Physically abused women also experience reduced physical functioning, more physical symptoms and a greater number of days in bed than non-abused women. Result from ICDDR-B-Naripakkho in Bangladesh shows that about 25 percent of the women who had experienced physical violence suffered injuries as results. Women who reported violence in their lives also reported having problems in walking, bodily aches and pain. In several cases physical violence may be more harmful than other violence. In respect of the nature of physical consequences, a remarkable number of house wife (60.00) and little educated women (33.33) faced chronic headache as a results of torturing. About 33.33% and 36.66% of educated and working women respectively suffered same sufferings. Study has shown that abused women often suffered chronic headache, abnormal pain, muscle aches, sleeping and eating disorders. Recent research also suggests that abuse can also be associated with such delayed physical effects as hypertension and heart diseases.

In this regard, about one -fourth of educated (30.00) and working women (26.66) suffered unwanted miscarriage problems. Among the respondents a little portion of them faced same problems. About 13.33% and 20.00% of housewife and educated women respectively are found in favor of this statement. The ICDDR-B-Naripakkho study in Bangladesh showed that women who reported violence in their lives also reported having vaginal discharge. Another study showed that a much greater proportion of physically abused women repot pain during intercourse, unwanted pregnancies, abortion and menstrual disorder. (World report on violence and health: 2002).From the above findings, it is important to note that women who have experienced physical abuse in their lives not only experience ill-health more frequently than other women but also are more likely to adapt further risk behavior as like physical inactivity.

Table-11: Nature of Mental Consequences

Victims Nature	Educated (N-30)	Little educated (N-30)	Working women (N-30)	House wife (N-30)
Depression	26(86.66)	28(93.33)	23(76.66)	29(96.66)
Fear	19(63.33)	21(70.00)	18(60.00)	20(66.66)
Sleeping and eating disturbance	16(53.33)	12(40.00)	19(63.33)	15(50.00)
Tendency to commit suicide	9(30.00)	14(46.66)	11(63.60)	13(33.33)

*More than one response

Data presented in the table reflects the nature of mental consequences suffered as results of violence's. In this regard, about third –forth majority of the respondents suffered depression and a significant number of house wife (66.66) and little educated women (70.00) hampered by fear as results of torturing. And another portion of educated (63.33) and working women (60.00) faced same consequence. In respect of the nature of mental consequences, educated (53.33) and working women (63.33) are suffered more sleeping and eating disturbance than house wife (50.00) and little educated women (40.00). Among the respondents, a remarkable percentage of victims have experience on tendency to commit suicide. About 63.33% and 46.66% of working women and little educated victims respectively put forward their opinion in favor of this proposition. There is growing evidence that the relationship between violence and depression is causal. This is suggested by several findings. There are marked reductions in the level of depression and anxiety one stop experiencing violence compared to increases in depression and anxiety when violence is ongoing. Second, the severity of violence appears to predict the severity of the psychological outcomes. Third, case control studies have found significantly different rates of depression and anxiety between cases that have experienced violence and the control who have not. (Mullen ,1988:542-545). The ICDDR B-Nariphokkah study showed the women physically abused by their husbands did much worse on scale of mental health compared to those who did not experience any of the forms of violence. The other important finding of the study is that abused women shows greater inclination towards suicidal thoughts and attempts.

From the analysis it can be concluded that that for many women the psychological effects of abuse are major deliberating than physical effects. Fear, anxiety, fatigue, stress disorder and sleeping and eating disturbance are common long term reaction to violence. Suicidality is also an important consequence of violence.

Table-12: Nature of Economic Consequences

Victims Nature	Educated (N-30)	Little educated (N-30)	Working women (N-30)	House wife (N-30)
Loss of income	11(36.66)	8(26.66)	13(43.33)	7(23.33)
Paying medical cost	19(63.33)	17(56.66)	22(73.33)	19(63.33)
Loss of productivity	13(43.33)	9(30.00)	15(50.00)	8(26.66)

*More than one response

Data presented in the table reflects that a significant number of educated (36.66) and working women (43.33) lost their income as results of violence. About 23.33% and 26.66% of house wife and little educated women respectively suffered same consequence. In this regard, an overwhelming majority of educated little educated, house

wife and working women have paid medical cost and another significant number of them lost their productivity. About 43.33% and 50.00% of educated and working women put forward their opinion in favor of this statement. In Canada, a study by Mc Culloch (1997) showed that VAW costs the country 1.6 billion per year, including medical care for victims and lost productivity. In the US, researcher have found that losses arising from domestic violence from 10 billion to 67 billion.

According to the ICDDR-B-Nariphokkah study in Bangladesh 32 percent working women in Dhaka 23 percent working women in Matlab reported work disruption as consequences of domestic violence. About one-fifth of the working women who reported work disruption in Dhaka and Matlab reported that their husband had stopped them from working. More than half of these women reported that they had trouble concentrating at work and frequently suffered ill-health for which they have frequently on leave. A small percentages of these women also reported that work was disrupted as they lose confidence in themselves. (Naved, 2002). From the above discussion it can be concluded that paying medical cost is perhaps the greatest consequences of violence. Violence not only puts women's health at risk, it also impairs their ability to participate in income generating activities, which is remarkable hindrance to ensure women empowerment in our country.

Table-13: Opinion of Victims to Prevent Domestic Violence against Women

Opinion	Frequency(N-120)	Percentage
Hardly implementation of law	118	98.33
Decentralization of protective cell	47	39.16
Creating employment opportunities	68	56.66
Creating social awareness	54	45.00
Coordination between GO and NGO	76	63.33
Properly practice of religious rules	29	24.16

*More than one response

The issue of Domestic Violence against Women (DVAW) is increasing alarmingly day by day, but it is still not considered as a serious issue for all citizens. The issue of inhuman, animalistic and shameful acts is considered as a serious problem by a particular segment of the society. Generally, it has become the responsibility of women in the society to fight against DVAW, and providing efforts to bring other fellow citizens in the society, to initiate action to prevent violence.

Data furnished in the table indicates the deliberate opinion of respondents to combat violence against women. In this regard, the highest percentage of the victims (98.33%) emphasis on hardly implementation of law to minimize domestic violence against women

in Bangladesh.. Besides, another worth mentioning majority (63.33%) recommends that highest effort required for coordinated effort between government and NGOs to combat the problems. Study reveals that in order to combat violence against women, a change in the mindset is crucial. In order to minimize DVAW, GO and NGOs have to work more intensively on this particular issue, by taking “Violence against Women” as a cross cutting theme, with a social and political commitment, with the community itself, and government in particular. An all out united effort is required for addressing VAW in collaboration with GO and NGO on urgent basis. (Study Report on VAW, 2009:44). In respect of the opinion of victims, a significant number of them put forward their opinion for creating social awareness and about 56.66% recommend creating employment opportunities to prevent violence against women. Research (according to the study of Dr. Abul Barkat titled ‘Economic empowerment in Bangladesh: Should incorporate in National Human Development Plan, 2008’) reveals that, there are no alternative of long term program on awareness for Women’s rights. As the study reveals that those women who had gone through a awareness building process on women rights for last 10 years, are far more aware on “Rights based Issues”, active in establishing human and women rights, achieved their rights to some extent, and as a consequence their socio-economic status has improved compared to the section of women who were deprived from receiving awareness program. Besides, about 39.16% and 29.16% emphasis on decentralization of protective cell and properly practice of religious rules respectively to mitigate the sufferings. From the above analysis it can be concluded that government have to come forward to take effective initiatives to prevent the violence against women.

Concluding Remarks and Recommendations

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world and its estimated prevalence rate of violence against women is extremely high which, in turn, is ‘an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace’ (Johnson et al., 2008, p. 16). Due to a lack of reliable base-line surveys, the exact number of women affected by violence is unknown (CEDAW/C/BGD/Q/7). Deeply cultural and socio-economic practices embedded violence against women in the culture, traditions and religion of Islam is approved by both the society and the state. To conclude, violence against women remains a pervasive, yet under-acknowledged Human Rights violation in all countries of the world, being especially prevalent in Bangladesh (UNFRA 2000). “Violence against women is a deeply entrenched problem in most societies because attitudes and practices that support violence are institutionalized in custom and law at all levels of society – marriage and the family, home, community and state” (Johnson et al., 2008, p. 3). The issue of Domestic Violence against Women (DVAW) is rising alarmingly, but it yet for all the citizens should not be considered as a serious problem. In this regard, what we need to face up to the challenge of the hour is the obvious question? Here are a few suggestions are made:

- There should be a national policy on all forms of violence against women. Such a policy should be framed on the basis of general consensus among major political parties and professional and occupational groups.

- Governments should recognize that women's human rights are universal and indivisible: The Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth United Nations (UN) World Conference on Women reflects the commitment made by governments in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the 1993 UN World Conference on Human Rights that "the human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights".
- Government should institutionalize through specific laws, and regular programs, cooperation with NGO's in service delivery for victims of DVAW. Their support and cooperation should be obtained in monitoring law enforcement, and for community based advocacy programmes.
- Ensuring proper education and training facilities for women to engage them in job market and income generating activities.
- Government should ensure that women are treated equally in law; a woman's evidence should have the same weight as a man's in all judicial proceedings and women should not receive harsher penalties than a man would for the same offence.
- Enforcement of minimum age of marriage legislation, and prohibition of forced and child marriage must receive priority. The law on sexual crimes should be reviewed in the light of new thinking on gender discrimination.
- Enforcement mechanism should be strengthened and widened in grassroots level.
- The minimum age of marriage for girl should be eighteen.
- Social awareness can help a lot to eliminate rape incidents. It is possible to build awareness among the people through social education, media and civil society.
- In Bangladesh it is difficult to change anything by the government initiatives alone. So a collaborative effort of GO and NGOs are urgently needed to reduce women violence.

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