

# Conceptualisation of Domestic Violence Terminologies : A Perspective (With Special Reference to Women Victims of Violence within Shared Households)

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**Abstract:** *Conceptualization of 'Terminologies' are dynamics; we lack satisfactory terminologies of domestic violence against women within shared households. But why are terminologies so important in this field? It is because terminologies enable us to have a common understanding of the phenomena of domestic violence; they allow us to all be on the same platform when understanding, discussing or reading about the subject. It also tends to make sure that it is properly defining the process so that all understand, how well do we do with our subject or initiatives. Proper terminologies are essential to the success of the knowledge building - the value it bear, risks that are present, what is/ isn't included, who owns the process, and so on.*

**Key Words:** *Terminologies, Violence, Domestic Violence, Women Victims, Offenders, Causes of Domestic Violence, Types of Domestic Violence, Nature of Problems, Service providing Agencies.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Every research scholars are in need to define the key words in their own language while writing the thesis. These self define definitions are considered as terminologies. The Terminologies are the statements that explain the meaning of the phenomena vividly. Domestic violence related terminologies should explain, degree to which violence within the shared household clearly seen or heard: Numerous terminologies of domestic violence against women can be classified by three dimensions of competence. Firstly, the author examined the relative effectiveness of dictionary terminologies of domestic violence. Secondly terminologies need to be revised and thirdly it should address problems of domestic violence presented in traditional terminologies. Today there is a need of some clarifications, necessary to ensure using common language and common terminologies regarding domestic violence against women within shared households. Taking existing terminologies and considering enforcement practices for granted was in fact, very specific and needful behaviour. Presently it finds that the new terminologies related to domestic violence against women were vulnerable and precisely designed because they are new. Action theorists of domestic violence pay close attention to the ways in which "terminologies of reality" are used, developed and sustained. Following terminologies regarding domestic violence against women are first written up as notes then on the basis of research, prepared precise terminologies for reference. It may guide the new research aspirants' in the field of women studies, violence against women etc.

- **Violence**

Violence word is used in this study to the intensity of cruelty caused through the action of abuse, assault or rape by someone to whom the women victim is intimately related in the shared household.

- **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence term is referred to the spectrum of unkind behaviours' by someone to whom the woman is domestically related that consists of: 'Mild phase' characterized by distressed affection, pseudo apology, and fake promise to end the violence. 'Moderate phase' marked by neglect, tension, fear and breakdown of communication. 'Severe phase' which manifest to successive acts of violence that increase in frequent, brutality and lethality. 'Final phase' culminates with helplessness, harassment, suffering, de-dignifying, torture, hatred from third person also with the passage of time.

- **Physical Violence : Type of Domestic Violence**

'Physical Violence' term is used as the type of domestic violence intended to physically harm or injure or inflict pain on the woman by someone to whom the victim is domestically related. It is considered in **three levels** of intensity: **Mild Injury**- causing bearable pain almost in the mild phase where fake promises are made to end the violence. **Medium Injury**- violence occurred in moderate phase, causing pain which is manageable either by little clinical/ home treatment. & **Severe Injury**- violence occurred in the severe phase where immediate hospitalization is needed otherwise death could caused. The injury thus caused is taking long time to recover.

- **Verbal/ Emotional Abuse : Type of Domestic Violence**

‘**Verbal/ Emotional**’ abuse is the type of domestic violence considered also, where bad use of/ maltreat/ corrupt practices to attack verbally or uses offensive language in intention to insult, defame, degrade, de-dignify to the woman by someone to whom the victim is domestically related. It is considered in **three levels: Mild Abuse** which is in mild phase where women try to tolerate as fake promises are made to end the violence. **Moderate Abuse-** This is the types of violence occurred in a moderate phase, where abuse is causing distress and she finds difficult to manage it. **Severe Abuse-** These are the types of violence occurred frequently in severe phase where women find high level of distressed and feel to end the life.

- **Sexual Violence : Type of Domestic Violence**

The term **Sexual Violence** is considered as the type of domestic violence that is taken as femininity attack or humiliating violence. It refers to any act of non-consensual masculinity to the woman by someone to whom the victim is domestically related in the shared household. It is also considered in three levels. **Mild Sexual Violence-** These are the types of violence which are bearable in the mild phase where fake promises are made to end the violence. **Moderate Sexual Violence-** These are the types of violence occurred as a moderate phase, causing distress which women finds hard to manage. **Severe Sexual Violence-** these are the types of violence occurred frequently in severe phase where women finds high level of distressed and feel to end the life.

- **Economical Violence : Type of Domestic Violence**

**Economic Violence** is type of domestic violence where there is denial of the economic or financial resources to the woman entitled under any law/ custom by someone to whom the victim is domestically related in the shared house hold. It includes: **Mild Economical Violence-** These are the types of violence which are bearable in the mild phase where fake promises are made to end the violence. **Moderate Economic Violence-** These are the types of violence occurred in a moderate phase, where violence is causing distress and she finds difficult to manage it. **Severe Economic Violence-** These are the types of violence occurred frequently in severe phase where women finds high level of distressed and feel to end the life.

The above mentioned violence is followed by the ‘**Final phase**’ in which the women victim once report in the institutions for getting rid of violence are culminated with helplessness, harassment, suffering, de-dignifying, torture, hatred etc, from third person or anyone else., with the passage of time.

- **Domestic**

Domestic is considered as a place of shared household of two or more than two persons in relationship of consanguinity, marriage or adoption and they have lived together at any point of time.

- **Women Victim of Domestic Violence**

Women victim of domestic violence referred as any feminine that at any point of her life time is in domestic relationship in shared household with abuser/ offender and alleges to have been subjected to any phases of domestic violence.

- **Abuser/Offender**

Abuser/ Offender means any masculine person who in any point of time is in domestic relationship with women victim of domestic violence in shared household and against whom the complain was launched by victim to seek relief.

- **Power & Authority Conflict : Cause of Domestic Violence**

‘**Power and Authority Conflict**’ considered as a category of cause of domestic violence, perceived by women victim that takes place when the **intra family** (natal & matrimonial) or between **individuals** (woman & her husband) are inconsistent towards family economy, financial stress or for poverty level.

- **Ego Conflict : Cause of Domestic Violence**

‘**Ego Conflict**’ referred as a category of cause perceived by women victim of domestic violence that takes place when the **intra families** (natal & matrimonial) or between **individuals** (woman victim & husband) are inconsistent for educational status, working status, political status, caste, religion, age gap, physical/ mental incompetency.

- **Gender Role Conflict : Cause of Domestic Violence**

‘**Gender Role Conflict**’ again taken as another category of cause of domestic violence perceived by women victim when, either **inter gender role conflict** takes place for the norms/ behavior patterns regarding house hold responsibility are inconsistent with those of another role (personal vices) of woman victim/ husband, or **intra gender role conflict** happens between the natal or matrimonial families regarding the issues.

- **Conflict Over Marital Code & Conduct : Cause of Domestic Violence**

‘**Conflict Over Marital Code & Conduct**’ refers as the category of cause of domestic violence as perceived by women victim, that specifies extent of worries/ strain which wife/ husband have due to their conflict between **marital role expectation** and **marital role behavior**.

- **Problem in Family Dynamics : Nature of Problem faced by Women Victims**

‘**Problem in Family Dynamic**’ is taken as a category of those pivot incidences which forced women to disclose first time her suffering from violence with others. This is considered when in the matrimonial house there is poor family interaction because of poor - adaptability, cohesion, communication, role performance, decision making and etc. that is because of ignorance towards family developmental aspects (developmental tasks in the stages of family) which adversely influences the life of women victim and subject her to domestic violence.

- **Problem in Family Ecology: Nature of Problem faced by Women Victims**

‘**Problem in Family Ecology**’ is another category of pivot incidences which forced women to disclose first time her suffering from violence with others. This is taken into consideration when disturbances/ conflict created within the general environment of the matrimonial house by the supporting systems (neighbourhood, kinship system, cast groups, religious groups and etc.) with which members interact, thus adversely influences the life of women victim and subject her to domestic violence.

- **Desertion**

The term ‘**Desertion**’ is used when husband left his home by abandoning woman victim. It is also considered when woman is forced to leave the matrimonial home, both the conditions are considered as desertion.

- **Infidelity**

‘**Infidelity**’ word is used when husband without the consent of wife (woman victim) having voluntary sexual relations with other women.

- **Bigamy**

‘**Bigamy**’ is taken as a situation when the husband without the consent of (wife) woman victim contracts for another marriage whiles the first marriage is still valid and the second marriage is void according to the personal law of husband of woman victim.

- **Fraudulent Marriage**

The term is used to the particular type of marriage where the financial condition, salary, employment status, educational status, caste, physical/ mental health of husband, marital status, address of matrimonial home is concealed or wrongly revealed prior to marriage by husband of women victim is considered as fraudulent marriage.

- **Separation**

‘**Separation**’ term is used to an unofficial, casual first round step towards divorce or a temporary manoeuvre by women victim to minimize the immediate conflict / violence, and also taken as legally acknowledged decision to live separately without divorcing.

- **Complaint**

‘**Complaint**’ word is used to any accusation made orally or in writing by well wisher/ women victim of domestic violence to any service providers against offender.

- **Child abuse**

‘**Child abuse**’ means intentional/ non – accidental neglect, maltreatment or injury of children by any adult person who at any point of life time is in domestic relationship with child’s mother (women victim) in shared household and subjected to domestic violence.

- **Divorce**

‘**Divorce**’ word is used to an official, final step to end the conflict which may have caused due to domestic violence against woman in a shared household. It is a legal measure to dissolution of marriage by the consent of two marital partners.

- **Welfare institution**

‘**Welfare Institutions**’ considered as those service providing institutions who are voluntary organizations and are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (2) of 1860 or a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) or any other law enacted by government time to time which has the objective of developing and protecting the rights and interest of women by any lawful means including providing of legal information/ counselling & services, medical facilities, financial support, shelter or any other assistance, shall registered itself with the State Government’s Women and Child Development department as a service providers, which is also mentioned in the act (Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005).

## **2. CONCLUSION:**

It concludes that the rationalization of domestic violence against women related terminologies really have to do with the fact that needed to start understanding the phenomena of domestic violence comprehensively i.e. the fact that properly define, to get to its essential nature. These terminologies emphasised that crimes are defined by processes of human deliberation and are then applied by human agencies. It doesn’t just happen. It takes a lot of work. These require a lot of thought and preparation before what we traditionally thought was “getting started.”

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