Broken Nest, Broken Childhoods: Domestic Violence and Children in Maniktala Slum

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Domestic violence is a pervasive form of human rights violation that extends beyond intimate partners to deeply affect children who witness or experience violence within the household. Globally, children exposed to domestic violence face long-term psychological, behavioral, and developmental risks, as highlighted by international organizations such as WHO and UNICEF. In India, domestic violence is rooted in patriarchal norms, economic dependency, and social acceptance of family violence, with children often remaining invisible victims. The impact is particularly severe in urban slum areas, where poverty, overcrowding, substance abuse, and limited access to support services intensify children's vulnerability. This article examines the impact of domestic violence on children through a recent empirical study conducted by Activism Foundation in the slum area of Maniktala, Kolkata, a densely populated urban slum. Based on primary field data, the study explores children's emotional well-being, behavior, and educational experiences in violent households. This study also highlights the fact that apart from being the victim of domestic violence, children also sometimes become the cause of domestic violence. The study calls for community-based interventions and child-centered policy responses in urban slum contexts.

Keywords: domestic violence, urban slum area, psychological impacts, social impacts.

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Domestic violence or domestic abuse or intimate partner violence is considered a social curse affecting individuals irrespective of their age, gender, class, caste, religion, culture and nationality across the world. It takes place when one member or more members of a family use coercive, controlling and violent behavior against one member or more members of the same family. Its main objective is to gain power, dominance and control in the family. According to Johnson (2008), domestic violence consists of different patterns of violent behavior — situational couple violence, intimate terrorism, violence resistance and mutual violent control — rooted in power imbalance. Later Johnson (1995) defined domestic violence as a pattern of assaultive behaviors that include physical, sexual and psychological attacks used to establish control over an intimate partner. Another famous thinker Evan Stark (2007) introduces the concept of "Coercive control", defining domestic violence as "a pattern of domination that includes isolation, intimidation and control where Violence is only one of the tactics." According to, Walker, Lenore E.A. (1979), domestic violence is not a single incident, rather it is a cycle of incidents that unfolds in phases and intensifies day by day. Thus, it creates a sense of terror among the abused member or members of the family destroying the natural family setting and domestic peace.

This pushes children in the womb of darkness where they are severely affected from different aspects irrespective of place— India or in global scale. According to Ram Ahuja (1997), they are hit by chronic fear and insecurity, emotional trauma and stress disorders, low self-esteem and guilt, depression and withdrawal feeling specially from parents. He points out the cycle of violence makes them aggressive and get habituated with violent tendencies. Apart from these psychological impacts, domestic violence also puts severe social impacts on children. Such as learning dominance submission fear and silence instead of co-operation, loosing concentration in studies, lack of trust in others, viewing domestic violence as a legitimate part of family life etc.

According to United Nations General Assembly -1993- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women) Globally, it is recognized not only as a private family issue but as a Universal   Human Rights violation and structural problem rooted in

gender inequality, stereotypical cultural norms and rituals and power imbalance. According to the World Report on Violence and Health (2002), any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm is considered as domestic violence. The impact of domestic violence is felt in all regions across the world — Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas — although it varies due to cultural norms, reporting and legal systems. In Indian context, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) – 2005 defines domestic violence as actual abuse or threat of abuse, whether physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic. Harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands to the women victim or her relatives would also be covered under this law. Although, men and children can also be victims, in India domestic violence is broadly shaped by gender norms (men as superior and women as inferior), patriarchy, caste, class and socio-economic factors. Domestic violence in India has a unique picture because it includes dowry- based violence, honor killing and violence, caste-based violence, social and economic dependency of women on their male counterparts etc.

The Government of India has already taken several initiatives in the form of acts and policies to get rid of the ghost of domestic violence. For instance, , which provides protection orders, residence orders, monetary relief, custody orders and compensation orders to married women, live- in- partners and female family members against domestic violence. This act also introduced Protection Officers, Shelter Homes, Medical facilities and Counselling. Another important initiative Criminal Law: Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1983 deals with cruelty by husband or in-law members. This act ensures up-to 3 years of imprisonment and fine to the abuser. It is recognized as one of the earliest legal safe-guard for marital violence. Apart from these acts, the Indian Govt. has also started National Domestic Violence Helpline 181 to contact victims to police, medical facilities, shelter homes and counselling. One Stop Centers (OSCs) –2015, also known as Sakhi Centers, works immensely against domestic violence and sexual abuse. While women in the family are often the primary victims, children living in such households are silent yet severe

victims. Experiencing verbal abuse, physical assault on other member or members of the family or becoming a direct victim of the hatefulness, all the children of all strata of our society are highly affected by this. According to the UNICEF report (2006), every year as many as 275 million children worldwide get caught in the crossfire of domestic violence and suffer the full consequences of a turbulent home life. Globally, domestic violence against children is omnipresent but still remains under- reported and under — researched. In under-developed and developing countries, domestic violence is considered as a private matter of family, preventing it to be reported. These also happen even in some developed countries. However, there is no doubt that domestic violence pushes children in the womb of darkness where they are severely affected from different aspects irrespective of place— India or in global scale. They are hit by immense trauma and anxiety dismantling their healthy psychological growth. In most of the cases, these victim children start thinking that the violence is caused by them or they have no value. This affects their self — esteem and confidence -level. After experiencing continuous violence, they become aggressive, rebellion and sometimes anti-socials, showing their apathy towards any relationship -familial or social. Apart from these all, this situation also damages their educational growth, making them a complete in-human. Although domestic violence takes place in almost every corner of the world, it is extremely prevalent in low-socioeconomic, poverty affected urban slum areas. According to Kalim, Derakh, Hamadani and others (2017) intimate partner violence is extremely common in the slum communities studied and that it is significantly associated with behavioral difficulties in young children. Emotional and physical violence by fathers was linked to higher emotional and conduct problems in children. The findings underscore the need for targeted policy and intervention efforts to address IPV and protect children's development. Now, if seen from a different aspect, sometimes children may also become a factor or cause of domestic violence. However, thoughtful study on this part of domestic violence is truly scant. Thus, how far children form issues of violence in homes may be an important research question.

So, the objectives of the present paper are:

i.   to find whether and how children issues like children's education become cause of domestic violence.

ii. to analyse the impact of domestic violence on children.

Domestic Violence: A Theoretical Appraisal

There are so many reports, articles, journals and books which describe how children are affected by domestic violence. Researchers Hester, Pearson and Harwin acknowledged that domestic violence and the children abuse frequently co-occur. This harms children in their emotional or behavioral well-being, schooling and overall growth. According to Houghton, Children encounter domestic violence in diverse ways from hearing, seeing to directly being abused, living in fear - each way affects them differently. This experience affects severely on their emotional, behavioral, academic development and social relationship. He highlights that policies and systems often cannot treat children as "Direct Victims" of domestic violence. Lancet Global - Burden Study (2024) showed a truly horrifying data that 30.8% of Indian women report having experienced sexual violence before the age of 18. And the most shocking revelation is that many of these sexual abuses have been done by their own family members showing how the "Home" or "Family" can be unsafe for many children. According to WHO fact sheet on Violence Against Children (2017), Intimate Partner Violence (Domestic Violence) is one of the major contexts in which children are exposed to vulnerability. This report indicates that ill-treatment like physical or emotional, harassment, negligence etc. commonly takes place at most of the homes resulting long term damage like serious mental health issues, chances of re-victimization and the flow of the tradition of violence from one generation to the next. Now, different reports of international level show bitter pictures of children being the victims of domestic violence. Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children (WHO/UNICEF - 2020) highlighted that children are at risk from a variety of violence including intimate partner violence (domestic violence) and that

prevention responses are not sufficient across the world. According to the report of Violence Against Children in South Asia (UNICEF ROSA, University of Edinburgh – 2020), the pace of domestic violence increased significantly in home during the early phase of the COVID 19 pandemic, making children more exposed to abuse, causing their mental health deterioration. Children as indirect victims of domestic violence do suffer from social and psychological consequences. Jaffe, Baker and Cunningham indicated that both short term and long– term psychological damages of children due to domestic violence are very common including trauma symptoms, issues of detachment and emotional instability like mood swing. Purl, Navya and Shammi (2019) in an empirical study also shows that children who experience father's abusive behaviour towards their mother are more likely to have greater behavioural and emotional problems.

Now studies also indicate that the children who become victims of domestic violence, either directly or indirectly, become the perpetrators in later days. Jaffe, Baker and Cunningham pointed out that the children who experience domestic violence often copy the behavior they experience; boys mostly externalize (becoming aggressive) whereas girls internalize (fear, sadness, depression). Bandura too opined that children learn behaviors by observing and imitating adults. He also said that when they witness domestic violence, they may internalize violence as a normal way to resolve conflict. Mary A. Straus and Cathy Widom in their International Transmission of Violence theory also expressed that children exposed to violence are more likely to repeat violence patterns in adulthood. According to Michael Koenig (2010), those mothers who experience two or more episodes of domestic violence, have the significantly 68% higher rate of infant mortality comparing with the mothers who do not face domestic violence. This study suggests the cases of domestic violence should be addressed when discussing about child survival programs. The article "Gender – based disparities in infant and child mortality based on maternal experience of intimate partner violence" by LG. Silverman et.al; (2011) also showed the same danger of child death due to domestic violence.

According to Dobash & Dobash, domestic violence is rooted in patriarchal power structures. Children learn gender roles through exposure. However sometimes children do act in a positive and more matured way, as Geffner, lgeman and Zellner held that children understand domestic violence far better than adults assume. They frequently take on adult responsibilities like caring for other siblings, comforting the abused parent etc. They are conscious of emotional tension even when the violence is hidden. From a different perspective Holt and Retford (2013) consider child to parent violence a valid form of domestic violence mainly for three reasons:

- It takes place within the family.

- It involves violence of different types and manipulations.

- It harms the parents physically and psychologically.

However, very little academic work could be found on how children become the primary cause of domestic violence. This paper tries to bridge this gap of study and therefore, attempts to explore whether and how children cause domestic violence, and also to explain the patterns of domestic violence experienced directly or indirectly by children and analyse its social, emotional or mental, physical and educational consequences on them.

Research Methodology

The present paper is based on a recent research work on domestic violence at Maniktala Slum area (1& 2, Harinath Dey Road, Maniktala, Kolkata– 700009) by Activism Foundation, Kolkata. This study has been done by using a mixed method; both qualitative and quantitative data have been analysed to reach conclusion. The primary data have been collected by using structured questionnaires in Maniktala Slum area by Activism Foundation, where the present author has been one of the field investigators. Secondary data have been collected by the present author from different reports, articles of national and international journals and books on this topic. Total population in the area of study is 1050. Uncontrolled Quota Sampling has

been followed while sampling. The sample size is 90 including 45 male respondents and 45 female respondents. The margin of error is 10% , confidence level is 95% and response distribution is 50%.[1] Field survey is used for collecting data and structured interview as tool of data collection. The survey research took place during 2023 – 2025. Both qualitative and quantitative analysis methods are applied while analyzing data.

Data Analysis And Discussion

The data collected from the field survey done in Maniktala slum area are analyzed here.

Table 1: Relation of Child issue leading to domestic violence with gender and number of families living in the same household

GENDER	Number of families living in the same household	RESPONDENT	Q. Do Problems relating to child/child education often lead to conflict in your family?					
			Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Mostly	Not Applicable	Grand Total
MALE	1	34(37.78%)	19(21.11%)	3(3.33%)		2(2.22%)	10(11.11%)	34(37.78%)
	2	3(3.33%)					3(3.33%)	3(3.33%)
	More than 2	8(8.89%)	4(4.44%)		1(1.11%)		3(3.33%)	8(8.89%)
Total		45 (50%)	23(25.56%)	3(3.33%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	16(17.78%)	45 (50%)
FEMALE	1	32(35.55%)	20(22.22%)	6(6.67%)	3(3.33%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	32(35.55%)
	2	3(3.33%)	3(3.33%)					3(3.33%)
	More than 2	10(11.11%)	5(5.56%)		4(4.44%)	1(1.11%)		10(11.11%)
Total		45 (50%)	28(31.11%)	6(6.67%)	7 (7.78%)	2(2.22%)	2(2.22%)	45 (50%)
Grand Total		90(100%)	51(56.67%)	9(10%)	8(8.89%)	4(4.44%)	18(20%)	90(100%)

Source: Field Study by Activism

Table 1 shows how family conflicts are caused by children or child education, analyzed on the basis of gender of the respondents and number of families living in the same household. It was found during the field survey that more than one family lived in most of the households in this slum area. Among the total of 90 respondents

8.89% respondents including 7% female and 1% male said that they witnessed conflicts because of children frequently, 4.4% respondents (2% female and 2% male) witnessed such conflicts mostly and 10% respondents of which 6.67% female and 3.33% male pointed out that they have faced it occasionally. Therefore, the statistics show that while most families do not face regular conflict over child or child education-related issues, such conflicts do take place within families and are reported slightly more by women than men from households with 1 family only.

Table 2: Relation of Child issue leading to domestic violence with Gender and Marital

Gender	Status	Respondent	Q. Do Problems relating to child/child education often lead to conflict in your family?					Total
			Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Mostly	NA	
Male	Married	32(35.56%)	15(16.67%)	2(2.22%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	12(13.33%)	32(35.56%)
	Unmarried	11(12.22%)	6(6.67%)	1(1.11%)			4(4.44%)	11(12.22%)
	Widower	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)					1(1.11%)
	Divorcee	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)					1(1.11%)
	Total	45(50%)	23(25.56%)	3(3.33%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	16(17.78%)	45(50%)
Female	Married	32(35.56%)	18(20%)	5(5.56%)	6(6.67%)	2(2.22%)	1(1.11%)	32(35.56%)
	Unmarried	5((5.56%)	5(5.56%)					5(5.56%)
	Widow	7(7.78%)	4(4.44%)	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)		1(1.11%)	7(7.78%)
	Divorcee	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)					1(1.11%)
	Total	45(50%)	28(31.11%)	6(6.67%)	7(7.78%)	2(2.22%)	2(2.22%)	45(50%)
Grand Total		90 (100%)	51(56.67%)	9(10%)	8(8.89%)	4(4.44%)	18(20%)	90(100%)

Source: Field Study by Activism

Table 2 explains the relationship between gender and marital status in relation to family conflicts over child/child education. When it is obvious that married people are facing such issue of conflict, it is seen that 15.56% married and 1.11% widow, total 16.67% female respondents report such conflict whereas 5.56% married and 1.11% unmarried, total 6.67% male respondents report conflict over child issues.

Table 3: Relation of Child issue leading to domestic violence with Gender and Monthly Income

GENDER	MONTHLY INCOME	RESPONDENT	Q. Do Problems relating to child/child education often lead to conflict in your family?					
			Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Mostly	NA	Grand total
MALE 45 (50%)	Below 5000	4(4.44%)	4(4.44%)	0	0	0	0	4(4.44%)
	5000-10000	13(14.44%)	7(7.78%)	0	0	1(1.11%)	5(5.55%)	13(14.44%)
	10000-15000	7(7.77%)	4(4.44%)	0	0	0	3(3.33%)	7(7.78%)
	15000-20000	6(6.66%)	2(2.22%)	1(1.11%)	0	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	6(6.66%)
	20000-30000	10(11.11%	4(4.44%)	2(2.22%)	1(1.11%)	0	3(3.33%)	10(11.11%
	Above 30000	5(5.55%)	2(2.22%)	0	0	0	3(3.33%)	5(5.55%)
	Total	45(50%)	23(25.56%)	3(3.33%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	16(17.78%)	45(50%)
FEMALE 45 (50%)	Below 5000	6(6.66%)	2(2.22%	1(1.11%)	3(3.33%)	0	0	6(6.66%)
	5000-10000	17(18.88%)	11(12.22%)	2(2.22%)	2(2.22%)	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)	17(18.88%)
	10000-15000	10(11.11%)	7(7.77%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	0	0	10(11.11%)
	15000-20000	6(6.66%)	4(4.44%)	2(2.22%)	0	0	0	6(6.66%)
	20000-30000	2(2.22%)	1(1.11%)	0	0	0	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)
	Above 30000	4(4.44%)	3(3.33%)	0	0	1(1.11%)	0	4(4.44%)
	Total	45(50%)	28(31.11%)	6(6.67%)	7(7.78%)	2(2.22%)	2(2.22%)	45(50%)
GRAND TOTAL		90(100%)	51(56.67%)	9(10%)	8(8.89%)	4(4.44%)	18(20%)	90(100%)

Source: Field Study by Activism

Table 3 shows the views of respondents on how often family conflicts take place due to children or children's education, on the basis of gender and monthly income. Overall, most respondents (both male and female) report that such conflicts never occur in their families. Out of 90 total respondents, 56.67%, across all the income categories, stated 'never', suggesting that children or children's education related family conflicts are not extremely common in majority of families. Still 23.33%, a significant portion of respondents, reported conflicts occurring Occasionally (10%), frequently (8.89%) and mostly (4.44%). Apart from that, among male respondents, conflict related to children or children's education is generally low across all income groups. Most of them reported 'never'. Female respondents especially from the lower

income categories report of such conflict. Higher income groups mostly reported 'no conflict'.

Table 4: Relation of Child issue leading to Domestic Violence with Gender and Education

GENDER	EDUCATION	RESPONDENT	Q. Do Problems relating to child/child education often lead to conflict in your family?					
			Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Mostly	Not Applicable	Grand Total
MALE	Illiterate	5 (5.55%)	3(3.33%)	0	0	0	2 (2.22%)	5 (5.55%)
	Primary	10 (11.11%)	7(7.78%)	0	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)	10 (11.11%)
	Upper Primary	11 (12.22%)	3 (3.33%)	2 (2.22%)	0	1 (1.11%)	5 (5.56%)	11 (12.22%)
	Secondary	7 (7.78%)	4 (4.44%)	0	0	0	3 (3.33%)	07 (7.78%)
	Higher Secondary	8 (8.88%)	4 (4.44%)	1(1.11%)	0	0	3(3.33%)	08 (8.89%)
	Graduate	4 (4.44%)	2 (2.22%)	0	0	0	2 (2.22%)	04 (4.44%)
	Total	**45 (50%)**	**23(25.56%)**	**3 (3.33%)**	**1(1.11%)**	**2 (2.22%)**	**16(17.78%)**	**45 (50%)**
FEMALE	Illiterate	8 (8.88%)	6	0	1(1.11%)	0	1(1.11%)	08 (8.89%)
	Primary	19 (21.11%)	9	4 (4.44%)	4 (4.44%)	2 (2.22%)	0	19 (21.11%)
	Upper Primary	6 (6.66%)	4 (4.44%)	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)	0	0	06 (6.67%)
	Secondary	7 (7.77%)	4 (4.44%)	1(1.11%)	1(1.11%)	0	1(1.11%)	07 (7.78%)
	Higher Secondary	4 (4.44%)	4 (4.44%)	0	0	0	0	04 (4.44%)
	Graduate	1 (1.11%)	1(1.11%)	0	0	0	0	01 (1.11%)
	Total	**45 (50%)**	**28(31.11%)**	**6(6.67%)**	**7(7.78%)**	**2 (2.22%)**	**2 (2.22%)**	**45 (50%)**
Grand Total		**90(100%)**	**51(56.67%)**	**9(10%)**	**8(8.89%)**	**4(4.44%)**	**18(20%)**	**90(100%)**

Source: Field Study by Activism

The table explains the relationship of gender and level of education with family conflict arising from problems related to child's education. Overall, the table shows that educational issues definitely put on great impact on the family conflicts, which varies on the basis of gender and education level of the respondents. Among the male respondents, conflicts are more common at lower and middle Levels of

education, indicating greater stress to handling children's education. In Contrast, males with higher education mostly reported 'never', suggesting that parental education may help them to better handle children's educational challenges. The same trend can be seen in the female categories. Thus, the table clearly shows that family conflict related to children's education significantly decreases as parents' education level increases.

Table – 5: Relation of Child issue leading to domestic violence with Earner–Dependent

Gender	Earner-Dependent	Respondents	Q. Do Problems relating to child/child education often lead to conflict in your family?					Total
			Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Mostly	NA	
Male 45	Earner	39(43.33%)	19(21.11%)	3(3.33%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	14(15.56%)	39(43.33%)
	Dependent	6(6.67%)	4(4.44%)	0	0	0	2(2.22%)	6(6.67%)
Total		45 (50%)	23(25.55%)	3(3.33%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	16(17.77%)	45 (50%)
Female 45	Earner	24(26.67%)	14(15.56%)	5(5.55%)	4(4.44%)	0	1(1.11%)	24(26.67%)
	Dependent	21(23.33%)	15(16.66%)	1(1.11%)	2(2.22%)	2(2.22%)	1(1.11%)	21(23.33%)
Total		45 (50%)	28(31.11%)	6(6.67%)	7(7.78%)	2(2.22%)	2(2.22%)	45 (50%)
Grand Total		90 (100%)	51(56.67%)	9(10%)	8(8.89%)	4(4.44%)	18(20%)	90(100%)

Source: Field Study by Activism

Table 5 presents gender and economic -status wise responses on the frequency of family conflicts related to children and children's education.Among the male respondents, 6.67% male earners reported conflicts over child issues, whereas most of the male dependent respondents reported 'no conflict' over this issue.Among the female respondents, 10% earners and 5.56% dependents reported such conflicts. It is reflected from the table that the earners, either male or female experience this issue of conflict more than the dependents.

Thus, although the table indicates that conflicts related to children and children's education are not so regular phenomenon across families, regardless of gender and economic roles, child issues are a crucial force behind the family instability, chaos in the house-hold and finally domestic violence. Both male and female respondents pointed out child issues as one of the reasons of domestic violence. The respondents when asked other causes of conflict many of them mentioned child related issues. Few male respondents complain of demanding nature of their children, which even creates situations leading to domestic violence. Some of the male respondents pointed out that when their children see other children of their age (their play or school-mates) are using any attractive product (device, toy, dress etc.), they often get attracted to it and demand to get this from their parents without considering their economic condition. And when these excessive demands are not met, the conflicts erupt within family leading domestic violence. Most of the female respondents pointed out that the stability of the family breaks down when the children do not concentrate on their studies. Although the parents are concerned about their children academic performance, that children sometimes are not that much serious about their studies. This surges a feeling of insecurity in the parents leading to conflict and instability in the family. Apart from this, according to some respondents, children's unexpected misbehavior, engaging with boyfriends, money pressure creates hostile situation in the family. And this condition not only affect the adults but also other children of the family. Thus, it leads to the down-fall of academic performance, the rise of emotional issues and behavioral change of these children. Respondents also mention issues related to older children- like unemployment and laziness of the adult children creates tensions leading to conflicts in family. Many respondents pointed out that their children disobey them, do not want to abide by their advices or directions and often are heavily influenced by their unruly friends, getting bad habits and harmful addiction at a very early age, getting quarrelsome etc. This in turn make them detached from their familial - bond. Therefore, these behavioral changes push their parents in the hollow of anxiety. They started suspecting their children and gradually lose trust on them. This condition acts as fruitful farming ground for domestic

violence.Some respondents also mentioned the physical and mental illness of their children cause domestic violence in their family. The domestic violence caused by children, has great impact specially on mothers of these households. Even sometimes fathers abuse mothers physically for the inattentiveness of their children. Many respondents argued that due to domestic violence the academic performance and the cognitive development of the children have significantly fallen. They lose attentiveness, interest in school and overall study. In course of time, they lose interest in doing or learning anything, not only study.

The finding of the study in Maniktala Slum area by Activism Foundation shows that the impact of domestic violence is far more severe in slum areas due to overcrowding, extreme poverty, low literacy rate, lack of awareness, poor housing system, lack of privacy and limited access to support services, where 76% of the respondents directly or indirectly experienced violence in the domestic sphere. Children in slum areas experience domestic violence more frequently and have fewer opportunities for having protective measures which increases the severity of the emotional, social and physical consequences of domestic violence on them. Violence is totally unavoidable for them as they witness violence not only at home, but also in their community outside their home in the form of fights, alcoholism, gang conflicts quite every-day. Less NGOs support and unwillingness of police to intervene, poor school counselling system and lack of protected spaces for children worsen their situation, make them hopeless and after sometime push them to be a part of this violence. Thus, the Children in slum areas face double danger: the impact of domestic violence inside their home and the exposure to community violence outside their home. The study reveals a potential triadic relationship among domestic violence, children and slum area, influencing each other. The slum areas often act as the fertile ground for domestic violence due to overcrowding, poor living condition, lack of privacy, poverty, unemployment, uncontrolled consumption of alcohol and drug, unconsciousness and less fear of punishment. These conditions encourage domestic violence to be a regular occurrence. This ever- increasing domestic violence affects the children of

these household directly or indirectly causing their psychological, emotional, physical, social and cognitive damage. These affected children can never go out of the realm of domestic violence. At one point of time, they often stop protesting against it, and start accepting it as reality. At first, they get habituated with it then they become a part of it, they drop out school, start copying violent behavior of the abusive member of the family or community, many become manual labors at an early age and stuck in low wage, unstable and disrespectful jobs. Thus, they reinforce the same slum condition and continue the cycle of violence.

Now, let's discuss the other aspect of the study where we analyse the impacts of domestic violence on children.

Table – 6: Types of Damage Resulting from Domestic Violence

Damage Caused	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total Percentage
Waste of working hours	28	31.11	21	23.33	54.44
Physical illness	21	23.33	18	20	43.33
Mental stress	18	20	25	27.78	47.78
Children's education harmed	6	6.67	11	12.22	18.89
Goods damaged	3	3.33	7	7.78	11.11
Economic loss and disturbance	2	2.22	0	0	2.22

Source: Field Study by Activism

The respondents when asked what kind of damage does domestic violence make within the family a significant number of respondents highlight that children's studies is definitely harmed as a consequence of domestic violence. 6.67% male and 12.22% female, total 18.89% respondents pointed out that due to violence in family situation children's education is hampered. Domestic violence leads to their severe behavioural change and psychological damage. They start disobeying their parents,

becoming unnecessary aggressive, lose self-confidence etc. They become more violent and aggressive day by day. They do not feel connected with their family and society as a whole and get easily addicted with bad habits. Thus, domestic violence often damages their behavioral development.

Conclusion

So, we can see that domestic violence has an immense impact on children, causing their emotional, physical, psychological, social and cognitive damages. On the other side, sometimes domestic violence takes place and the peace of the family breaks down not due to the parents but the unruly children. It also affects these children negatively from disturbing education, increasing their fear, insecurity, depression and low esteem to severe health issues, social detachment and most importantly transforming them from innocent children to the abusive flag – bearer of this hateful tradition to the next generations, It has truly destabilized the base of childhood. We have also seen it is not merely a problem of underdeveloped or developing countries but developed nations are also facing great challenge for this – making it a global issue. Gender and cultural norms, patriarchy, class and caste relationship, and some socio – economic factors make domestic violence and its impact on children unique in India. The study has also highlighted the condition of slum areas which acts as the breeding ground of continuous and ever- increasing domestic violence, worsening the condition of these victim children. There is also a strong triadic relationship among domestic violence, children and slum area that keeps the cycle of violence continue. Therefore, taking concrete steps against these traditions is a crying need of the day. They should be encouraged for open conversation at school and home; they should be taught about good touch and bad touch. Government and NGOs must focus on effective awareness programs and many more. Only then we can gift a beautiful childhood to these future citizens of nations.

Endnote

[1] The sample size has been calculated by using Raosoft, Inc.sample size calculator. For a population of 1050, margin of error 10%, confidence level 95%, response distribution 50%, the recommended sample size is 89. Retrieved from http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html

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