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## **Husband as intimate partner's physical violence against wife with special reference to the Mount Lavinia Police Division**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The topic of the research is the husband as intimate partner's physical violence against wife with special reference to Mount Lavinia Police Division. It is an identified criminal incident regarding domestic violence. It will be necessary to find solutions to this social problem. The research problem is how physical violence is happening against wife by their husband. The main objective of this research is to study and find solutions to the physical violence against wives and the specific objectives are to investigate the types of physical violence that are done by husbands against their wives, to examine the reasons behind the physical violence against wives, to study about the actions that are taken by the victim wives against their husbands and to suggest solutions against physical violence of wives. This study aimed to study the intimate partner's physical violence against their wife with special reference to the Mount-Lavinia police division. Therefore, Mount Lavinia police division was examined as the study area to achieve research objectives. This study's data was collected from January to September 2023. The 48-sample size was taken from the 158 police records by using a simple random sample technique. Primary data collection methods of questionnaires and interviews have been used for research. Police records, scholarly articles, and research articles were used as secondary data collection methods to collect data for the research. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods were used. Furthermore, SPSS software was used for statistical analysis, and thematic analysis for the interview was used. Age does not matter for physical violence, every physically abused victim experiences physical violence at home, most of them are abused by beating and burning, women are less likely to talk to their husbands to reduce this situation and the person who has been physically

abused once is more likely to be physically abused again can be shown as the findings of this research. Family counseling, rehabilitation, and providing more self-employment opportunities can be displayed as suggestions for reducing physical abuse against victim wives in society.

*Keywords: Physical Violence, Victims, Husbands, Wives*

## **Introduction**

An intimate partner can be broadly defined as a “Person with whom one has a close personal relationship that can be characterized by emotional connection, regular contact, ongoing physical contact and or sexual behavior, identity as couple and familiarity and knowledge about each other’s lives” (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2023). The relationship does not necessarily need to involve all of these dimensions. The phrase "intimate partner" refers to a person's spouse, former spouse, a person who is the parent of a child of the person, and a person who currently resides with or has previously resided with the person (Todd et al., 2020).

The sensation of belonging to one another and being in a close, personal relationship is what intimacy entails. It is a link that is created via the knowledge and experience of the other, resulting in a familiar and extremely deep emotive connection. Communication, openness, vulnerability, and reciprocity are necessary for true intimacy in interpersonal interactions. In human relationships, intimacy has many meanings and intensities inside and between relationships (Foran et al., 2015).

Calling husband and wife is the highest kind of relationship between a man and a woman in a marriage, which includes social, spiritual, emotional, and physical dimensions. Some people see marriage as a yardstick for success since it is an attachment between a man and a woman. The psychological and physical health of a person will be impacted by their marriage. Both a husband and wife should be treated as such. When one of them doesn't do their duties adequately, they can also mutually agree on things that can be done together (Harsari, 2020).

Violence is the use of physical force to inflict injury. Violence can cause physical, psychological, or perhaps both types of harm. Aggression, a broader category of aggressive behavior that might take a physical, verbal, or passive form, can be distinguished from violence. There are many instances of violence committed by people throughout the world (Jacquin, 2023). Intimate partner violence refers to behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, and psychological abuse and controlling behaviors (World Health Organization, 2022). This definition covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners.

It can be emphasized the requirement that an act be violent if a person or organization intends to use force or power against another individual or group. Thus, violence is contrasted with harm or injury brought on by unintentional acts and situations. This attention to the use of implied or actual authority in addition to the use of physical force. The use of such power or force against oneself, another person, a group, or a community, as in gang violence or the oppression of ethnic groups, is prohibited. Here, violence is defined as behavior that causes physical harm but also includes acts of omission or neglect, psychological harm, or deprivation (Rutherford et al., 2007).

Many misconceptions about violence against women focus on its causes. There are many myths such as:

- men cannot control their anger or sexual desires;
- alcohol makes people violent;
- women could choose to leave abusive partners; and
- Men experience equal, if not more, partner or ex-partner violence.

Research has shown that important factors in violence against women are:

- unequal distribution of power and resources between men and women; and commitment to rigidly defined gender roles and
- Identities, that is, what it means to be masculine and feminine (Annual Progress Report, 2022).

The concept of violence against women includes e.g. many abuses of women and girls during the life cycle. UN declaration on the subject “Ending violence against women” (defines violence against women as follows) “...any sexual violence that causes or is likely to cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including such acts of intimidation, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life”.

This statement defines violence as actions that cause or have the potential to cause harm, and introducing the term "gender-based" emphasizes that it is caused by inequality between women and men. Physical violence is used in a physically aggressive manner such as hit, bite, strike, hit, or even suffocate Intentional injuries are often disguised as accidents. Sometimes women are seriously injured and in some cases die from their injuries.

The results of several recent studies in parts of the world indicate that

- 10 to 60 percent of women were beaten or otherwise physically abused intimate male partner at some point in life and

- Between 03 and 52 percent of women reported being physical with violence last year.

The extent of these figures describes not only possible actual differences in prevalence between settings but also differences in research in methods and definitions of violence that make comparisons difficult. In addition, cultural differences have an impact on respondents' willingness to be disclosed by a close partner abuse also complicates the numbers comparison (Krantz, 2005). According to all these things it can be identified that IPV means "Intimate Partner Violence" is increasing day by day in modern society. Gradually it is becoming a gender based violence and a social problem in not only Sri Lankan society but also in other countries. Because of that, this study was designed to evaluate the situation of the husband as intimate partner's physical violence against their wife with special reference to the Mount-Lavinia police division.

## **Literature Review**

Violence against women in Jordanian society is widespread and is considered a family matter that affects many people including children and adults throughout life. It affects future generations due to its intergenerational transactional nature. Jordanian women are physically, psychologically, and sexually victimized by various behaviors in different cultural and social contexts. The results of this research indicated that 45% of women experienced or witnessed violence in their childhood, 55%. Almost 98% of the samples were subjected to at least one form of violence. 28 percent of the sample believed that a man has the right to control a woman's behavior and 93 percent believed that a woman should obey her husband. After each abuse incident, the women felt unsafe, ashamed, scared, imprisoned, and stigmatized (Al-Badayneh, 2012). Jeyaseelan and others have studied the physical spousal violence against women in India: some risk factors using women who were aged 15-49 years as sample size. It referred that higher socioeconomic levels and strong social support served as buffers against physical abuse by a spouse. The findings provide strong proof of the potential triggers of physical abuse by a spouse, which in turn leads to assistance with intervention planning (Jeyaseelan et al., 2007).

One of the earliest studies of Sri Lanka's limited literature (Deraniyagala, 1992) in the current research setting reported the prevalence of "female abuse" in 54-year-olds a sample of currently married women. Another study in the western urban slum area province (Samarasinghe, 1991) found a 60% prevalence of PV among currently married individuals. Ladies, however, both studies were affected by the over-representation of the lower social class classes in the sample. According to surveys of North Central and Central Provinces (Moonasinghe, 2002; Subramaniam and Sivayogan, 2001), the prevalence of "wife beating" was 30%, current partner violence was 11% and current sexual violence was 3%. All of these studies had limitations on

currently married and cohabiting women, which excludes a crucial victim group that can divorce her husband due to violence. Besides Moonesinghe's study, other important factors limiting their early comparability studies are the lack of uniform definitions of violence and abuse and the use of sub-standard measures of violence (Jayasuriya et al., 2011).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major public health problem, and IPV experienced in married life significantly harms the major function of society. However, limited research has examined how IPV may affect prenatal oral health and dental care utilization this happens most often in intimate relationships or between husband and wife who know each other well. Violence against women is a social construct based on social consensus about the roles and rights of men and women. Consequently, intimate partner's physical violence may have negative effects on the emotional and physical well-being of both partners.

Within the context, this study investigated,

### **How physical violence is happening against wife by their husband?**

#### **Research Questions**

What is the physical violence that is done by the husbands against their wives?

What are the reasons behind the physical violence against wives?

What are the reactions against that physical violence taken by wives?

What are the solutions to stop the physical violence of wives?

#### **Objectives of the Research**

##### **Main Objective**

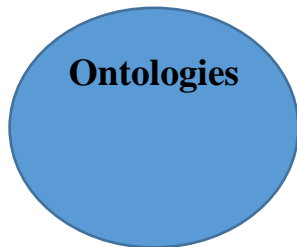
- To study and find solutions to the physical violence against wives.

##### **Specific Objectives**

- To investigate the types of physical violence that are done by the husbands against their wives.
- To examine the reasons that are behind the physical violence against wives.
- To study the actions that are taken by the victim wives against their husbands.
- To study solutions against physical violence of wives.

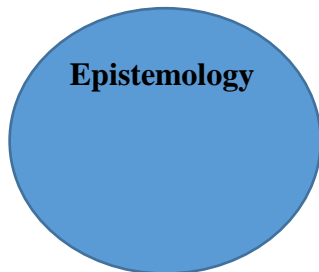
## **Ontology & Epistemology**

Ontology examines the nature of reality while epistemology examines how it can be examined. The researchers have used realism ontology to achieve the objectives and to find the truth. Research ontologies and epistemologies are as follows.



### **Ontologies**

- Culture, Lifestyle and behavior of the Husband as intimate partner of wives.
- Education Level, employability or unemployability and income.
- Feasibility of violence base on family life.
- Awareness for regarding family life balance, violence and its effects.



### **Epistemology**

- Examine the Social, cultural, background of the relationship of Husband as intimate partner of wives.
- Study the relationship in between education level and employability, unemployability with income.
- Investigate the association of violence and reactions of husband and wife.
- Examine the husband's and wives' legal literacy regarding violence and solutions

Source: Compiled by the researchers

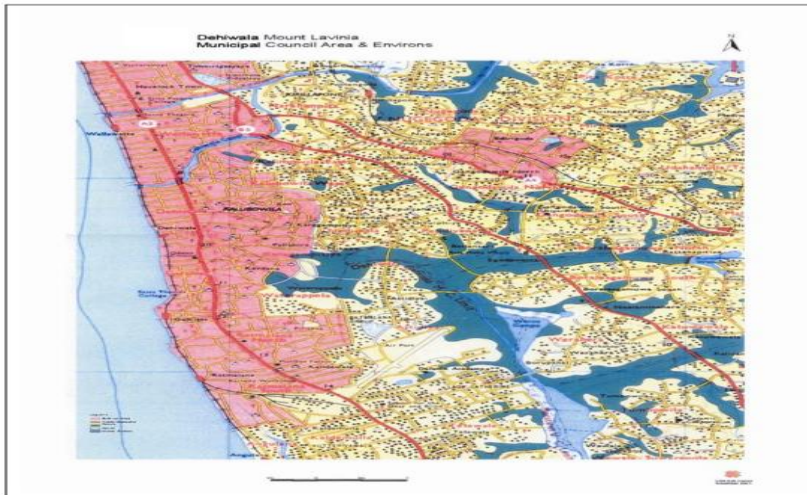
## **Methodology**

### **Study Area**

This study aimed to study the intimate partner's physical violence against their wife with special reference to the Mount-Lavinia police division. As a result of that, the Mount Lavinia police division was examined as the study area to achieve research objectives. Crime rates are rising daily in today's culture. Additionally, a significant number of those cases include women opposing domestic abuse. The majority of domestic abuse victims are women who fall prey to intimate partners, with husbands being among the most common offenders. As a result, information about the types of crimes committed by husbands, how they commit them, the consequences of their actions, and the laws and regulations that shield women from domestic abuse ought to be made available. Examining the husband's physical abuse of the wife as an intimate

partner is appropriate for this study. Furthermore, since it is difficult to conduct research over the entirety of Sri Lanka, this study is more justified because Mount Lavinia is a suburban area of the country with a diverse population and a history of drug use and other forms of violence.

**Map No. 1.1 – Map of the Mount-Lavinia**

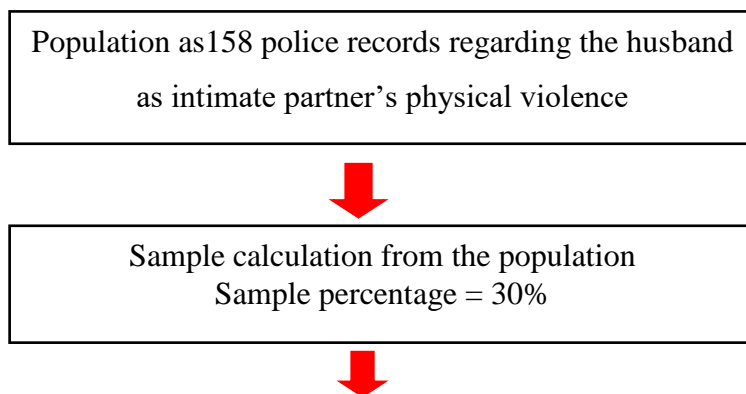


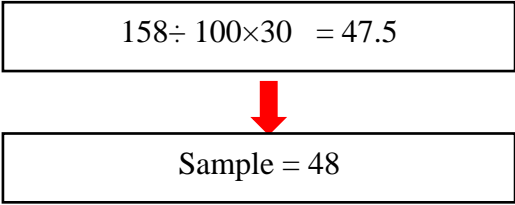
Source – Survey Department of Sri Lanka, 2020

**1.4.2 Population, Sample and Sampling**

The 158 cases (N=158 police records) involving physical abuse by an intimate partner against their spouse that were recorded as police cases in the Mount-Lavinia police division between January and September of 2023 comprised the study population. Nevertheless, it was challenging to research this entire group in a practical setting. Consequently, drawing a sample from this population was required. A basic random sampling strategy was applied for that. Here are the sample and sample computations.

**Figure No. 1.1 – Sample and Sample Calculation**





Source: Source: Compiled by the researchers

**Methods of Data Collection**

To gather information from the data providers, two different kinds of data-gathering techniques were applied. There were two types of data collection methods, primary and secondary. E-library, official reports, and academic publications were employed as secondary data collection methods in addition to questionnaire surveys and interviews, which were used as primary data collection methods.

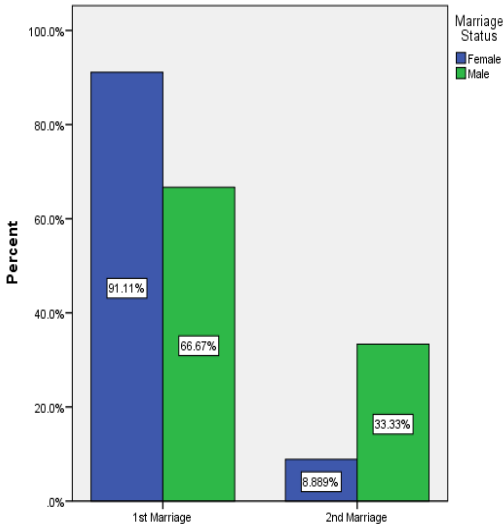
**Methods of Data Analysis**

In this study, it has used SPSS computer software to analyze quantitative data gathered through questionnaires. The data, in this way, is presented in the form of tables and columns. The qualitative data was analyzed through the thematic analysis.

**Findings and Discussions**

In this study, the data was collected from the women who are victims of their husbands’ physical violence and who are in the ages between 18-22, 23-27, 28-32, 33-37, 38-42, and up to 48 years old.

**Graph 1.1: Marriage status**



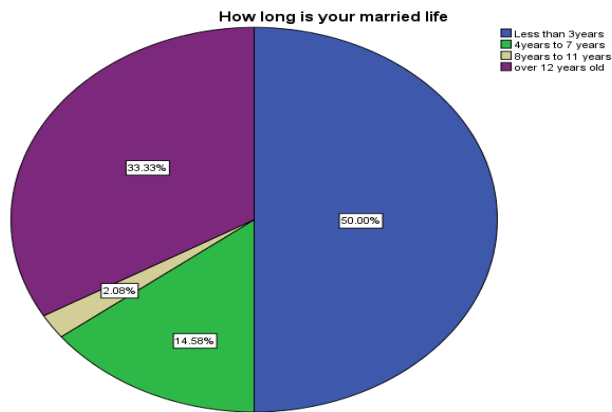
Source: Field data, 2023



The marital status of victim spouses is depicted in the chart above. According to this graph, 8.8% of wives were in their second marriage and 91.11% of wives were in their first. If they look at their spouses' marriages, 66.67% of them are in their first marriage, and 33.33% are in their second. Furthermore, a thorough analysis of these data reveals that, out of the 48 sample sizes, only one incident—in which the husband and wife consummated their second marriage—was documented.

**Graph 1.2: Time of being a victim after marriage**

Through this data, the researchers have expected to analyze the time spent in marriage at the time of physical abuse. Respectively, there was 50% of wives and 33% of wives have been victims of their husbands’ physical violence in less than three years of their marriage and more than 12 years. Some of the wives were victims of physical violence by their husbands after 28 years of marriage.



Source: Field data, 2023.

Victims’ educational backgrounds can be displayed through this way.

**Table 1.1: Victims’ Educational Level**

	Frequency	Percent
Up to O/L	32	65.3
Passed the O/L	15	30.7
Degree	1	2.0
Total	48	100.0

Source: Field data, 2023.

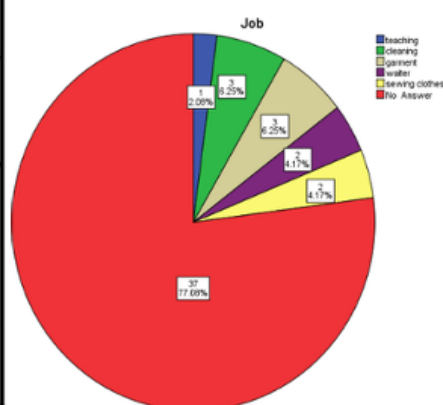
It can be seen in the sample that 32 amount of views (65.3%) have not done the Ordinary Level Examination 15 amount of wives (30.7%) have done the Ordinary Level examination and only one person has done a degree. Moreover, a study which was conducted in the country of Bangladesh emphasized that the danger of abuse was higher in the urban region for women who were younger than their husbands and who belonged to savings and credit clubs, while the husband's education above the sixth grade provided protection. This is one way that wives react to becoming the victims of physical violence (Naved & Persson, 2005).

### Victim’s Occupational status

**Table 1.2: Occupational status**

	No Job	Government Job	Private job	Self Employed	Total
Frequency	34	2	7	5	48
Percent	69.4	4.1	14.3	12.2	98.0
					100.0

**Graphs 1.3: Occupational Status**

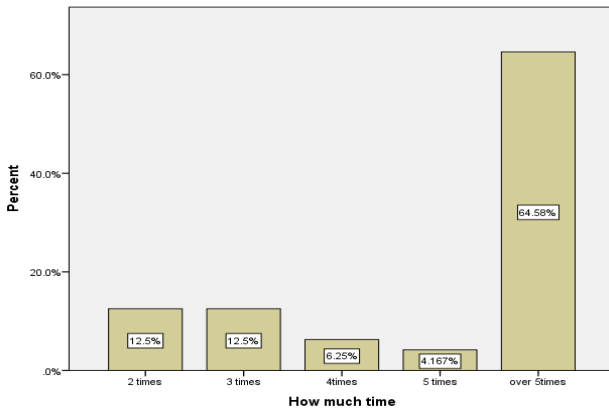


Source: Field data, 2023

Seventy-seven percent of the women were unemployed, while the remaining fourteen worked in two different government departments. Two were self-employed, and seven worked for private companies. Taking into account the sample size as a whole, the fact that 37 data contributors did not respond to this question indicates that some of the contributors agreed with the word "Employed." Three data contributors reported feeling stress-free about their professions. There were also three garment workers, two servers, two tailors, one instructor, and two cleaners.

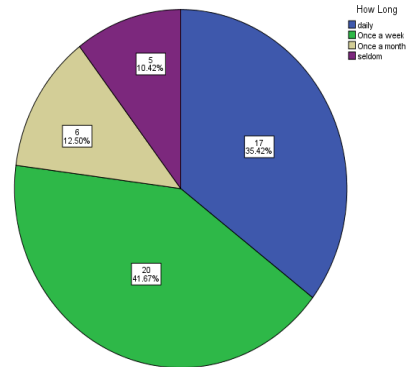
Here, when considering the physical violence against wives, most of the victims of physical violence have endured some kind of physical violence experiences before they report to the police. The victims that have such kinds of experiences can be shown in the below chart.

**Graphs 1.4: Times of having physical abuse experiences**



Source: Field data, 2023

**Graphs 1.5**

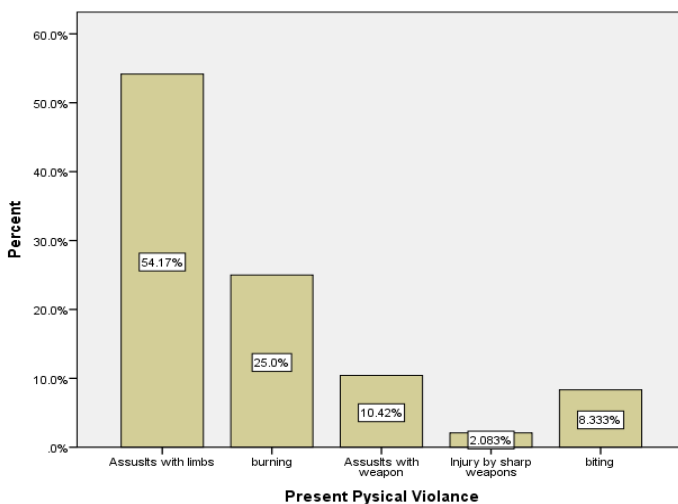


Source: Field data, 2023

According to the study, 64.58% of spouses reported having been physically abused over five times before visiting the police station. The same percentage, 12.5 of people have reported experiencing physical assault twice and three times, respectively. When considering the duration of their exposure to physical abuse, the majority of women (41.67%) report experiencing victimization weekly. Also, 35.42% have reported in daily. It is a huge amount. 12.60% of wives experience victimization each month, with 5% of cases being reported infrequently.

When examining the way that women are subjected to physical violence,

**Graphs 1.6: Types of physical violence**

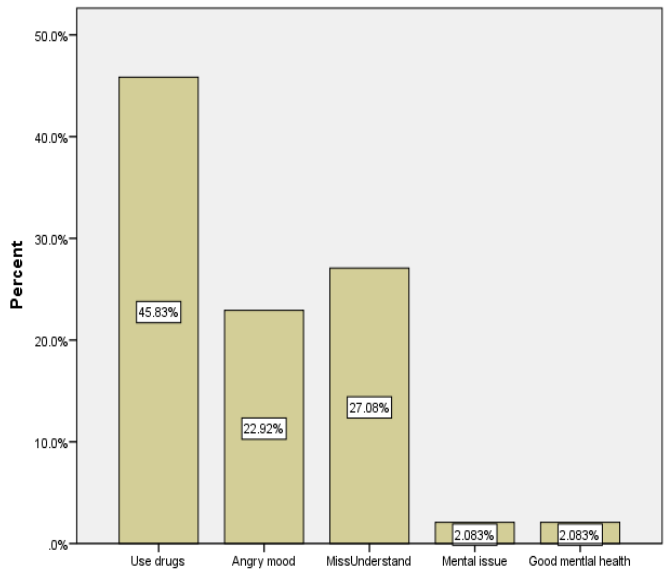


The highest percentage of 54.17% of wives were beaten, 25% of them were burned, 10.42% were beaten by weapons, 2% suffered injuries from sharp weapons, and 8% were bitten by their husbands. Survey evidence on the prevalence of violence in marriage indicates that the degree of physical harm sustained

by wives is typically significantly higher than that of men (Frieze & Browne, 1989).

In focusing on husbands' conditions during their wives were physically abused,

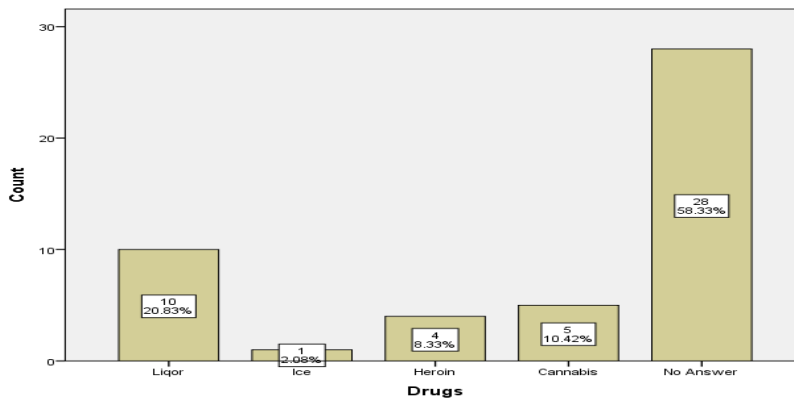
**Graphs 1.7: Husbands' conditions during arguments**



Source: Field data, 2023

When studying the circumstances around husbands at the time their wives were being physically abused, more than half of them (45.83%) used drugs, and 22.92% of them physically abused their wives out of sudden rage. 2.08% of women's husbands had mental health problems, while 27.08% of husbands were misunderstood. Two percent had good mental health.

**Graphs 1.8: Types of drugs victims' husbands used**



Source:

The types of drugs that they used are as follows,

Twenty out of ten of the husbands used drugs, while the majority of them drank alcohol. Five husbands used Ganja (Cannabis), four men used heroin, and one husband used ice. Furthermore, some of them combined the use of heroin and alcohol, as well as cannabis (Ganja) and heroin, simultaneously.

This study has concentrated on the settings in which women experienced physical abuse and their reactions to being victimized throughout that period.

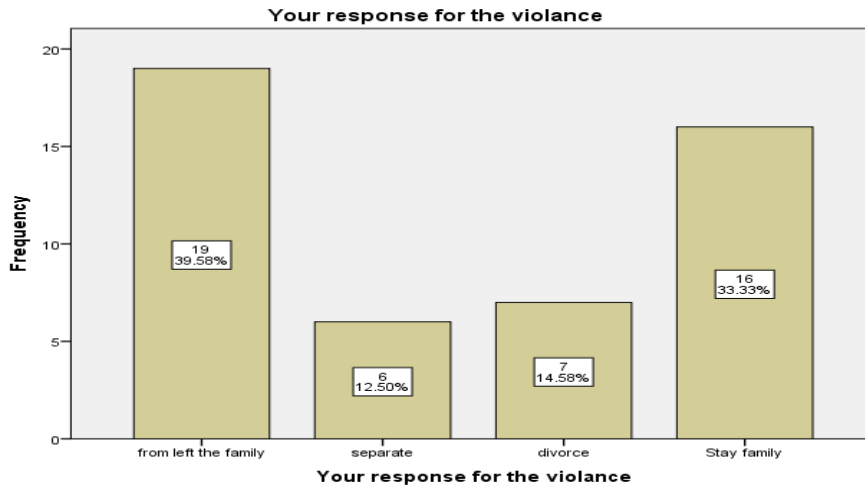
**Table 1.3: Reasons behind being physical violence victims**

	Valid					
	Casual relationship	using drugs	Finance problems	dowry	due to my mother-in-law's	Total
Frequency	21	11	9	2	5	48
Percent	42.9	22.4	20.4	4.1	10.2	100.0

Source: Field data, 2023

The above chart displayed that 43% of extramarital affairs by the spouse, 22% of drug usage by the spouses, 20% for financial troubles, and 10% for disagreements with the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, and dowry issues accounted for 4%. It was found that there was a single, consistent reason why they were victims every single time. A multilevel study examined that the probability of violence was elevated in both residential regions by dowries or other marital expectations, as well as a history of the husband's father abusing his mother. The likelihood of violence was lowered by improved communication between spouses and a husband with education above the tenth grade (Naved & Persson, 2005).

**Graphs 1.9: Victims’ responses regarding the violence**



Source: Field data, 2023

While 39.58% of wives have left their families, 33.33% have stayed put and explained their decision.

They are,

"Because we are parents, we are powerless to take action."

"Society will question me if I divorce."

"Because he is the child's father."

Of these, 14% had already divorced or were about to divorce their spouse. Additionally, 12% of them were separated.

Based on a review of victimization data from the National Crime Survey, the majority of victims were separated or divorced at the time of the interview. There are good reasons to think that the fact that most or even most women exit violent relationships contributes to this in part. If this is the case, it is incorrect to ask the classic question of why women stay in abusive marriages (Schwartz, 1988).

The wives' behaviors before reporting the physical assault to the police have been the focus of the researchers' attention.

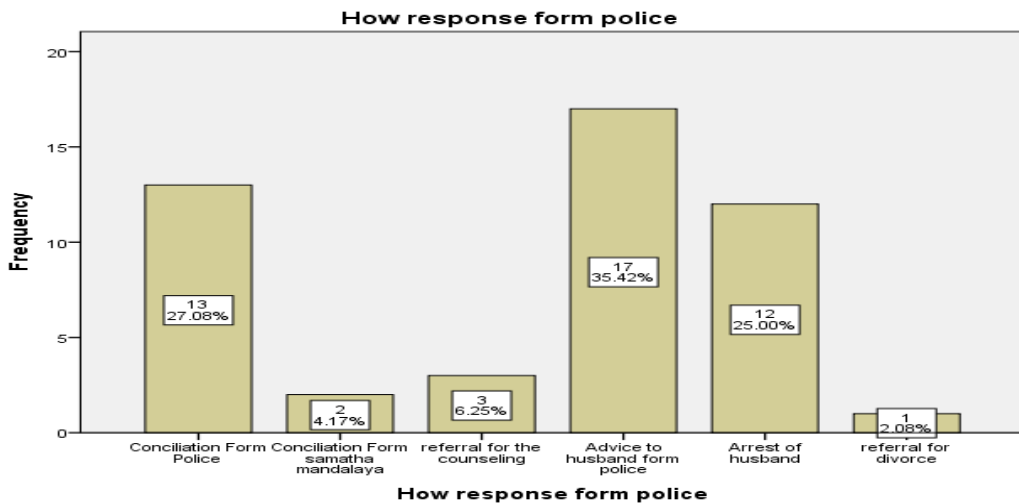
**Table 1.5: Actions that victims took before coming to the police station**

	Frequency	Percent
taking advice from family elders	18	36.7
taking advice form Grama Niladhari Officer	4	8.2
taking advice from other elders	11	22.4
taking advice from friends	12	24.5
Discussing with both	2	6.1
Total	48	100.0

Source: Field data, 2023

Of these, 37% made an effort to talk to their family's elders about the issue. 24% sought guidance from their acquaintances, and 6% attempted to talk to their partner about the issue. Furthermore, 8% discussed with the Grama Niladhari officer, while 22% spoke with other elders.

### Graphs 1.10: Responses from the Police Officers



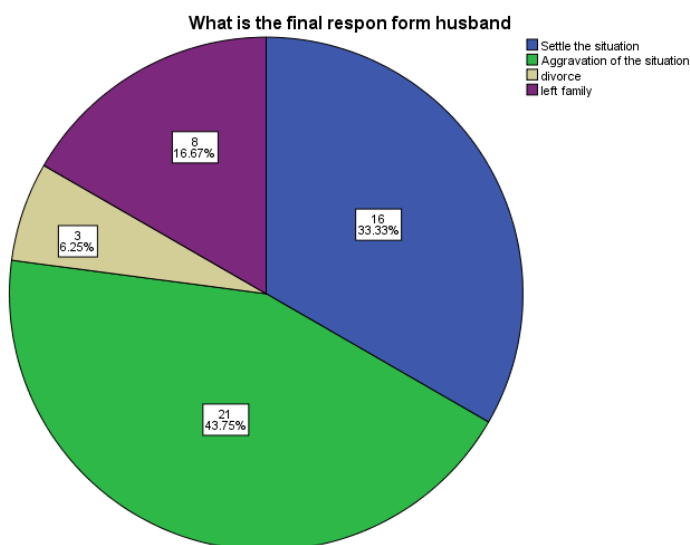
Source: Field data, 2023

35% of the police actions following complaints from victims were attributed to the officers who counseled the complainants' husbands. In order to address the issue, police officers took 27% of actions as police counseling, 25% as arrests, 13% as problem-solving police intervention, 6% as counseling referrals, 4% as mediation board referrals, and 2% as divorce applications.

The women's opinions of the police's handling of their abuse, their self-perception, and their readiness to seek legal action on their behalf are all analyzed in the article of

police responses to wife beating; neglect of a crime of violence. It was said that "talking" to the attacker/batterer was the most frequent police activity and that referrals to supportive organizations were infrequent. In this sample, victims' overall attitudes about themselves were not nearly as negative as is commonly believed to be the case with abused women. Some theories that positive police responses improve victims' perceptions of themselves and motivate them to seek out law enforcement mobilization have some validity (Brown, 1984).

**Graphs 1.11: Husbands’ responses for physical abuse**



43.75% of cases reached their worst state. 33.33% (48/16) of the respondents said they had resolved the issue, 16.67% (48/8) said their husband had broken away from the family, and 6.25% (48/3) said their husbands had divorced their wives.

Source: Field data, 2023

This is one way that preventable acts of physical abuse against wives can be seen from the victims' points of view.

“Husbands who abuse alcohol are causing a lot of arguments in our society.”

“We don't have enough money for food because we spend it on heroin. As a result, we are having disagreements. We must first give up heroin use.”

"Moonshine is visible everywhere, including in our location. My spouse always returned as a moonshine sober. And so we begin to argue. Therefore, ceasing to produce moonshine should be our first action.”

According to all these above statements, it can be clearly identified that the solution that they recommended is to eradicate drugs from society.



It is evident from all of the aforementioned remarks that the recommended remedy is the complete elimination of drugs from society.

Furthermore, other responses said things like,

"Our homies are starting arguments because they use heroin." We are left with nothing after he uses all the money to buy heroin. Should I inquire, he consistently beats me. Heroin users ought to receive rehabilitation."

Once these people give up drinking, all of the issues will be resolved. If not, they ought to receive rehabilitation.

From these comments, it can be seen that the majority of respondents thought that rehabilitation was a good way to deal with issue.

Additionally, additional remarks made by the respondents are,

"Because of my mother-in-law, I am unable to resolve family conflicts. She interrupts our arguments to issue orders. I am unable to show my husband the right route, thus. I have to teach this man about family life first.

"I want to stop my man from chasing after other women." Our kids are now adults. Family counseling is necessary.

"Every time there is a misunderstanding, we argue. Thus, we require counseling.

The aforementioned claims clarify the necessity of family counseling as one of the most effective approaches to problem-solving.

Additionally, respondents emphasized the following explanations for their physical aggression.

"Every day we fight because we don't have enough money. We didn't acquire knowledge correctly. Thus, we require an income structure.

These respondents' suggestions indicate that expanding other revenue streams or creating opportunities for self-employment are further solutions to the issue.

During the data collection process, the Child and Women Bureau Officer provided some proposals to the researchers.

"Here, beatings with the hands or feet and burns are the most frequent physical abuse. Usually, these kinds of complaints are always made by the same group. They are impoverished and have very little schooling. Numerous incidents of physical aggression are brought on by intoxication, extramarital affairs, and financial difficulties. We resolve a lot of issues, make amends, and send them on their way when they both arrive here. But they quarrel again when they leave this place. But at any time, this physical violence does not go as far as murder. Rehabilitation of drug

users and provision of family counseling services should be minimized by the government in order to protect a happy family life.....”

The aforementioned statement can be used to evaluate the nature of physical violence against women, which includes the following:

- The most common kinds of physical violence are beatings and burns;
- The victims and their families have low levels of education
- Drug use and casual affairs are the most common causes of physical violence victims; expanding rehabilitation, offering family counseling, and stepping up police raids near drug-making locations will help address this issue.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

People with lower incomes and lower levels of education are more likely to suffer physical abuse. Whether it is the first marriage or the second marriage, no matter the age limit, and no matter how long it has been since the marriage, physical abuse can occur. Most of the women who are the victims of physical violence do not do a job. There is a high possibility of being victims of physical violence again and again. The most common forms of physical violence are beatings and burns. When wives are physically abused, their common response is mostly to fight back. Wives will take some actions to solve the problem of physical abuse such as getting advice from friends, and elders before they complain to the police. But very few people have discussed it with their husbands. Even though the people who are victims need to divorce their partner, most of them are afraid to do that due to societal influences. The problems or arguments between husband and wife will be solved by the police. It will happen again when they come home through the problem at the police station.

Very few, however, have talked to their husbands about it. Due to social pressures, the majority of victims are reluctant to divorce their partners, even though they must do so. The police will resolve any disputes or disagreements between the spouses. Despite the police station solving the issue, the troubles will resurface when they return home.

It can therefore conclude that there is no age restriction on who can become a victim of their husbands' physical abuse. The majority of them suffer abuse in their own homes. All right, so most wives lacked higher levels of knowledge and hence were not equipped to tackle problems. This kind of physical violence is prevalent in society as a result of casual affairs and drinking. Because they try to enlist the help of outside parties in their difficulties, physical abuse against wives is becoming a major social issue. Ultimately, it is determined that even if the police resolve the issues between the husband and wife, the difficulties will resurface after they return home. Not many, though, have talked to their husbands about it. Because of the impact of society, the

majority of victims are reluctant to divorce their partners, even though it is necessary for them to. The authorities will resolve any disputes or disagreements between a husband and wife. Despite having been resolved at the police station, the issues will resurface when they return home.

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