

# CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Editor

**Dr. Asha Elizabeth Thomas**



**ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE KALAMASSERY**

(NAAC RE-ACCREDITED WITH 'A' GRADE AND ISO CERTIFIED INSTITUTION)

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# **RECENT CHANGES IN THE SPHERE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA**

**Ms. Raji T.**

## **Introduction**

Domestic violence is a serious human rights violation. Theoretically the legislative provisions favour the women, but when it comes to practical aspects, law enforcement is not properly executed. Societal changes and legal reforms should be mutually linked to obtain positive results. Mostly domestic violence seems to be a private matter rather than a social issue. Certain matters connected with live-in relationships should obtain clarity, though the judicial pronouncements consider it more or less equivalent to marriage. PWDVA itself provides for informal settlement measures, which should be made properly coordinated and effective. Domestic violence against women is an age old phenomenon. Women were always considered weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited. Domestic violence is defined in a comprehensive way in Sec.3 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA), comprising physical, mental, verbal, emotional, sexual and economic abuse, harassment for dowry, acts of threatening to abuse the victim or any other person related to her.

According to United Nations, domestic violence includes physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation, and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.

Violence against women – particularly intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence – is a major public health



Dr. Asha Elizabeth Thomas, Assistant Professor in Commerce, St. Paul's College, Kalamassery and a research guide for Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies. Her qualifications are M.Com (Finance), M.Phil. (Commerce), MBA (Marketing and Human Resource Management), M.Sc. Applied Psychology (Student Psychology), Ph.D in Commerce (Behaviourial Finance) and Post Doctoral Fellowship from University Grants Commission (UGC) and conducted research in the area of 'Transnational Education in Indian Higher Education Sector'. She has more than forty publications to her credit and is a member of the editorial board for six refereed journals. Dr. Asha has won many awards and recognitions for her academic and research proficiency. The prominent ones include 'ICSSR IMPRESS' major project 2019-20, University Grants Commission's (UGC) 'Research Award' in 2016, 'International Internship Award' from the Government of Kerala through the prestigious FLAIR Programme in 2014, 'Reserve Bank of India Faculty Scholarship' in 2018, and 'Women Achiever Award' from NFED in 2018. Dr. Asha was a resource person in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), University Grants Commission (UGC) - Swayam Annual Refresher Program in teaching (ARPIT- Commerce) . She has been a resource person for many Universities and in Executive Development Workshops. She also participates in panel discussions organized by various National Television Media including Asianet News and Manorama News channels on 'Planning and Execution of Financial Budget' for the past twelve years. Her disciplines of interest are Financial Management, Corporate Finance, Security Analysis and Portfolio Management, Financial Services, Corporate Governance and Entrepreneurship Development. Research interests of Dr. Asha are in the areas of financial inclusion & financial literacy, women empowerment, development of marginalized community, transnational education and technology oriented learning platforms.

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