

**ASSESSING THE GAPS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT
(2005) IN GOA**

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts in Women's Studies

**MANOHAR PARRIKAR SCHOOL OF LAW,
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY**

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DECLARATION

I, Arshi Uppal, hereby declare that the dissertation titled ‘Assessing the gaps in the implementation of the Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act in Goa’ is the outcome of my study undertaken under the guidance of Dr. Aparna P. Lolayekar, Programme Director, Women's Studies Programme, Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Goa University.

This Work has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma or certificate of this Institute or any other Institute or University. I have duly acknowledged all the sources used by me in the preparation of this dissertation.

Ms. Arshi Uppal

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation titled ‘Assessing the gaps in the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) in Goa’ is the record of the original work by Ms. Arshi Uppal under my guidance and to the best of my knowledge, the research results presented in this dissertation have not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma or certificate of this or any other University.

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EPIGRAPH

This is dedicated to all women in Goa.

***'Women are the only exploited group in history to
have been idealized into powerlessness'
- Karl Marx***

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning	Page No.
CAW	Crime Against Women	14
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women	9
DWCD	Directorate of Women and Child Development	7
DV	Domestic Violence	1
EMRI	Emergency Management and Response Institute	32
GBV	Gender-based Violence	1
GMC	Goa Medical College	8
GSCW	Goa State Commission for Women	31
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence	1
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development	24
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau	31
NCW	National Commission for Women	23
NFHS	National Family Health Survey	29
OSC	One Stop Center	32
PO	Protection Officer	8
PWDVA	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act	6
SRCW	State Resource Center for Women	7
UN	United Nations	1
VAW	Violence Against Women	1
WHL	Women's Helpline	7
WHO	World Health Organisation	2

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Domestic violence (DV) can be defined as any act of gender-based (GBV) violence that leads to or can cause physical, sexual or psychological damage to women within a shared household. It includes violence, threats, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life. Although the term ‘domestic violence’ is used in many countries to refer to partner violence, it can also encompass child or elder abuse, or abuse by any member of a household. (WHO and PAHO, 2012).

Domestic Violence includes all acts of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence that occur within the family, domestic unit, or between intimate partners (European Commission, 2017). DV overlaps with gender-based (GBV), violence against women (VAW) and intimate partner violence (IPV).

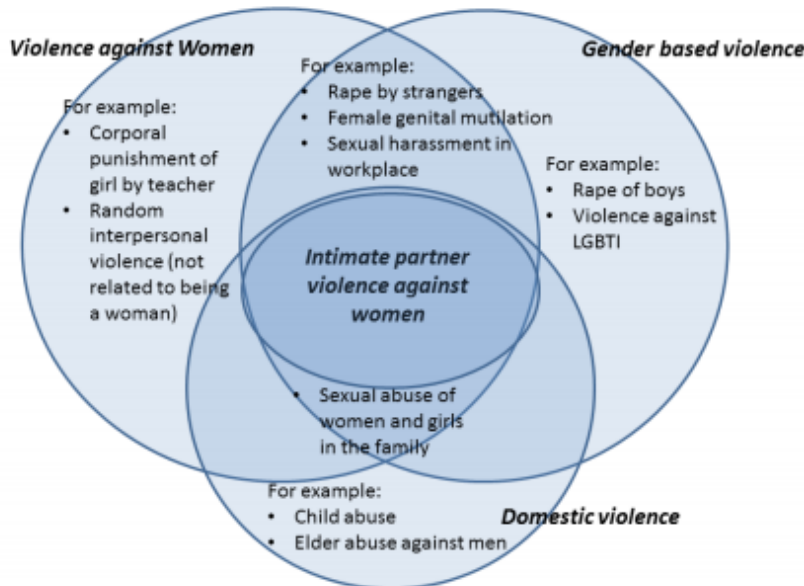


Fig. 1 - Overlap among VAW, GBV, DV and IPV; Source: Jansen 2016

GBV is violence directed against a person because of that person's gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. Examples of GBV include domestic violence, sex-based harassment, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and online violence among others. (European Commission, 2017).

IPV, also called 'domestic abuse' or 'domestic violence', can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner (UN, 2020). It has been deemed as one of the most common forms of violence against women (WHO, 2012).

Early definitions of spouse abuse referred only to the physical injury a husband perpetrated against his wife (Gelles 1974; Martin 1976). More recent research has broadened this definition to include sexual abuse, marital rape, emotional or psychological abuse, and coercion. IPV includes any behaviors that can isolate, humiliate, intimidate, manipulate, blame, frighten, threaten, terrorize, coerce, hurt, injure, or wound someone. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression, including coercive tactics, by a current or former intimate partner i.e., spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, dating partner, or ongoing sexual partner.

An intimate partner is a person with whom one has a close personal relationship that may be characterized by the partners' emotional connectedness, regular contact, ongoing physical contact and sexual behavior, identity as a couple, and familiarity and knowledge about each other's lives. The relationship need not involve all of these dimensions." (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015).

As the roots of DV are entangled in intimacy, the shared household plays a central role. The home is supposed to be a safe-zone for refuge from discrimination, harassment or violence that is prevalent in public spaces. DV denies its victims/survivors access to this safe haven or sense of security. However, the site of domestic violence is not limited by the four walls and stretches in all directions to permeate every aspect of a victim's life. DV can take many forms ranging from the more obvious tactics like use of force, fear, pain, injury, intimidation and terror to the more subtle techniques of manipulation, humiliation, coercion, blaming, surveillance, cyber stalking and more.



Fig. 2: The Power & Control Wheel; Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (1984)

1.2 Domestic Violence & Intersectionality

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone irrespective of gender, race, age, sexual orientation or religion (UN, 2020). However, societal divisions, such as caste, age, religion, and class, intersect with gender and affect both women's vulnerability to abuse and experiences of violence (Pippo et al., 2021).

Coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, the term intersectionality has become the key analytic framework through which feminist scholars in various fields talk about the structural identities of race, class, gender, and sexuality (Cooper, 2016). There are many layers of identity that can influence the prevalence, incidence or extent of Domestic Violence in an individual's life. The role of inter spousal relationship, ownership of property, dowry, working status, sex of the children, autonomy, religion and caste of the person can't be ignored (Sahu, 2003; Sahu, 2020; Swain, 2002 and Jejeebhoy, 1998).

A victim's social and economic circumstances can influence their exposure and response to domestic violence in complex and contradictory ways. For example, a young bride from a poor family that cannot fulfill dowry expectations, on moving into her husband's house to live in a joint family, may be at severe risk of facing harassment and torture that may lead to murder or suicide (Barik, 2011; Kethineni et al., 2016; Menon & Allen, 2018). Caste-based sexual violence can manifest as gang rapes perpetrated by higher caste males against lower caste females. The position of women in lower castes is associated with poverty, low education and low socioeconomic status, with a high risk of exposure to violence and limited avenues for seeking help, even from parents (Anitha et al., 2018; NCRB, 2016). Another study (Gerstein 2000) among men in Uttar Pradesh is of the view that low educational level and poverty are important reasons for domestic violence. Further, marriage at a young age makes women vulnerable to domestic violence (Mishra, 2000; Hindin, 2002 and Rao, 1997).

1.2.1 Domestic Violence & Gender

Various terms are used to characterize the violence between intimate partners. These include spouse abuse, spousal violence, domestic violence, family violence, partner violence, intimate partner abuse and battering among others but these gender neutral terms do not differentiate between men and women (Gelles 1995). There is some data to indicate that women and men initiate assaults on their partners at approximately the same rate (Straus and Gelles 1986). However, numerous other sources indicate that women are far more likely to be the victims. For example, a National Crime Victimization Survey in the United States (Bachman 1994) found that women were ten times more likely to be injured by their male partners than vice versa. The National Violence Against Women Survey (Tjaden and Thoennes 2001) found that 20.4 percent of women, as opposed to only 7 percent of men, were physically assaulted by their intimate partner at some point in their relationship; thus, women were almost three times more likely to report being victimized by their husband or boyfriend. This type of information supports the shift from gender-neutral terms to terms such as violence toward women, woman abuse, wife abuse, or violence against wives (Gelles 1995). The overwhelming global burden of IPV is borne by women.

1.2.2 Domestic Violence & Marital Status

A young bride at the intersection of gender, caste, and age, can be highly vulnerable and bound to her matrimonial home and in-laws (see Anitha et al., 2018). IPV can occur within a range of relationships including couples who are living together or dating, between couples who are married and even among those who are separated or divorced. Roughly equivalent victimization rates have been found for married (e.g., Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz 1986) and dating (e.g., White and Koss 1991) couples. In Goa, currently married women are at a higher risk of being victimized as 24.6% of women in married relationships faced DV as against 5.5% among others. (Kamat et al., 2013).

1.3 State Interventions and Response Systems for Domestic Violence in Goa

India's central and state governments are supposed to provide assistance to victims of DV through various laws, policies, schemes and service providers. The small state of Goa boasts of a robust public safety framework for women.

Laws against Domestic Violence in India	
Criminal Law	IPC 498A - Cruelty by husband or relatives of husband
Civil Remedy	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005)

Despite the recognition of domestic violence as a criminal offense which is chargeable under section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code since 1983, there was no separate civil law addressing the specific complexities associated with domestic violence. The enactment of the comprehensive 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act' (PWDVA) 2005 was designed to fulfill the need for protection and maintenance of abused women. The law also recognises the fact that punishment and imprisonment for the husband may not be the best resolution in every case. (NFHS-3)

State centers for women in Goa	
Statutory Body	Goa State Commission for Women (established in 1993)
Technical Support	State Resource Center for Women

The Goa State Commission for Women is a statutory body constituted in the year 1993 to deal with the issues relating to crime against women in the state of Goa. It is governed by the Goa State Commission for Women Act passed in July 1996. The commission for welfare of women in the state has been set up as a quasi-judicial body.

The State Resource Center for Women (SRCW) was envisioned as a state level convergence of academia, state interventions, civil society initiatives and the whole community to bring about a change in the status of women in Goa (SRCW Report, 2018). The Directorate of Women and Child Development (DWCD) had signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Women's Studies-Goa University for setting up of SRCW with 60:40 bases funding from Central and State govts. (SRCW 2019).

On 8th October 2018, Goa University launched its established SRCW under the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW). SRCW would identify steps and take measures to improve effectiveness of government programmes and schemes for empowerment of women. It would guide and provide suggestions as and when required on important policy decisions with regards to women upliftment (Oheraldo, 2018).

SRCW is designed to leverage its inherent yet extensive research expertise to design and implement strategic solutions that are customized to suit the needs and solve the problems that are plaguing women in Goa. Armed with a solid data-driven foundation based on ground realities and efficient feedback mechanisms, this coordination hub for all key stakeholders could drive consistent messaging and impactful initiatives, campaigns, activities, workshops or events to help victims and survivors.

Women's Helpline (WHL) Numbers provide information, emergency assistance or counseling services and can guide the victims to the most relevant service providers based on their issues and needs.

Women's Helpline (WHL) Numbers in Goa	
1091	Women Helpline (All India) - Women In Distress Emergency Response Support System connects police control room
181	Universal Women Helpline - information, emergency & counseling
112 or 110	Pink police in Goa
7827170170	National Commission for Women 24x7 Helpline for DV
7875756177	Whatsapp Helpline for women in distress in Goa
100	Police

District Level Protection & assistance for women in Goa
One Stop Centre North Goa - At Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim One Stop Centre South Goa - Junta Quarters, Margao
Mahila Police Station/ Women's Police Station, Porvorim, North Goa The women and child protection cell, Margao Police Station
District Level Centre for Women
Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) Scheme (Discontinued in 2021)
12 North District police stations, 16 south district police stations, 7 Coastal Police Stations and 8 other Police stations.

Block Level centers and support for women in Goa
Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) - convergence with frontline workers including Protection Officers (PO) for Domestic Violence

1.4 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

Process of case lodging under PWDVA

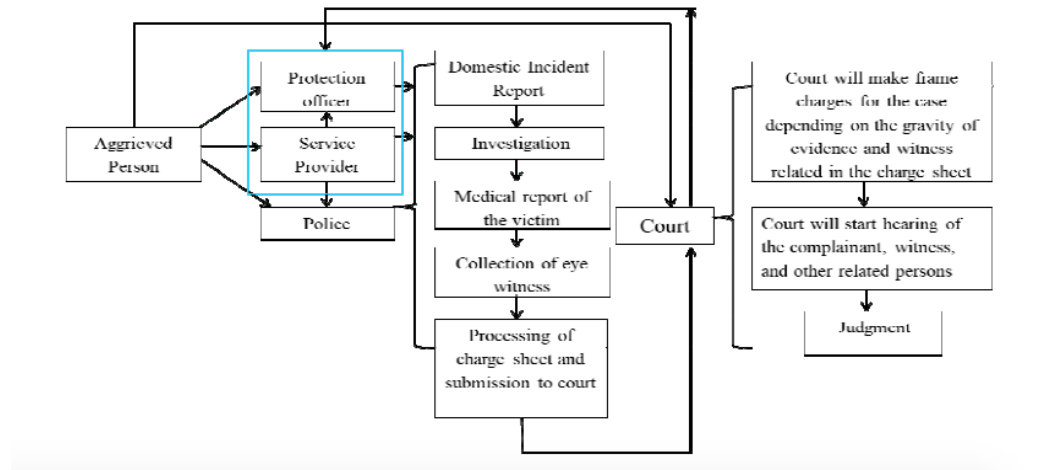


Fig. 3 - Process of case lodging under PWDVA; Source: Sarkar, K. (2015)

PWDVA embodies the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The 12th general recommendation of CEDAW requires all states to take action for protecting women against violence of any kind whether it is occurring within the family, at the workplace or in any other area of social life.

Before PWDVA, women could only take action or seek assistance under section 498A (cruelty by husband or his relative) and sections 304B (dowry death) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as there was no civil law for protecting them against Domestic Violence in India. This Act, for the first time, acknowledges 'Domestic Violence' (DV) as a problem and obligates the state to prevent it and punish offenders.

PWDVA came into force on 26th October, 2006. The 12-page law with 5 chapters was celebrated for comprehensively defining DV and for the inclusion of critical

provisions that protect women from further injustice within their homes. The creation of this landmark law was a challenging endeavor as it needed to carefully draw the lines between the need for state intrusion and the sanctity of a citizen's private sphere or home. Senior Advocate Indira Jaisingh assisted in drafting this law and took on the mantle to conduct the much needed brainstorming efforts that involved all key stakeholders in the discussions and debates for collectively arriving at the essential provisions of PWDVA.

PWDVA provides immediate support to women victims of domestic violence in the form of shelter, medical facility, legal assistance and counseling as well as relief in the nature of protection, residence, compensation, maintenance orders as well as orders for temporary custody of children.

The law widens the meaning of the word 'aggrieved woman' by including women who face domestic violence in relationships other than matrimonial relationships like daughters, mothers, sisters and those involved in marriage like relationships and provide a woman's right to reside in the shared household. It also brings sexual violence and by extension marital rape or sexual violence (which was excluded by Section 365 of IPC) under the gambit of law.

There are limited penalties that can be levied under this law. Only the following offenses are punishable under this law -

- 1) Failure of a respondent to comply with a protection order, or interim protection order.
- 2) Failure or refusal of the PO to discharge his duties as directed by the Magistrate in the protection order without any sufficient cause.

The recent developments that took place under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was that section 2 (q) was amended where the word ‘adult male’ was removed (Hiral P. Harsora and Ors v. Kusum Narottamdas Harsora and Ors). The recent amendment was made with the intention to make the Act a gender neutral one. In another landmark judgment, the Madras High court held that even a daughter-in-law could be made liable under the act in case she caused violence against her mother-in-law or father-In-law (Loha v. District Education Officer).

Some of the critical provisions of PWDVA are obligations of the state, including -

1. Appointment of Protection Officers
2. Notification of service providers
3. Training and capacity building of key functionaries like POs, police personnel and Judicial Magistrate of First Class.
4. Publicity and awareness campaigns on the provisions of PWDVA

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The situation surrounding DV in Goa gets even trickier because PWDVA 2005 has been implemented differently in India’s smallest state. Some of the most crucial protocols prescribed in PWDVA have been ignored in Goa.

The act clearly states that POs shall as far as possible be women but there is no way to ensure this in Goa, as the state has relegated this charge or role to the already overburdened designation of the Block Development Officer (BDO). Goa government is yet to appoint any full-time PO. A gender audit of all protection officers would reveal the percentage of female POs who have had the chance to serve or assist the victims of DV in Goa.

Section 11(a) in Chapter 3 of the act mandates that the provisions of this act are given wide publicity through public media including TV, radio, print media at regular intervals (*PWDVA, 2005*). Both the state and central government are required to take all measures to ensure this. It would be helpful to analyze the reach of such campaigns and their impact on awareness levels of the provision of PWDVA in Goa. Such insights can be further utilized for creating or fuelling the strategy of promotional campaigns. The budget allocated and funds released for publicity and a media audit of the collateral published could prove useful.

According to section 9(1e) of the act, it is the duty of the protection officer to maintain a list of all service providers providing legal aid or counseling, shelter homes and medical facilities in a local area within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate (*PWDVA, 2005*). According to section 9(1f) of the act, it is the duty of the protection officer to make available a safe shelter home, if the aggrieved person so requires and forward a copy of his report of having lodged the aggrieved person in a shelter home to the police station and the Magistrate having jurisdiction in the area where the shelter home is situated (*PWDVA, 2005*). According to section 9(1g) of the act, it is the duty of the protection officer to get the aggrieved person medically examined, if she has sustained bodily injuries and forward a copy of the medical report to the police station and the Magistrate having jurisdiction in the area where the domestic violence is alleged to have been taken place (*PWDVA, 2005*). It may be useful to investigate the extent and efficiency with which POs in Goa are fulfilling these duties ascribed under law.

Many women may not take civil action against DV because the Indian legal system can be slow, complicated and expensive. PWDVA has already addressed these concerns as the act requires magistrates to endeavor to dispose of every application within a period of 60 days from the date of first hearing (*PWDVA, 2005*). Furthermore, any relief under PWDVA is to be provided free of charge.

1.6 Reason for choosing this study

According to a perception poll of 370 gender specialists, India ranked as the worst place to be a woman among G20 nations (TrustLaw and Thomson Reuters Foundation, 2012). In India, 70 percent of married women between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or coerced sex (United Nation Population Fund Report, 2005). Given the seriousness and severity of these statistics, this researcher was shocked to find that Goa had recorded only two cases of DV under PWDVA since 2005 (NCRB Annual reports). This means that one or more of the following have to be true -

- 1) There is no domestic violence in Goa.
- 2) Reported cases of DV are not being captured by NCRB data due to the alternate system of justice that has been setup under PWDVA.
- 3) Women are not reporting cases of DV under PWDVA in Goa.

A preliminary analysis revealed that spousal violence is prevalent in Goa (NFHS 3, 4 and 5). The number of cases filed under PWDVA by Protection Officers was not available in the public domain so it became imperative to compile and collate this data. Before anyone can investigate the many reasons or hurdles that are holding women back from using the remedies available under this monumental civil law it is essential to analyze the availability, accessibility and quality of PWDVA's safety framework in Goa.

1.7 Research Question

1. Is there a need to strengthen the implementation of PWDVA in Goa?
2. Can the implementation of PWDVA be strengthened in Goa?

1.8 Objectives

1. To collate data on crimes against women (CAW) in Goa since 2005.
2. To conduct a comparative analysis between recorded incidence and reported crimes of Domestic Violence in Goa.
3. To analyze the following aspects of PWDVA's implementation in Goa -
 - Budget for implementation of PWDVA in Goa
 - Media Audit of the state government's ad campaigns for PWDVA
 - Gender audit of Protection Officers
 - Infrastructure audit of notified service providers
 - Accessibility of information and services under PWDVA in Goa
 - Ease of connecting with Protection Officers

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A systematic review of literature was conducted to cover key aspects pertaining to DV and the implementation of PWDVA.

2.1 Prevalence of DV

One in three women have faced spousal violence during their lifetime and one in five have experienced it during the past 12 months, preceding the survey (NFHS 4). In India, 70 per cent of married women between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or coerced sex (UNPF 2005).

In the quantitative literature available on DV, a landmark compilation (Kalokhe et al. 2014) summarizes the breadth of work carried during the preceding decade by conducting a systematic review of 137 quantitative studies evaluating the DV experiences of women in India. They found that in studies that survey at least two forms of abuse, a median 30% of women had faced DV within the past year while 41% of women reported experiencing DV during their lifetime.

A nationwide survey (ICRW, 2000) found that 52 percent of women suffer at least once, physical or physiological incidence in their lifetime. Another study (INCLEN Trust International, 2000) found that at least 40% married women experience some form of physical violence in their life. The National Family Health Survey II report shows that one in five married women in India experience Domestic Violence from the age of 15 years.

A cross-sectional study (Kamat et al. 2010) comprising 379 interviews with married women showed that spousal violence was reported by 26.6% of the respondents in the Tiswadi Taluka of Goa. Another study (Kamat et al. 2013) in

Goa that interviewed 920 women in the age group of 18 to 49 years found that nearly 1/3 to 1/2 of adult women are victimized at home. This study used a semi-structured questionnaire to estimate lifetime prevalence since the age of 18 and current prevalence in the last 3 months among respondents from the field practice area of the Rural Health & Training Centre in Goa

There is substantial inter-study variance in DV prevalence estimates that can be assigned to various factors ranging from a lack of standardization, validation or cultural adaptation of DV survey instruments to differences in study populations and settings (Kalokhe et al. 2014). Even in Goa it has been shown that the magnitude of DV depends on the interview techniques, time and setting of the study (Kamat et al. 2013). A culturally tailored DV scale and prevention strategies are essential.

DV is a coercive attitude towards another person through the use of various methods like intimidation, threats or harassment of the victim. S. Goel in the book '*Psychological Aspects of Domestic Violence*' pays much attention to passive abuse of the victim, which is defined as being covert, subtle and veiled. This includes victimization, ambiguity and neglect, spiritual and intellectual abuse. Even if every victim can be empowered and agrees to speak-up, it might be impossible to ascertain the real incidence or prevalence of DV because passive abuse can sometimes be difficult to identify even for those who are being subjected to it.

2.2 Survivor Stories

As this study will explore the gap between actual incidence of DV and the reported crimes of DV in Goa, it is imperative to understand the psychology of a battered woman, a victim or survivor of DV. It is impossible to conduct any research on this topic without first developing a certain level of empathy for those

who suffer and without understanding the complex reasons due to which they maintain their silence. Synder R. (2019) has termed IPV as ‘intimate terrorism’. The author mentions that although the World Health Organisation has called the offense a ‘global epidemic’, none of us believe that it has anything to do with us because it is a private matter between couples. The book is a compilation of true stories of horror faced by women victims of domestic violence and provides a detailed analysis of the crimes and the procedure used for dealing with it.

Bhattacharya R. (2004) sheds light on the plight and courage of real victims of Domestic Violence. She establishes that “behind closed doors of family, custom, values, traditions that are taken for granted and never questioned - are muffled voices of terror and trauma, which do not reach beyond the threshold nor attract the attention of lawmakers or redress agents”. This compilation of seventeen life stories of women from diverse cultural, class, education and religious backgrounds who were all victims of domestic violence in India. This collection of essays on domestic violence in India is enriched by contributions from eminent academicians and activists who have contributed to the women's movement in India in various ways. Edited by a former victim of domestic violence, this book opens a window into the ugly yet largely ignored world of domestic violence. As a gripping first person account, it inspires other victims of this ‘hidden crime’ to speak out, share their plight and change their fate.

2.3 DV & Structural Inequalities

There are a myriad array of causes, reasons and contributing factors that allow DV to perpetuate in our homes, communities and the society at large. A qualitative study (Piippo et al.) employed a critical constructionist approach and frame analysis to analyze data from interviews or focus groups with Finnish (n = 20) and Mumbai (n = 18) social workers. However, in contrast to Mumbai, ways of framing in Finland revealed little evidence of a feminist approach to

VAW. This study throws light on the importance of structural understanding as it illustrates contextual factors associated with experiencing violence and seeking help. The study explores the cultural acceptance of male domination, a victim-blaming mindset, and stigma connected to Violence Against Women.

In a country like India, structural causes like patriarchy and social acceptance of violence emerge as root causes of Violence Against Women. Society normalizes a man's right to use violence, rendering violence an inevitable part of a woman's life within or outside the home. (Anitha et al. 2018). Numbers of family members, type of marriage and husband's education besides menstrual problems have significant influence on domestic violence (Murthy et al. 2004). While many researchers come out with findings that lifestyle of men such as smoking, alcoholism and drugs promote men to commit domestic violence (Leonard, 1992; McKenry et al., 1995; Rao, 1997 and Bhatt, 1998), some are of the view that masculinity and domestic violence are closely interlinked (Duvvury and Nayak, 2003 and Hamberger et al., 1997).

A study (Kamat et al. 2010) conducted in Goa highlighted the role of social factors in perpetuating DV and concluded that change in the social attitude that allows or legitimizes such violence is the only long lasting solution and awareness is the key to change. Factors predisposing women in Goa to victimization included poor educational status, early marriage, women's employment and alcohol consumption by the husband.

Employment is often seen as a key factor in women's empowerment so that employed women might be expected to be less vulnerable to domestic violence or, if they experience such abuse, to be more ready to resist than women who are not employed. However, a study (Krishnan et al. 2010) conducted in Bangalore using multivariable logistic regression models on data collected at enrolment, 12 and 24

months showed that women who were unemployed at one visit and began employment by the next visit had 80% higher odds of facing violence, in comparison to women who remained unemployed. Similarly, women whose husbands had stable employment at one visit but faced difficulties and did not have stable employment by the next visit faced 1.7 times higher odds of violence, in comparison to those whose husbands remained employed.

In Goa, employed women carried a significantly higher risk of physical abuse compared to the unemployed and its association with the level of women's income seemed to be statistically insignificant. It was, however, found that the women having monthly income more than their husbands were reasonably protected against spousal violence. (Kamat et al. 2010)

2.4 Domestic Violence and Women's Health in Goa

A longitudinal study (Weiss et al. 2008) on spousal sexual violence as a risk factor for sexually transmitted infections among women in Goa, was conducted with a random sample of women aged 18–45 years. All subjects who consented to participate and completed the recruitment procedure were interviewed six and 12 months after recruitment. The study conducted between November 2001 and May 2003 concluded that socially disadvantaged women are at increased risk of STI in this population and women are at risk of becoming infected within marriage, especially those with sexual violence. This highlights the need for healthcare professionals to screen STI patients for violence, and provide the necessary support.

A population-based cohort study of women living in the catchment area of a primary health center in north Goa found that spousal violence is an independent risk factor for a broad range of adverse health outcomes in women. 1750 married women were assessed at baseline with a structured interview for the assessment of

exposure to spousal violence (verbal, physical, sexual) over two time periods (lifetime; recent in the past three months). Longitudinal data was collected after six and 12 months. Univariate analyses were carried out on the cross-sectional and longitudinal data to assess the association between each type of spousal violence and each health outcome. Multivariate analyses adjusted for age, literacy, household per capita income. Lifetime spousal violence was reported by 290 (16.6%, 95% CI=14.9-18.4) women; recent violence was reported by 230 (13.0%, 95%CI=11.6-14.8). The cross-sectional data showed an association between violence and a range of self-reported gynecological complaints, low Body Mass Index, depressive disorder and attempted suicide. The longitudinal analyses confirmed these associations only for STI and attempted suicide. The study concluded that Spousal violence is specifically associated as an independent risk factor for two adverse women's health outcomes, viz., STI and attempted suicide. Public health and clinical programs targeting these outcomes must specifically address spousal violence. (Chowdhary et al., 2008)

2.5 Help Seeking Behaviour

The help seeking behavior of victims is not proportional to the duration or severity of violence but appears to be influenced by variables like women's education, employment and income (Anitha et al., 2018). Only 10 percent of women age 18-49 who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence sought help, while 15 percent never sought help but told someone. More than three-fourths of women (76%) never sought help and never told anyone (NFHS-5). A study in Goa found that 68.5% of the women do not even mention incidents of DV to a third person. Reasons for remaining quiet range from concern for parents and children to social security (Kamat et al. 2013) as well as fear of aggravation or resignation to fate.

Furthermore, service providers in formal agencies are considered more likely than professionals in women's organizations to exhibit patriarchal ideology and a victim-blaming mindset (Menon & Allen, 2018). In situations of conflict, approaching formal governmental agencies for help is rarely an option. Owing to traditional cultural norms, social workers are sensitive to maintaining family cohesion and unity rather than upholding the independence of family members (George & Krishnakumar, 2014; Pandya, 2014; Payne, 2005; Piippo et al., 2020).

2.6 Judicial & Legal Framework for DV

DV in India was criminalized after sustained campaigning by feminist groups and women activists all over the country. The movement received impetus from the much criticized judgment of *Tukaram v. State of Maharashtra* (1979) 2 SCC 143. Section 498-A was introduced in the year 1983 to protect married women from being subjected to cruelty by the husband or his relatives. Indian women finally received a civil remedy in the form of PWDVA in 2005.

The police always used discretion in avoiding arrest while responding to domestic violence incidents when there are complaints in many police stations, policies for DV or domestic disputes actively discouraged arrests focusing instead on responses such as calling the abuser to the police station for conciliation among other measures. Sentences are less serious for the convicts of domestic violence and these are the reasons for higher dismissal rate for domestic violence cases at the prosecution stage compared to the other violence cases. The present DV Act, is a civil law which provides emergency and ex-parte injunctions and non-molestation orders, whether or not any other relief is sought in the proceedings of the victim. The law seeks to protect women and children from domestic violence at the hands of their family members. (Singh, 2021)

A doctoral study conducted on implementation of PWDVA, 2005 within the context of a small scale business community known as Kesarwani Community in Kolkata, focuses on the legal construction of domestic violence acts on matrimonial relations and the ways in which the legal framework exacerbates violence experienced by women within their matrimonial house and within their families. The paper also observes how legal literacy (knowledge) and functioning of the same is confined to legal professionals and Government officers mostly. The awareness amidst the common public is limited and such lack of knowledge is more in rural areas or interiors of the country (Mukhopadhyay, 2018).

PWDVA has carefully included sexual abuse. Sexual violence can be described as using sex as a tool or weapon to show or use power over another person usually to inflict humiliation upon the other person. The concept of marital rape, though not recognised in India is well acknowledged in many other countries. The primary reason why women tolerate such violence or abuse is to maintain the family integrity, sex is considered to be private and must not be discussed in public whatsoever, talking about sexual violence by husband will spoil the family reputation. The family violence is generally hidden under the notions of intimacy of the private sphere as the belief that family integrity should be protected at all costs prevent many women from seeking outside help. (Vandana 2017)

2.7 Regional Variations in implementation and impact analysis of PWDVA

By 2011, twelve states; including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh still did not have a separate budget for implementation of PWDVA. While Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Nagaland were spending some amounts for awareness generation, training and other components of the Act, eight of the 12 states - including Goa - did not have even ad hoc allocations for essential aspects such as training or publicity that are mandated under

PWDVA. Most of these states have a higher incidence of violence (NFHS 2005-06) but they still maintained that they were able to meet the expenses for PWDVA through existing frameworks for safety or active women's welfare schemes. For instance, Bihar has Nari Shakti, Chhattisgarh has Mahila Jagriti Shivir scheme and Jharkhand meets expenses through its Dowry Elimination Programme and Elimination of Witchcraft Practices Programme. (Jhamb, 2011).

Among the eight states that do not have any separate budget for implementation of PWDVA or its publicity or awareness of provisions, Bihar has a fair amount of credible research or availability of literature today. National Commission for Women (NCW) has awarded a study to Gyanodaya Foundation on the Role of Protection Officers towards providing successful solace to the victims of Domestic Violence in Bihar.

NCW in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and Delhi Police had started a project called 'Violence Free Home' to empower women and also to help women survivors of violence in both public and private life. The project entails placement of trained Social Workers providing quality psycho-legal services for violated women at all District Headquarters. At present, 24 social workers have been appointed at district level. They are located in Crime Against Women (CAW) Cells of Delhi Police. The progress of the work of these cells is reviewed by the Commission and Delhi Police jointly. The project is now being replicated in 22 districts in 7 other States on pilot basis. These are Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, wherein support mechanism has been promoted for women victims of domestic violence and a systemic grievance redressal mechanism has been created within the police/criminal justice system. (NCW, 2021). The Violence Free Home project and other related status updates published in the Rashtra Mahila newsletter of NCW have made the data on DV more easily accessible for these states.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) has funded many studies including a comprehensive study of state intervention measures for tackling VAW in four states i.e Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. This comparative study assesses the impact of new laws, crime rate and reporting rate and change in awareness levels (Bhartiya Stree Shakti, 2017). Some questionnaires used in this study can form the basis of guidelines or an efficient analytical tool kit to study the impact and implementation of PWDVA in other states.

Another study that can help in the formulation of an efficient assessment tool for PWDVA asks many pertinent questions. Conducted in Bihar, this study concludes that there is low level of awareness and understanding on domestic violence and the PWDV Act among all the stakeholders. There is enough evidence which suggests that there is a need for more coordination and also ensuring convergence of services among various institutions/departments and stakeholders to achieve the goals of the policy. It is also evident that the available structure (judicial and administrative) is less accessible to survivors and there is no sufficient allocation of fund for implementation of PWDVA. The study team could also not find any system of research, data collection, reporting of data collection at local level, which could support in monitoring the implementation of Act (CARE India & Mahila Jagran Kendra, 2016).

Progress in PWDVA's implementation is insignificant as it remains plagued by challenges such as inadequate funds and human resources, poor coordination across implementing agencies and ineffective monitoring mechanisms. Addressing these would go a long way in strengthening the Act and making it effective. (Parvati, 2015).

2.8 Gaps in Research

There are many comprehensive studies, reports, journal articles and books that can help us to better understand DV in Goa and India. The literature ranges from gauging prevalence using different sampling techniques or survey methods to studying the complex causes behind this societal menace and establishing its relationships with common variables and correlates, from understanding why victims prefer to suffer in silence to outlining ways in which they can be empowered, from exploring the reasons that lead to hesitancy on part of the victim when faced with taking any civil or criminal action against the perpetrator to improving state intervention measures or researching various possible prevention strategies or solutions to capturing the extensive repercussions or long term effects of DV on victims, survivors, children, families and/or the community at large. There are also studies that explore links between DV and mental health, suicide or COVID-19.

Domestic cohabitation is not a prerequisite for defining DV but given the social value systems prevalent in Indian society, most of the quantitative studies focus on cases wherein the victims are married. There is scarcity of studies that evaluate the DV experiences of those in live-in relationships or same-sex relationships, those living in tribal villages and of older women above the age of 50 years. (Ameeta Kalokhe et al. 2014). Other groups that are not adequately represented in large datasets or studies on DV include migrant populations. There is also scope for further evaluating the impact of DV on physical health.

The institutional response including legal assistance and civil remedy for DV have been studied in many states of India. However, this researcher only found limited literature (Sardesai 2019) on the implementation of PWDVA in Goa.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology refers to the techniques or procedures used for identifying and analyzing information pertaining to a given topic. It enables the researcher to find solutions for the problems they confront during the collection of data and helps them to efficiently resolve issues faced while collecting or analyzing the most crucial data for the research.

There are three kinds of approaches that can be adopted namely quantitative, qualitative and mixed. The quantitative method emphasizes objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data that can be counted or measured in numerical values whereas qualitative research focuses on collecting or analyzing non-numerical data to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences that can provide in-depth insights into a problem. The mixed method uses a combination of the two in order to arrive at quantifiable and descriptive findings.

Given the complex nature of Domestic Violence and the varied facets of the implementation of PWDVA in Goa, this study relies on the mixed method.

3.1 Population of the study

Goa is divided into 2 districts: North Goa and South Goa, which are further divided into 12 talukas. These include Bardez, Bicholim, Pernem, Sattari, Tiswadi and Ponda in North Goa and Canacona, Mormugao, Salcette, Sanguem, Quepem and Dharbandora in South Goa. Furthermore, talukas with large populations such as Bardez, Ponda and Salcette are further subdivided into two and may have more than one BDO. The objective of this study is to analyze the implementation of PWDVA across all talukas of Goa.

3.2 Tools of Data Collection

3.2.1 Right to Information (RTI) Applications

The RTI act empowers every citizen to seek any information from the Government, inspect any Government documents and seek certified photocopies thereof. It confers access to government records as a fundamental right. In order to source and collate quantitative data on DV and PWDVA in Goa, multiple RTI's were filed because the information was not readily available in the public domain.

Every public authority is required to designate Public Information Officers (PIO) in all the administrative units or offices under it. Every public authority is also required to designate Assistant Public Information Officers (APIO) at each sub-divisional level. The official websites of government ministries or departments have a dedicated section for RTIs with web pages that provide a list of PIOs and APIOs alongwith their contact details. Larger departments also provide an RTI guide or an organizational structure for greater clarity on who is responsible for different types of data within that administrative unit.

RTIs can be filed online through the official website of the designated department. However, many state level offices do not provide this service at present. In such a case the RTI must be filed physically at their office or through speed post. Irrespective of the method used for filing an RTI application, the prescribed fee for the same is INR 10/- (Rupees Ten Only).

As per Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, the Central Information Commission (CIC) or the State Information Commission (SIC), has the powers to impose a penalty on the PIO, while deciding on a complaint or a second appeal. The penalty can be imposed, if the PIO has refused to receive an application or not furnished the requested information within 30 days of receiving the application.

RTI I	
Public Authority	NCW (Under MWCD)
RTI Registration Number	NCFWO/R/E/22/00099
RTI First Appeal	NCFWO/A/E/22/00036

RTI 2	
Public Authority	Goa Police
Sub-division and District	DySp HQ Porvorim, North Goa
RTI Petition Number	381384867

RTI 3	
Public Authority	Goa Police
Sub-division and District	DySp HQ Margao, South Goa
RTI Petition Number	381384933

RTI 4	
Public Authority	MWCD
RTI Registration Number	MOWCD/R/E/22/00288

RTI 5	
Public Authority	MWCD
RTI Registration Number	MOWCD/R/E/22/00467

3.2.2 Interviews

In order to collect the qualitative data required for this study, telephonic interviews and face-to-face interactions were conducted with key stakeholders that are involved in the implementation of PWDVA in Goa. These included individuals or organizations that are designated as the first Point of Contact (POC) for victims of DV under PWDVA. It also included ministries or departments that are responsible for coordinating or funding various aspects of PWDVA in Goa. Separate questionnaires were formulated for interviewing Protection Officers, service providers registered under PWDVA and police personnel.

3.2.3 Observation

In order to collect the qualitative data required for this study, the researcher visited various facilities that are designated to assist victims or survivors of DV under PWDVA in Goa. This included visits to the One Stop Centers, Goa State Commission for Women and was supposed to include visits to shelter homes for domestic violence victims but no such facility has been available in Goa since the first COVID lockdown was imposed in March 2020.

3.3 Sources of Data Collection

3.3.1 National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - This is a large-scale, multi-round survey. The primary aim of NFHS has been to provide information on maternal and child health and reproductive health. Five rounds of NFHS have been conducted in 1992–1993, 1998–1999 and 2005–2006, 2015-2016 and 2018-19. The reports published by National Family Health survey (NFHS) highlight key findings based on the data collected by the survey. Although the initiative to measure domestic violence was taken since the NFHS-2 (in 1998-99), the approach adopted in the NFHS-3 is sufficiently different from the earlier survey; making these two rounds of survey data incomparable.

Round 3 saw the introduction of measures aimed at addressing some of the obstacles that may prevent women from mentioning cases of violence: notably, women were to be surveyed in the absence of their spouse or relatives. The steep increase in reported violence – more than 10 per cent between round 2 and 3 of the NFHS is certainly partially linked to these methodological changes. But the data is likely to remain under reported, given that surveyors were still developing sensitive surveying methods. (Parvati, 2015)

The methodology adopted in the NFHS-3 is more comprehensive. For measuring domestic violence, the NFHS-4 (in 2015-16) follows the same methodology as the NFHS-3 (in 2005-06), apart from a new dimension of domestic violence, that is, “violence during any pregnancy” has been added in the NFHS-4. (Golder S.,2018)

The NFHS 5 report is based on two versions of the woman’s questionnaire. The first version (district module), was fielded in the entire sample of NFHS-5 households and information on topics covered under this is available at the district, state, and national levels. In the second version of the questionnaire (state module), four additional topics, namely, sexual behaviour, HIV/AIDS, husband’s background and women’s work, and domestic violence, were also included. This version was fielded in a subsample of NFHS-5 households designed to provide information only at the state and national levels.

State reports of NFHS 2, 3, 4 and 5 for Goa were used to source data on the percentage of ever-married Women who have faced spousal violence. State reports of NFHS 4 and 5 for Goa were used for collecting data on percentage of women and men age 15-49 with specific attitudes toward wife beating, percentage of women who faced physical violence during pregnancy and percentage of women who faced sexual violence by age 18.

3.3.2 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) - It is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws. The data for the report is collected by State Crime Records Bureaux (SCRBx) from the District Crime Records Bureaux (DCRBx) and sent to NCRB at the end of every calendar year under the reference. The report contains comprehensive information on cases registered and their disposal and persons arrested and their disposal, under major heads of Indian Penal Codes and Special & Local Laws. The annual 'Crime in India' report is the oldest and the most prestigious publication brought out by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The data and key findings are presented in graphic / chart format, table format and map format. In 2014, CAW was introduced as a separate title of crime. It is now presented as part of a dedicated chapter on crime against certain vulnerable sections of the society including women. The latest edition of 'Crime in India' has a total of 25 chapters.

Table 3A.2(i) for IPC Crimes against Women and table 3A.2(ii) for SLL Crimes against Women were used for extracting information about the number of incidences/cases reported in Goa for various CAW every year since 2005.

3.3.3 National Commission for Women - NCW introduced 'Protection of Women against Domestic Violence' as a separate category from January 2019 onwards. It also provides a separate 24x7 helpline number for domestic abuse victims.

3.3.4 Goa State Commission for Women (GSCW) - Annual reports by the GSCW could shed light on the number of DV cases being received. The state of Goa had also launched a dedicated whatsapp number for women in distress during the COVID pandemic so data from this could also shed light on trends in the incidence or reporting of DV in Goa.

3.3.5 Sakhi One Stop Centers (OSC)

The objective of OSC is to act as an umbrella solution that integrates different types of support or assistance required for combating VAW. It provides immediate, emergency and non - emergency access to a range of services or support mechanisms including medical, legal, psychological and counselling. There are two OSCs in Goa and both are being operated by experienced and noted members of civil society. OSC North Goa is located at GMC in Bambolim and is managed by reputed NGO Stop Child Abuse Now. (SCAN-Goa). OSC South Goa is located in Janta Quarters in Margao and is being run by Mrs. Auda Viegas president of the popular NGO Bailancho Ekvott.

3.3.6 Universal Women Helpline (WHL)

The Women Helpline (181) provides 24 hour emergency response to all women affected by violence both in public and private sphere. All existing emergency services in the state are supposed to be integrated with this helpline. It facilitates crisis and non-crisis intervention such as rescue, information, first point contact counseling and referral to other agencies. 181 is a centralized service within the entire state and is supposed to be linked to police, hospitals, ambulance services, One Stop Centres, Swadhar Greh, Psychosocial Counseling, family counseling centers, district protection officer and legal aid. When a woman approaches the helpline with a request for rescue, shelter, medical assistance or counseling she is supposed to be referred to the relevant centre within her local area.

In Goa, 181 is managed and operated by GVK EMRI. It is located inside GMC Bambolim. As this WHL is listed among the four service providers registered under PWDVA in Goa, a dipstick survey was conducted to assess the awareness levels of counselors pertaining to remedies available for DV in Goa and to source information on the Protection Officers appointed for each taluka in the state.

3.3.7 Protection Officers

14 protection officers in Goa were contacted via email and phone calls for sourcing the list of service providers registered under PWDVA in their local area. Furthermore, they were requested to share the number of cases of DV that were received by them in the past year and the number of DIRs that they have filed during this period. Check availability of DIR form and form IV in konkani.

3.3.8 Public Information Officers (PIOs)

Four PIOs were contacted via phone calls to expedite the flow of information requested through RTIs. This included PIOs for NCW, DySP HQ South Goa, DySP HQ North Goa and MWCD.

3.3.9 Directorate of Panchayats

The list of active protection officers in Goa was sourced from the Directorate of Panchayats.

3.3.10 Directorate of Women & Child Development in Goa

The list of service providers registered under PWDVA in Goa was sourced from DWCD. Budgetary allocations and amounts spent on implementing the various provisions of PWDVA were also taken from the financial records of DWCD.

3.4 Data Analysis

1. Trend Mapping
2. Graphical representation of data
3. Comparative analysis (NCRB vs NFHS and PWDVA Goa vs other states)
4. Budget Analysis
5. On-ground infrastructure audit
6. Media Audit
7. Gender Audit

3.5 Limitations

1. Historical data on DV in Goa is difficult to find as it has not been sufficiently recognised, covered, monitored or integrated
2. Process of sourcing data may get delayed due to snags with RTI filing.
3. Format of secondary data sets is not standardized.
4. NGO's and other members of civil society who are actively working with victims of Domestic violence were not included among the stakeholders being interviewed for the implementation of PWDVA in Goa.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS

4.1 Singularities of Domestic Violence in India

In India, the extent of the crisis surrounding Domestic Violence (DV) or Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) can be gauged from the dangerous trifecta of statistics -

(i) Domestic abuse or cruelty by husband and/or relatives (Section 498A) was ***the highest reported Crime Against Women (CAW) across India*** in 2020. A majority or nearly one-third (30.9%) of the 4.05 lakh cases of crimes against women were registered under Section 498A of IPC (NCRB 2019). Despite these shocking statistics that reveal how unsafe women truly are within their own homes, we are yet to see even the tip of this iceberg.

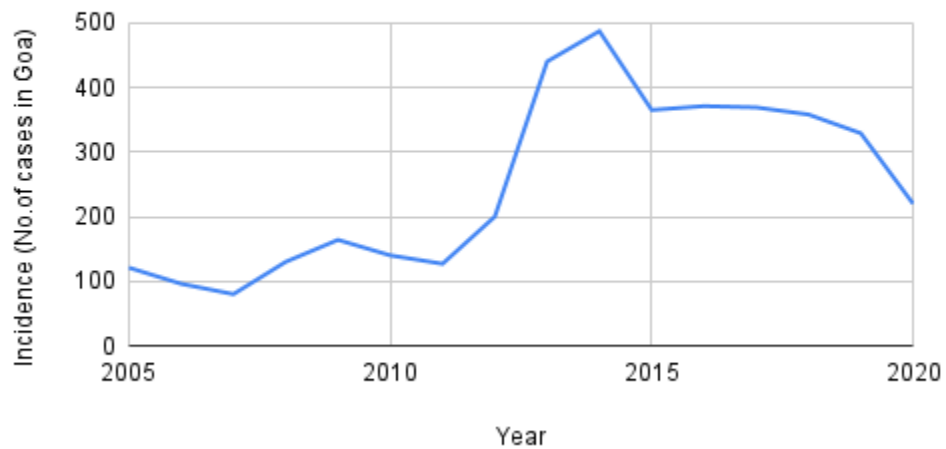
(ii) Domestic Violence is one of the ***most grossly under-reported crimes in India***. This is not just a widely accepted belief but a grim reality that becomes more evident when we compare relevant state-level percentages of NCRB data with NFHS data of married women aged 18-49 years who have experienced spousal violence. Given the sensitivity of the information and the difficulty of enabling women to speak freely during the NFHS survey, these numbers are likely to be underestimated despite precautions taken by surveyors.

(iii) As if the situation wasn't murky enough, DV cases filed under section 498A have consistently displayed one of ***the lowest conviction rates among all categories of offenses under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)***. These conviction rates have drastically reduced from 21.9% in 2006 to 13% in 2018, when it was only a quarter of the conviction rate of all IPC crimes. In all 13 years from 2006 to 2018, the conviction rate of cases under section 498A was ranked among the bottom four. In five of those years, it was at the lowest but one position and in four separate years it was ranked the lowest. (NCRB 2005 - 2020)

4.2 Understanding CAW in Goa

Crimes Against Women in Goa

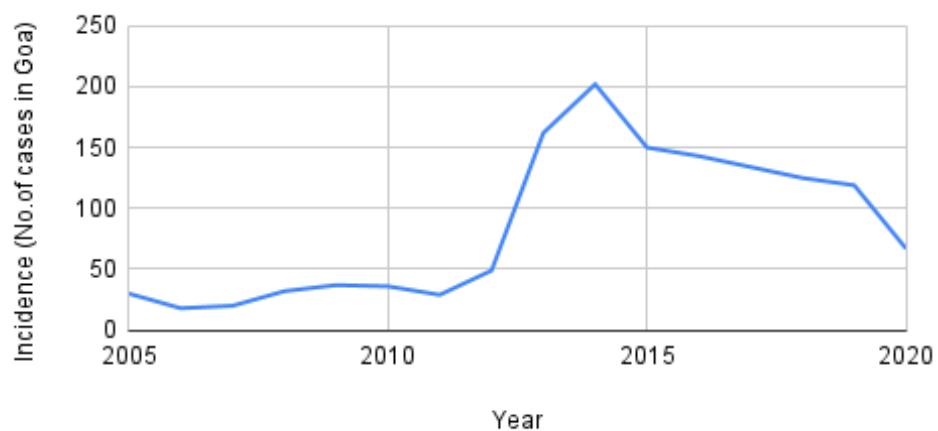
Total crimes reported



Graph 1 - CAW in Goa; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data

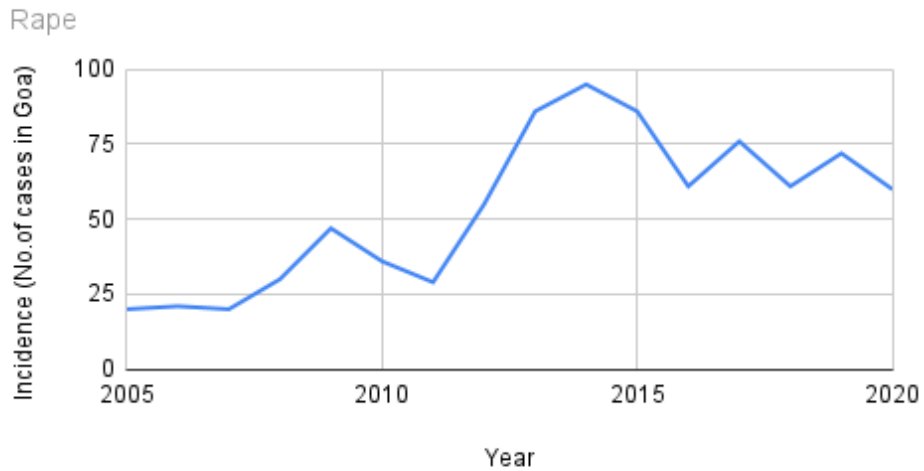
Sec 354 IPC

Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty



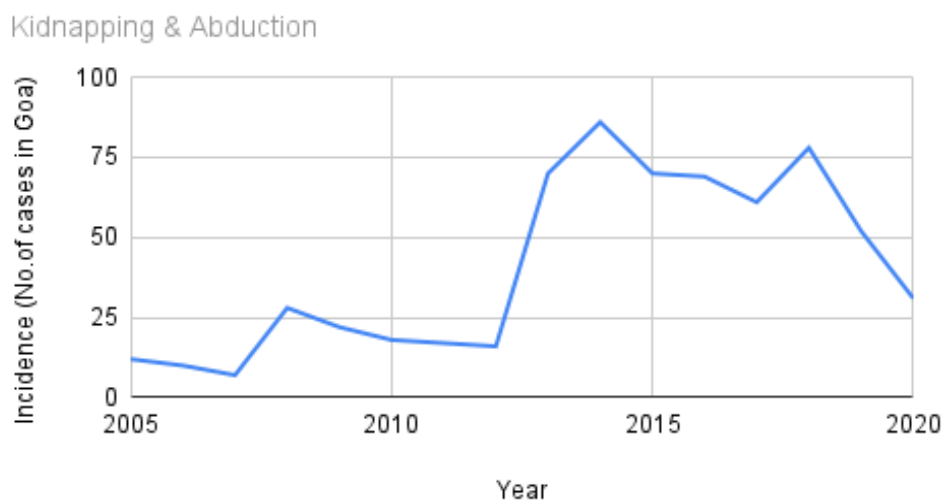
Graph 2 - Cases filed in Goa under Section 354 IPC; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

Section 376 IPC



Graph 3 - Cases filed in Goa under Section 376 IPC; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

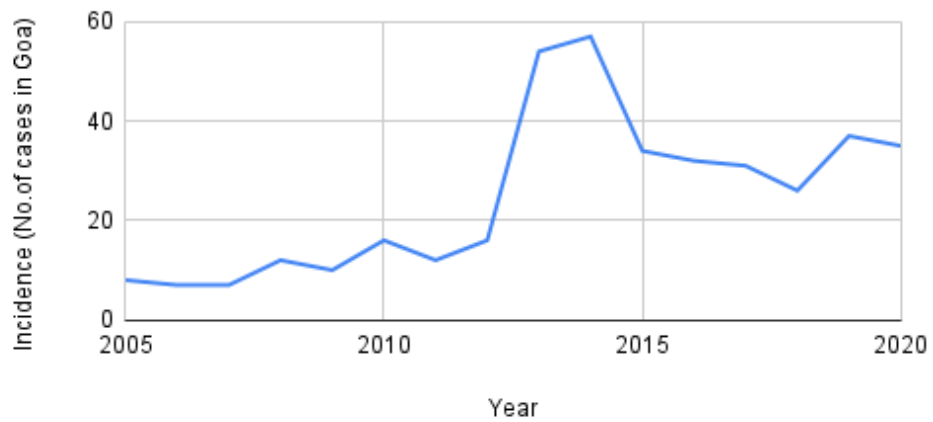
IPC Sec. 363-369, 371-373



Graph 4 - Cases of Kidnapping & Abduction of women in Goa; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

Sec 509 IPC

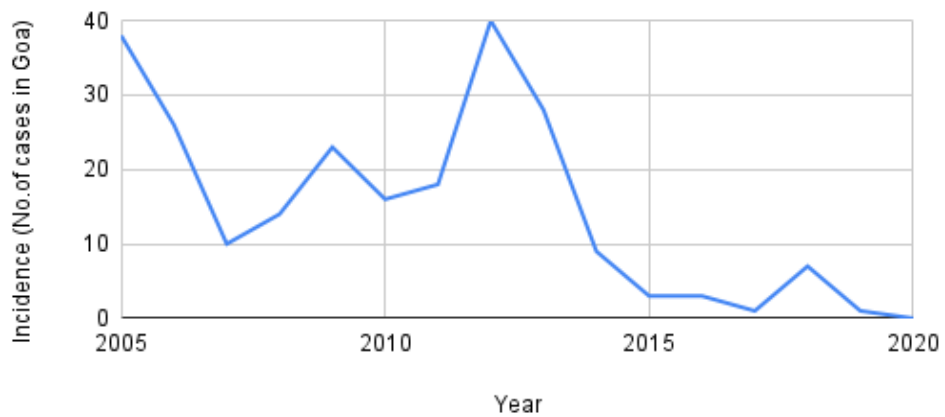
Insult to the modesty of Women



Graph 5 - Cases filed in Goa under Section 509 IPC; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

Immoral Traffic Prevention Act

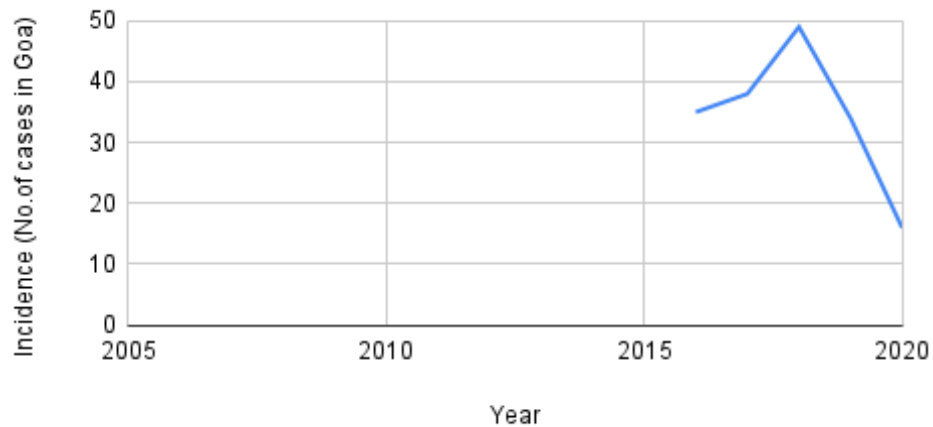
1956



Graph 6 - Cases filed under Immoral Traffic Prevention Act in Goa; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

SEC. 370 & 370A IPC

Human Trafficking



Graph 7 - Cases filed in Goa under Section 370 & 370A IPC; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

SEC. 498A IPC

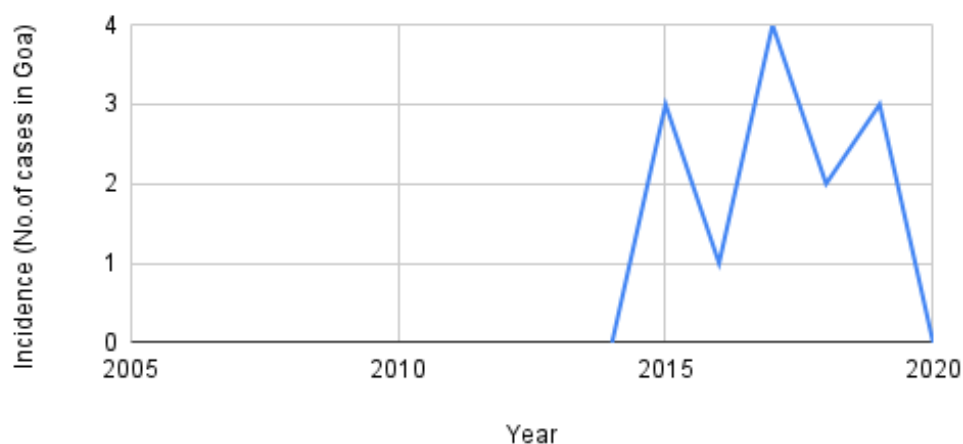
Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives



Graph 8 - Cases filed in Goa under Section 498A IPC; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

SEC. 305/306 IPC

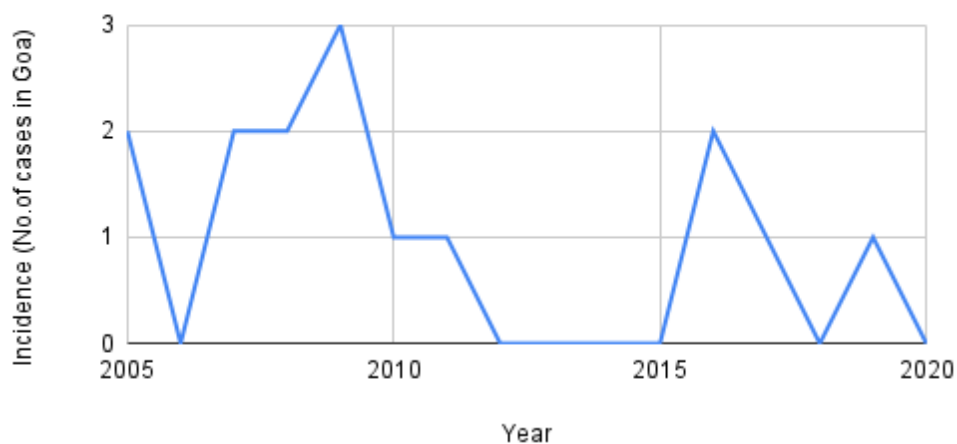
Abetment to Suicide of Women



Graph 9 - Cases filed in Goa under Section 305/306 IPC; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

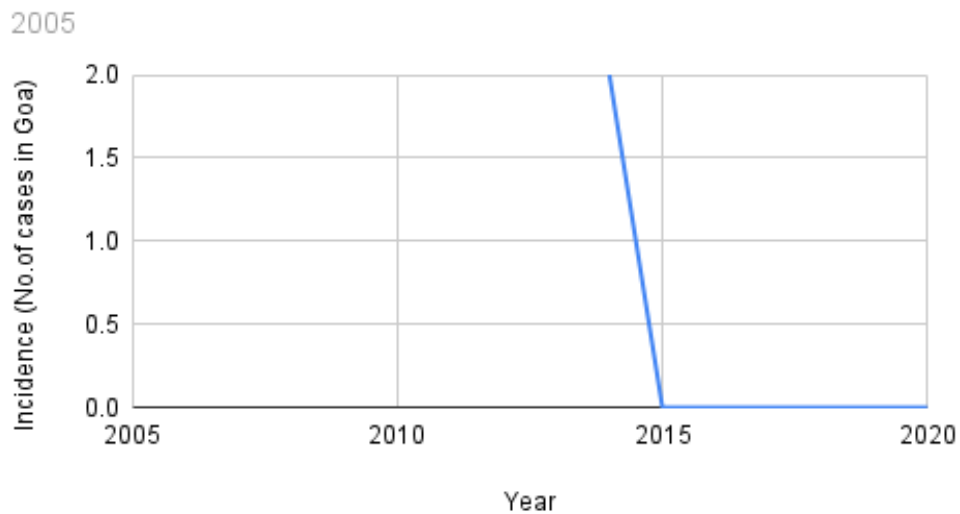
IPC Sec. 304B

Dowry Deaths



Graph 10 - Cases filed in Goa under Section 304B IPC; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act



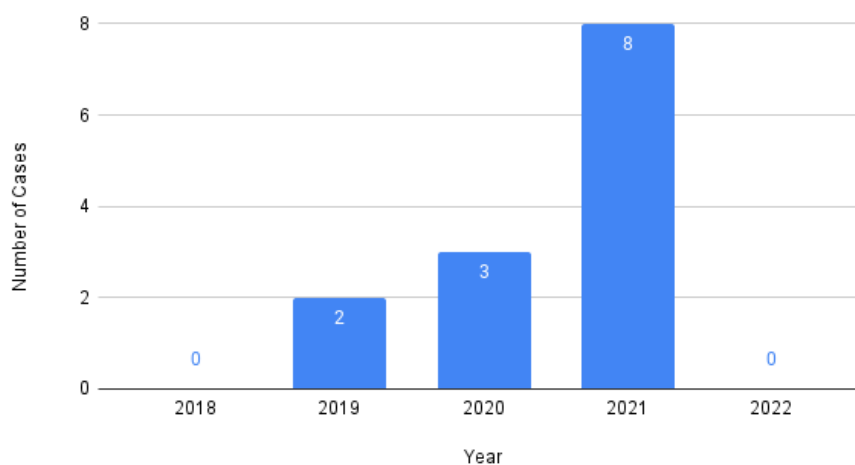
Graph 11 - Cases filed in Goa under PWDVA; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data (Annexure 1)

PWDVA (All India)



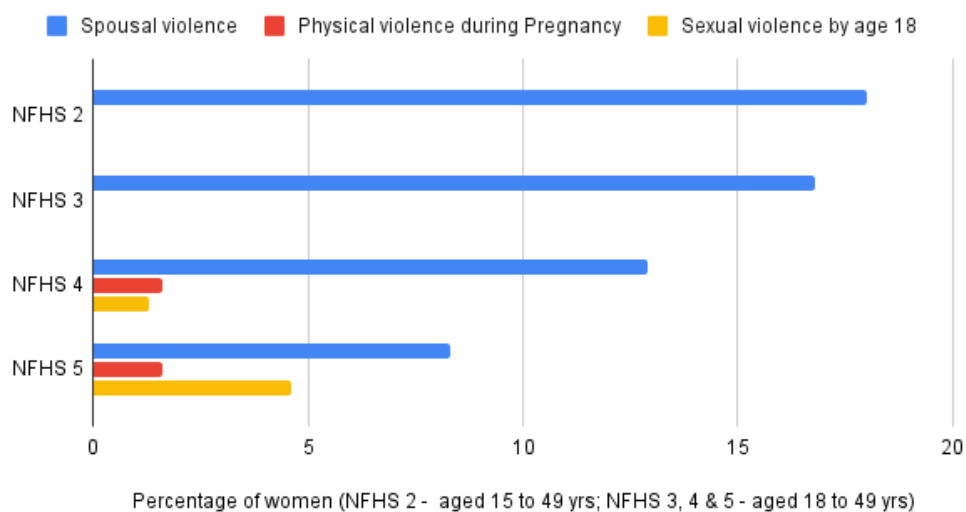
Graph 12 - Cases filed in India under PWDVA; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data

NCW - Protection of Women Against DV



Graph 13 - DV cases received by NCW in Goa; Source: Created by researcher

Domestic Violence in Goa



Graph 14 - Domestic Violence in Goa; Source: Created by researcher using NFHS

It should be noted that NFHS 2 data is not directly comparable as it was collected from ever-married women who have experienced beatings or physical mistreatment since age 15. All other data sets use a broader definition of DV.

4.3 Comparative Analysis

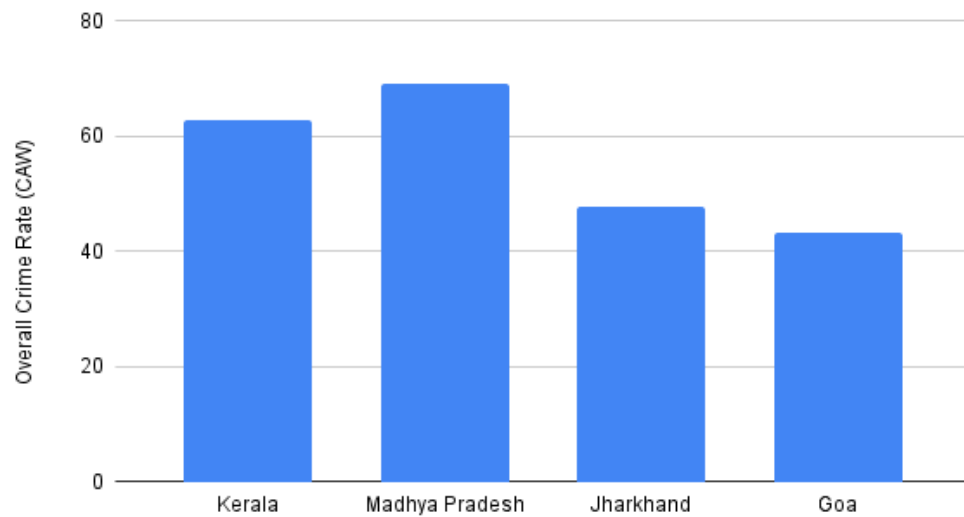
15% of ever-married women age 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual and/or emotional violence committed by their husband in Goa (NFHS 4). The total number of ever married women between the age of 15 and 49 in Goa is 239078 (Census 2011). If we extrapolate these results we find that at least 35,862 of the women would have spoken about their experiences of Domestic Violence in Goa. However NCRB data shows that only 287 cases were filed under IPC Section 498A and only 2 cases were filed under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act since 2005. This means that less than 1% of victims who are willing to share their experience of DV have received any civil remedy or taken any criminal action over the past 15 years in Goa.

Given the wider reach of NCRB than NFHS, the issue of underreporting merits urgent attention. Unlike NFHS, NCRB also covers the cases that are -

- (1) filed by the women outside the 18-49 age limit, and
- (2) those filed against the spouse's relative (not just spouse) who inflicts cruelty.

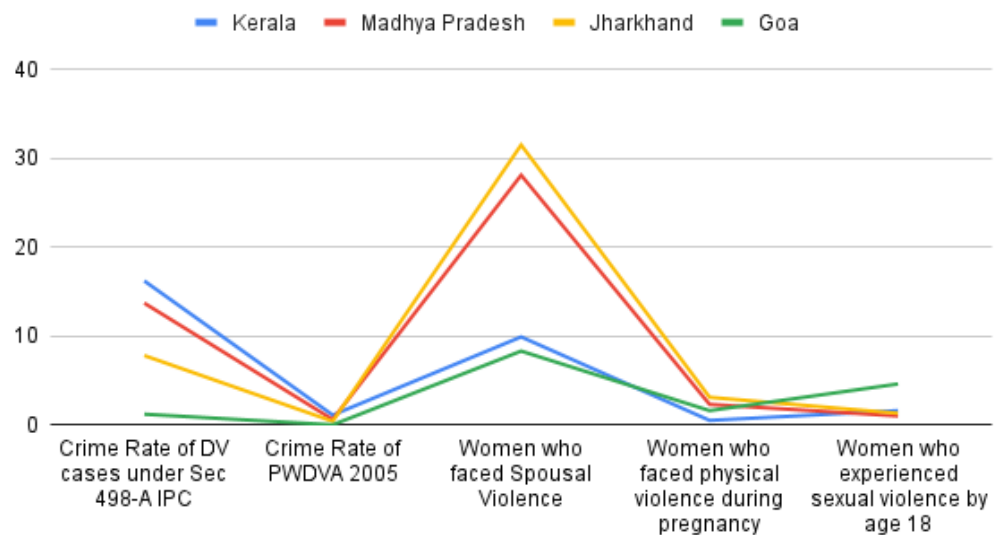
Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand account for 93.1% of Domestic violence cases filed under PWDVA (NCRB 2019). States like Goa which are recording 0% crime rate for PWDVA every year despite high on-ground incidence of DV can learn more about the implementation of PWDVA from these states.

Overall Crime Rate (CAW)



Graph 15 - Comparative Analysis of overall Crime Rate; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB data

Comparison of Percentages (NCRB 2019 & NFHS 5)



Graph 16 - Comparative Analysis; Source: Created by researcher using NCRB and NFHS data

4.4 Marketing Audit of Publicity material for PWDVA in Goa

A media audit of the publicity initiatives or advertising campaigns conducted by the state government for PWDVA in Goa could not be completed as no such material or marketing collateral could be found or traced. No separate budget seems to have been allocated or spent by MWCD for this purpose in the past 10 years. Staff of OSC centers, GSCW and DWCD do not appear to have any knowledge of print, radio or TV advertisements released about the provisions of PWDVA. Other members of civil society have also not seen any such advertisements. Street plays and other initiatives organized during events held around Women's day in March are said to touch upon DV but this researcher could not find or review the same.

4.5 Infrastructure Audit of Service Providers for PWDVA in Goa

As per details sourced by this researcher from the DWCD office in Panjim, there are only four service providers notified under PWDVA, by the state government in Goa. These include:

- 1) OSC North Goa
- 2) OSC South Goa
- 3) Universal helpline 181
- 4) Chairperson, Goa State Commission for Women

Section 11(c) in Chapter 3 of the act requires that effective coordination between the services provided by concerned Ministries and Departments dealing with law, home affairs including law and order, health and human resources to address issues of domestic violence is established and periodical review of the same is conducted (*PWDVA, 2005*). However, this is not being followed in Goa. Currently, some of the simplest and most basic requirements of DV victims in search of a civil remedy are not being met in Goa.

For example, to find the phone number of the protection officer, a woman is required to go from one agency to another and may come full circle without receiving proper assistance or guidance. A small dipstick survey conducted during the course of this dissertation showed that 0% of calls answered by the Universal helpline (181) receive any details for any POs in Goa as the most common response for this query was “we do not have this information’. In 50% of these calls the executives agreed to call back after checking for the data but all they were able to provide when they reverted was the phone number for DWCD. (Annexure 2) A visit to the DWCD for sourcing the list of protection officers also proved to be unfruitful as this author was told that “this information is with service providers”.

Other WHLs operating in Goa also do not have the list of PO’s. The simplest way to find the contact information of the PO in Goa is to approach the local panchayat but the fact that this charge is being led by BDOs is not common knowledge in Goa. In fact a call made to 1091, revealed that even the operator does not know who/what is a protection officer and helps by providing the phone number of the incharge of the local police station. It was observed that the 2 police personnel that this author contacted were also not aware that the POs are the BDO of the taluka and so they focussed their conversation and attention on figuring out the location to ascertain if the victim’s residence falls under their jurisdiction. In both cases, the police officers promptly updated or brushed-up on their knowledge of PWDVA and called back within the hour to share details of the relevant PO.

The GSCW also has no list of protection officers and was unable to provide it over the phone (during the COVID pandemic) and later when this author visited the office. They also do not have the DIR form for filing a case under PWDVA. GSCW has not been able to function optimally over the past few years. The

government had appointed a chairperson in March 2019 who resigned after 7 months due to unnecessary issues and hurdles from unchecked bigotry and xenophobia. The post was then lying vacant for nine months before the next chairperson was appointed in September 2020. However, the post of chairperson has again been lying vacant since the past three months. GSCW does not have any reports available on Domestic violence in Goa and no annual reports are being published. The two members of staff that were present in the office of GSCW also have no access or knowledge of any old reports. Furthermore, the form for filing the DIR is also not available here.

It should be noted that the accessibility of all four service providers needs to be improved. 57.1% of calls made to 181 either got disconnected before being answered or the call dropped within the first one minute of conversation. Audio disturbances were observed in 41.6% of calls made over 3 months i.e from Feb to April 2022. The counselors that answer the phone at 181 are not aware about PWDVA and the only solution they offer to victims of DV is to get the police involved. They are unable to provide any information regarding the existence or availability of a civil remedy for DV. Furthermore, they didn't even refer the victim to OSC or POs or any other agency that could provide assistance under PWDVA. When asked they provide mobile phone numbers of the top leadership for contacting both OSC centers. However, the WHL does not have any alternate numbers, not even if the primary numbers are switched off or out of reach due to network issues. It appears that there is no provision of a landline at either of the OSC centers.

Furthermore, the address of GSCW is listed incorrectly on google maps and this can cause a lot of inconvenience to victims, especially those traveling by public transport. The actual address is at a 21-minute walking distance to the current listing.

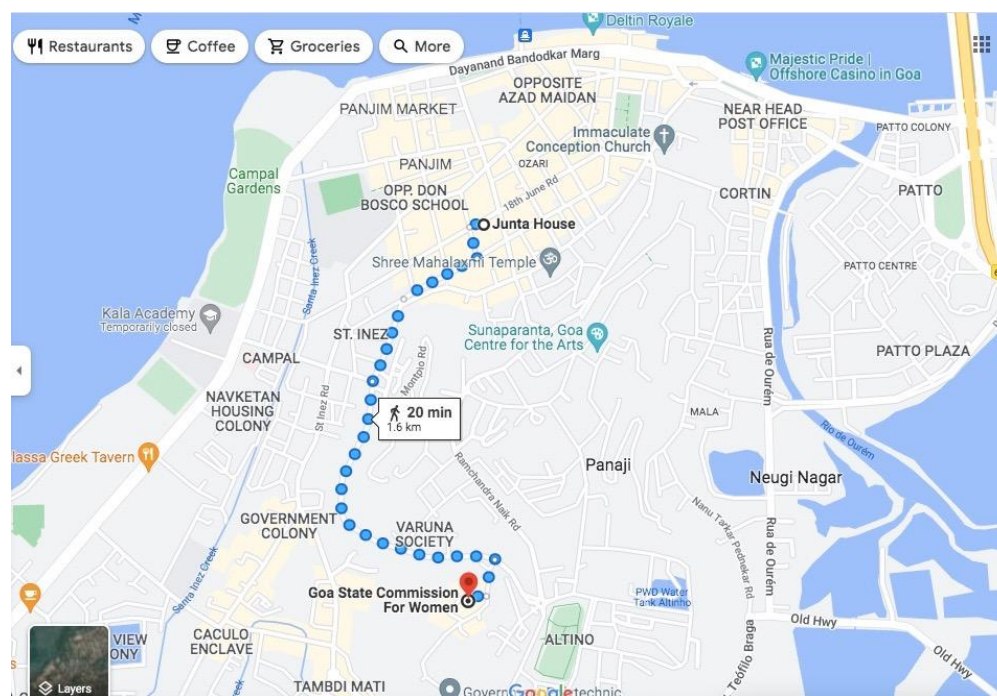


Fig. 4 - Error in Mapping address of GSCW; Source: Google Maps

4.6 Status and efficiency of Protection Officers in Goa

On 12th July 2018, Union Minister of MWCD, Ms. Maneka Gandhi penned down a letter to all Chief Ministers directing them to ensure that the provisions of the 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005' are being implemented effectively. This letter urged all states to appoint a sufficient number of Protection Officers (POs) with independent charge of the Act and make their details available in the public domain. She called out states for giving the responsibility of PO as an additional charge to officers of other departments as this dilutes the effectiveness of this act. She also requested that a separate budget be allocated for the smooth functioning of the POs.

In its most recent annual report for 2020-21, the Ministry is still reminding all State Governments/UTs to appoint sufficient number of POs having independent charge, allocate separate budget for smooth functioning of POs, provide support

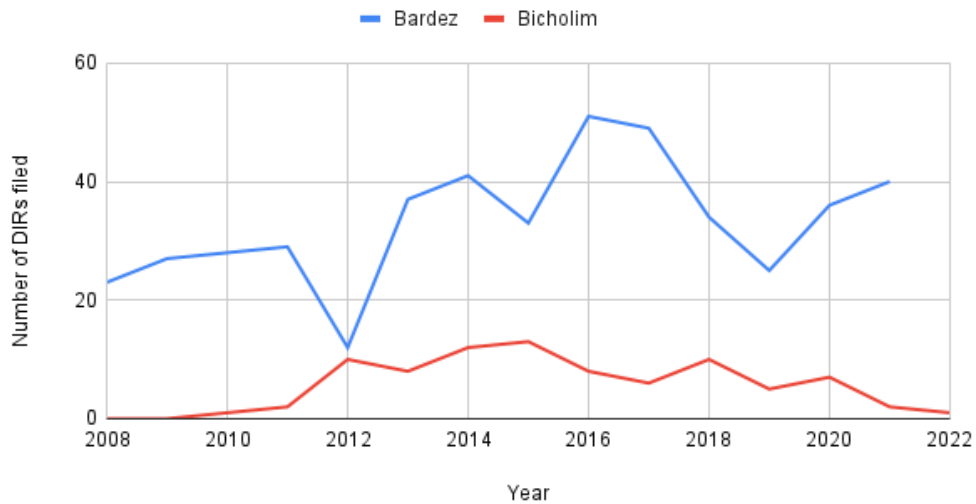
to survivors, create mass awareness, train and undertake capacity building of Police, Judiciary, Medical Officer and service providers.

In addition, the State Governments have also been requested to provide Form IV under PWDVA Rules in local languages that provide information on the rights of aggrieved persons in a simplified manner. Neither the DIR form nor any other part of the act are available in Konkani at any of the service providers or POs. Despite repeated requests from the union ministry and demands from local women's rights groups, NGOs and civil society members; the state government has still not appointed any full-time Protection Officers in Goa.

Data requested from Goa police and BDOs in Goa could have helped to establish the actual number of DV cases filed under PWDVA and the volume of actions or remedies initiated by POs across Goa. There is mass dereliction of duty as -

- 1) Not a single protection officer has provided the list of service providers which they are required to maintain for their local area as mandated by PWDVA. This is despite repeated phone calls to at least 5 of them and email requests to all of them.
- 2) Only 21.4% of protection officers have responded to the RTI.
- 3) Only 14.3% of protection officers were able to provide historical data on the number of DIRs filed every year since 2008.
- 4) As per data received so far, not a single victim of DV has received shelter under PWDVA since 2005.
- 5) As per data received so far, not a single victim of DV has received medical aid under PWDVA since 2005.

Domestic Incidence Reports



Graph 17 - DIRs filed in Goa; Source: Created by researcher using data sourced through PILs

4.7 Gender Audit of Protection Officers in Goa

While there are many reasons that play into why a woman might continue to live with DV, one of the underlying factors for hesitancy in approaching government authorities is an entrenched view that such organizations are all-male bastions. The share of women in the civil police force in Goa was only 10.57% in 2020 (Radhakrishnan 2021). PWDVA is supposed to address this concern as women can communicate more openly with designated female protection officers and privacy of their case details can be maintained by conducting the proceedings in camera.

Section 8(2) of the act states that the Protection Officers shall as far as possible be women and shall possess such qualifications and experience as may be prescribed. (*PWDVA, 2005*) It is not clear what was prescribed because the Goa government seems to have steadfastly assigned this role only to men.

This study found that -

- 1) In 2015, 100% of Protection Officers in Goa were male.
- 2) In 2022, 100% of Protection Officers in Goa were male.

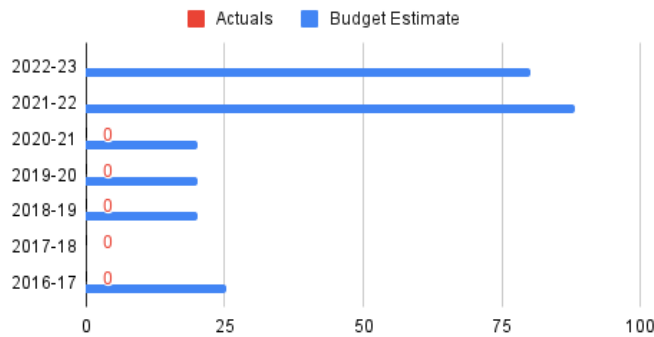
4.8 Budget for implementation of PWDVA in Goa

The CEDAW Committee in its concluding comments while appreciating the passage of PWDVA 2005 expressed concern over the lack of financial provision by the central government. On paper, Goa has a robust response system against Domestic Violence. However, no record of funds allocated or utilized for the implementation of PWDVA in Goa could be found in the annual budget reports of DWCD or Directorate of Panchayats in the past 10 years.

4.9 Budgets for service providers and inter-departmental coordination

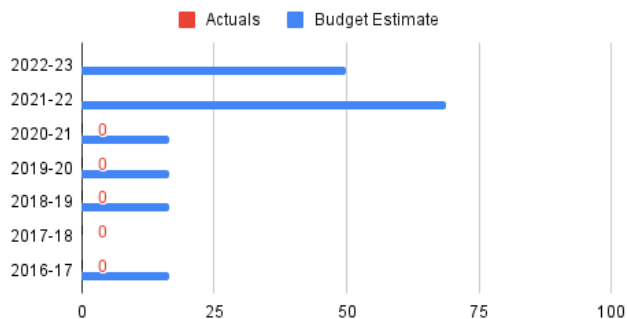
The current citizen's Charter published by DWCD Government of Goa states "Government is pleased to nominate Centre for Women's Studies, Goa University to establish the SRCW under National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW). State Resource Centre for Women will regularly review and evaluate existing policies, programs and legislations impacting women and bring suitable recommendations before the Goa State Mission Authority (GSMA) and National Resource Centre for Women (NRCW) for suitable measures. The Scheme NMEW will be implemented in the States /UTs with 100% Central funding as a central sector scheme." SRCW Goa had to stop operations due to financial constraints. Centre for Women's Studies, Goa University is not currently working on any initiatives of SRCW and the office has been closed down. Furthermore, funds for OSC and Universal helpline are also not being released in a periodic manner. For NGOs involved in managing or operating these centers, it is a challenging task to deliver optimal efficiency and effectiveness without regular access to funds.

Goa Budget - SRCW



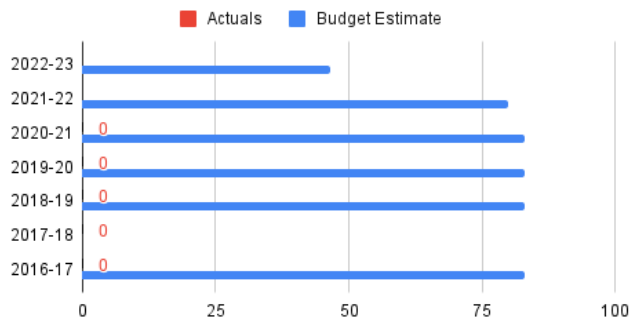
Graph 18 - Estimate of Receipts for SRCW (In Lakhs); Source: Created by researcher using data from the Department of Finance, Government of Goa.

Goa Budget - OSC



Graph 19 - Estimate of Receipts for OSC (In Lakhs); Source: Created by researcher using data from the Department of Finance, Government of Goa.

Goa Budget - Universal Helpline



Graph 20 - Funds allocated and utilized for WHL 181; Source: Created by researcher using data from the Department of Finance, Government of Goa.

4.10 My Experiences & Observations

In Goa, many victims are open to sharing their experiences of DV with each other and this researcher has participated in many such organic discussions during field-work and social discourse. One instance in Zari, Zuarinagar stands out as 8-10 women were discussing experiences with physical spousal violence as a matter of regular conversation even in the presence of 2 unknown females (a social worker and this researcher) but as soon as a man (also a stranger for them) entered the room they swiftly changed the topic. Creative interventions modeled on consciousness raising groups from the second wave of feminism could prove to be a very useful strategy for generating awareness on DV to combat this social evil.

Another incident that also occurred in Zari was one of the most jolting experiences for this researcher. Neighbors and passers-by chose not to intervene when a husband was mercilessly beating on his wife. The main door to their room/home was wide open but everyone ignored the sight and sounds emanating from their 'private space'. Reasons for looking away ranged from an elitist "I am here as a representative of other organizations and do not have permission to engage" to a more pragmatic "You can't just walk into another person's house" to one neighbor's dismissive comment "inka toh roz ka hai" (it's an everyday affair for them).

This stark display of physical spousal violence was very new for this researcher so it gave rise to many queries that were posed primarily to female acquaintances residing in Sancoale, especially the Zari belt and those working on beaches of Utorda and Bogmalo. The researcher informed/reminded all women she came in contact with that she was now pursuing an MA in Women's Studies at Goa University. Leading question was "I want to help women and I am currently researching Domestic Violence. Have you or anyone you know had any

experience with it? In hindi language, “Domestic Violence matlab jab ghar mein aurat log pe hinsa hoti hai.. Jaise maar-pitaai ho, ya pati ya koi jabardasti karte hon..Aapke mein hota hai aisa?” Although this researcher expected them to share stories of other women, many ladies talked about their own experiences.

DV has been normalized to such an extent that it is not even seen as a problem or an issue to be discussed or addressed. Some of the common themes that stand out across responses received during these conversational interviews range from a defeated ‘kya kar sakte hain didi’ (What can we do?) to “at least he is not causing any serious injury” to the resigned “Jab galti hoga toh maar to padega na” (When there is a mistake there has to be pain) to ‘woh unke ghar ka maamla hai’ (it’s their internal domestic matter). It is almost as if interfering in another man’s home or family is considered more sacrilegious than protecting a human being from violence and abuse. In theory, PWDVA enables any person to give information about incidents of DV to the protection officer. Such good samaritans are protected and will not incur any liability, civil or criminal. It could be useful to explore how many queries filed under PWDVA are flagged by third parties and to correlate this with awareness levels of the act or its provisions..

In another case from Sancoale, the victim wanted to stay away from her conjugal home after a particularly violent episode. She just needed a few days to recover and prove to her husband (and to herself) that she was not trapped and had access to a support system with many avenues for relief. She did not want to take any official action or make any formal complaints against her husband due to the cultural or social connotations that would have put her on the backfoot in her family and community. In her community, women are conditioned and indoctrinated to never wash their dirty laundry in public. Speaking to strangers about the most intimate details of marriage is considered sacrilegious and can even lead to ostracisation. When official channels are off-bounds, one can feel

extremely helpless because there is no robust network of safe houses or shelters that are readily available for providing interim relief or short term escape to victims or survivors of DV in Goa. In theory, PWDVA has made way for victim's to get access to shelter homes with minimal paperwork but the process appears cumbersome for lay people.

Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have worsened the situation. Cases of Domestic Violence (DV) or Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) have witnessed a sharp rise since the first lockdowns were imposed to combat the spread of coronavirus. As a result some members of civil society have termed this peaking of cases as 'The Silent Pandemic' or the 'Shadow Pandemic' of India. Domestic Violence is a complex phenomenon that has many variables and the current crisis level that has been breached has not yet been recognised separately by the key Indian authorities. The situation begs for emergency interventions that are suitable and swift.

It can be perplexing when most of the victims who seek one-on-one interventions refuse to raise any formal grievance, application or complaint for getting assistance from the institutional machinery. There is an inherent trust deficit in approaching the system as it is inherently patriarchal; being made up largely OF men, BY men and FOR men.

A Case Study - A victim of DV who did not receive sufficient information about available state interventions for PWDVA, despite visiting a police station, has faced irrevocable damage and disruptive consequences due to this.

A goan victim-survivor in her mid 20s was in a live-in relationship with a man in his 40s and had suffered many years of IPV. When she finally mustered the strength to visit the police station, she was not given a comprehensive outlay of

the options or services available to her. There was hardly any information available about shelters or free legal aid or free medical aid or other reliefs and remedies that the magistrate can provide under PWDVA. She was informed that she can take action by filing a criminal case against him. She returned from the police station without much to show for her courageous visit.

At the police station she was asked to enter her details into the register (OB book) and two policemen visited her house to ‘talk some sense into her husband’. This counseling session was not very effective. After their visit, her partner seemed to keep a tighter surveillance on her phone conversations with friends. She soon lost touch with her friends and support group. She got back to her life of tip-toeing around his unpredictable temper flare-ups.

Many months passed and then she took the only action she could. She ran. Away from her own home (the house in Goa was rented in her name, before he came to live with her) and her own state. The contacts that she had made during her earlier visit to the police station helped her out, as a police person living within the colony came to help on the day she was to leave.

Her partner has an obsessive streak so she broke all contacts with her friends in Goa. For the next two years, she was looking over her shoulder and lived disconnected from her well-wishers for long periods of time. Earlier this year, she visited Goa and agreed to meet him but then he beat her up so badly that she had to go to a hospital. She has visited many hospitals in Goa with injuries of Domestic violence but she never reveals the real cause of her injuries to any doctor. Her primary reason behind this is fear of retaliation from him. She doesn’t want to cause any scene or send him to jail because she feels that he will be out very soon as he has contacts and then it will only be worse for her. She does not want to do anything to anger or agitate him.

On her birthday this year, the ex-partner arrived unannounced and uninvited at her sister's home in another state. He gave her presents and then started to get angry because her reaction to the gifts did not meet his approval or expectations. He returned to her sister's home after a few hours but thankfully she and her family were not there. Neighbors informed her that he was pacing outside her door. Despite having faced DV in Goa for so many years the respondent had no idea about the existence or benefits of the Sakhi OSCs until this recent incident. Unfortunately, the nearest OSC was an hour away and could not provide any assistance or shelter and she was forced to spend the night in a hotel.

This case adds insult to injury. In the face of violence and fear, a citizen turns to the police for protection and justice. For many DV victims it is their last pillar of hope. Women must be provided full disclosure of all relief services, civil remedies and criminal actions that they can take to address Domestic Violence. They should be made aware of and offered access to the safety net (shelter, medical, legal aid, counseling and more) that is supposed to be provided to them by the state. Also the police personnel must be sensitized so that they can empower and enable more victims to take the necessary actions.

CONCLUSION

This document initiated an inquiry into the differences adopted in the implementation of PWDVA in Goa and their impact on the infrastructure, services and on-ground mechanisms that are in place to safeguard women from Domestic Violence in Goa. Instead of receiving resolutions under both criminal and civil proceedings, some women in Goa have not been receiving even the most basic levels of protective assistance.

The sentencing powers under PWDVA are limited to punishing improper conduct of personnels that are responsible for delivery of services and infrastructure or for penalizing failures to comply with orders of relief. The main crux of this act was to create a safety framework that can assist or empower women to emerge from the clutches of DV or IPV. Could this lenient and conciliatory approach to violence have sabotaged the more aggressive methods that are adopted by law enforcement agencies when dealing with cases of violence? If the availability of a civil remedy has led to a change in attitudes pertaining to the seriousness with which the police personnel view this form of violence, then we have much to worry about.

While each case is different and there are many personal factors involved at the individual level, one of the reasons why people stay in abusive relationships can be understood through the so-called Cycle of Violence, which makes it very difficult for the victim to break free from the clutches of IPV. The state's intervention measures must help the victim to break out.

Appointing full time female protection officers will help victims on their path to becoming survivors. Training and sensitisation of all POs must be undertaken in a periodic manner. Publicity and awareness campaigns with advertisements, Public Relations, regular workshops, local sessions, events and more are essential to

boost adoption. There is an urgent requirement for DV shelters in Goa. The budgetary allocations as well as leadership roles across key agencies involved in ensuring the safety of women must be regularized as soon as possible. Interdepartmental coordination must be strengthened.

The urgency and desperation of a battered woman who endeavors to climb out of her darkness cannot be expressed in words. For many, it can be the turning point between being a victim and an empowered survivor. PWDVA was supposed to strengthen existing mechanisms and introduce new forms of relief along with a robust network of service providers for women facing DV.

Is it possible that the differences adopted in delivering and executing PWDVA's features in Goa, are affecting the efficiency of the criminal and civil response system much more than our efforts at number-crunching can ever hope to establish, capture or reveal?

The awareness, availability, accessibility and accountability for PWDVA in Goa is very low and needs to be improved. This law only exists on paper and urgent action must be taken to fix the situation.

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PLAGIARISM REPORT



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APPENDIX

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Annexure 5

RTI I	
Public Authority	NCW
Questions	<p>Q1) How many complaints are registered every month under 'Protection of Women against Domestic Violence' in Goa? Please provide historical data starting from the month when this specific category was introduced in 2019.</p> <p>Q2) How many queries on Domestic Violence are raised via whatsapp in Goa every month?</p> <p>Q3) How many complaints of Domestic Violence have been received by NCW in Goa, every year since 2005.</p>
Status	<p>Request Disposed of -</p> <p>Information for Q1 & Q3 was provided in a link (http://ncwapps.nic.in/frmComp_Stat_Overview.aspx)</p> <p>For Q2 the response stated "As per record, NCW does not maintained such type of data".</p>

RTI 2	
Public Authority	Goa Police (North Goa)
Questions	<p>1) Annual number of First Information Reports (FIRs) filed for Domestic Violence in each Taluka of North Goa, every year since 2005.</p> <p>2) Annual number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) received in each Taluka of North Goa, every year since 2005.</p> <p>3) Annual number of Domestic Violence complaints</p>

	<p>entered into the daily diary in each Taluka of North Goa, every year since 2005.</p> <p>4) Annual number of updates received from Protection Officers about victims lodged in shelter homes of North Goa, as per clause 9(1f) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDVA), every year since 2005.</p> <p>5) Annual number of Domestic Violence victims whose medical reports were updated by Protection Officers or service providers in North Goa as per Section 9 (1g), of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDVA), every year since 2005.</p>
Status	<p>RTI was filed on 8th March 2022.</p> <p>The BDO for Sattari, Bardez and Bicholim Taluka have responded. No other information has been received.</p>

RTI 3	
Public Authority	Goa Police (South Goa)
Questions	<p>1) Annual number of First Information Reports (FIRs) filed for Domestic Violence in each Taluka of South Goa, every year since 2005.</p> <p>2) Annual number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) received in each Taluka, every year since 2005.</p> <p>3) Annual number of Domestic Violence complaints entered into the daily diary at police stations in each Taluka of South Goa, every year since 2005.</p> <p>4) Annual number of updates received from Protection Officers about victims lodged in shelter homes of South</p>

	Goa, as per clause 9(1f) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDVA), every year since 2005. 5) Annual number of Domestic Violence victims whose medical reports were updated by Protection Officers or service providers in South Goa as per Section 9 (1g), of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDVA), every year since 2005.
Status	RTI was filed on 8th March 2022.

RTI 4	
Public Authority	MWCD
Questions	<p>Please provide the following details about Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005</p> <p>1) Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) filed by Protection officers in Goa, for every year since 2005.</p> <p>2) Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) filed by Service Providers of PWDVA in Goa, for every year since 2005.</p> <p>3) Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) filed by the police in Goa, for every year since 2005.</p> <p>4) Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) received by the Magistrates or courts in Goa, for every year since 2005.</p> <p>5) Status of Judiciary process under under PWDVA - Number of Cases registered (CR), Cases charge-sheeted (CS), Cases convicted (CV), Cases in which trial completed (TC), Persons arrested (PAR), Persons</p>

	charge-sheeted (PCS) and Persons convicted (PCV) under PWDVA every year since 2005.
Status	RTI was filed on 8th March 2022.

RTI 5	
Public Authority	MWCD
Ministry	MWCD
RTI Registration Number	MOWCD/R/E/22/00467
Questions	<p>Please provide the following information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Number of Domestic Violence related queries and complaints received on the 181 helpline number in Goa, every year since 2014. 2) Number of Domestic Violence related queries and complaints received by the Sakhi One Stop Centres (OSC) in Goa; every year since 2005. 3) The current list of service providers approved for providing remedies or assistance under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDVA), 2005 in Goa. 4) Annual Budget allocated for implementation of PWDVA in Goa and the annual expenditure incurred every year since 2005. 5) Annual budget allocated for publicity of the provisions of PWDVA and the annual expenditure incurred by state govt. and central govt. to promote PWDVA in Goa, for every year since 2005.

Status	RTI was filed on 8th March 2022.
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Questionnaire for interview (OSC)

- 1) How many cases of Domestic Violence do you get every year?
- 2) How many of the victims/survivors file under 498-A or PWDVA?
- 3) Have you received any funds for promoting the provisions of PWDVA in Goa?
- 4) Are you aware of any advertisements that publicize the provisions of PWDVA in print or electronic media in Goa?
- 5) Can you please provide me with a list of Protection officers in Goa?
- 6) Can you give me a copy of the form for the Domestic Incident Report (DIR)?

Questionnaire for Dipstick Survey (WHL 181)

- 1) Can you please provide me with the details of a protection officer for help with Domestic Violence in (add name of one of the talukas)?
- 2) Can you please give me a list of all shelters available in this taluka for protection of women from Domestic Violence?

Optional Questions

- 1) How else can I find the number for the local PO in this area?
- 2) For Domestic violence, what kind of help does the Goa government provide?
- 3) Are there any services or state schemes available for victims of DV in Goa?
- 4) Can you give me the contact details for shelters in this region (name of taluka)?
- 5) What are the remedies available under PWDVA?

Questionnaire for Protection officers

- 1) Can you please provide the list of service providers registered under PWDVA in their local area?
- 2) Can you please share a list of shelter homes available for DV victims in your taluka?
- 3) Can you share the number of cases of DV that were received in the past

year and the number of DIRs that they have filed during this period in your taluka?

- 4) Can you please give me a copy of the DIR form?
- 5) Can you please provide any forms or details of PWDVA available in konkani?