

Alcoholism and Domestic Violence

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Violence against women within the family is a global phenomenon. However its ramifications are more complex and its intensity are much greater in India. The most pathetic aspect of such atrocities is domestic violence. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993 defines violence against women as “any act of gender- based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm, or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty; whether occurring in public or private life”. Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men”. The status of women in India is not equal to the status of men in terms of access, participation, and reward. This situation owes its existence to the patriarchal and feudalistic structure of the society.

It has been suggested that the role of alcohol in violence differs with regard to factors such as who has been drinking, the drinking context, the relationship between perpetrator and victim and the situational differences make it difficult to conceive of models that satisfactorily explain the role of alcohol in a wide range of violent incidents (Martin,1979). Research has found that alcohol is present in a substantial number of domestic violence accidents.