

Introduction- Domestic and sexual violence has long been a burden in our society. The rise in number of cases has made matter worse and hence it is necessary to understand the problems faced by these women if we have to reduce the burden.

Aims and objectives-

1. To report the incidence of domestic and sexual violence.
2. To offer the victims counselling and legal help if needed.
3. To resolve issues faced by them through joint meetings.

Materials and methods- Data analysis of domestic & sexual violence cases against women was done in secondary care municipal hospitals in Mumbai, the cases were further divided based on age, pregnant non pregnant state & type of abuse. The data was analysed on the basis of total number of patients screened and how many of them registered .Registered patients were followed up with joint meetings and helped them in seeking legal advice.

Results- A total of 1295 patients above 18 years of age were reported of which only 178 registered which is only 13.75%, 166 cases were of domestic violence while 12 were of sexual violence. 48 cases of domestic violence in pregnant women, which is 29%, 40 cases of poisoning which is 24%, 13 patients had a joint meeting and 25 were referred for legal advice. A total of 81 patients followed up which is about 50%. Of the 12 cases of sexual violence, 3 were pregnant and 6 cases of poisoning. 4 cases had a joint meeting and 6 referred for legal advice. A total number of 28 cases below 18 were reported of which 16 registered which is 57.14%. 9 cases were of sexual violence and 7 of domestic violence. 5 out of 9 cases were pregnant and 3 cases were offered legal help. 7 cases of domestic violence below 18 of which 6 were of poisoning, 3 cases were given legal help and 4 were given shelter.

Conclusion- The above data shows that although a large number of cases are reported only few women register and about 50% of registered cases are lost to follow up. There are multiple social and demographic problems that these women face. In most cases, the assailant is a relative/known person. As a gynaecologists we play an important role in ensuring that these patients are sent to the appropriate centres for counselling, joint meetings and legal help if needed.

We must encourage women to RECOGNIZE and REPORT domestic violence to PREVENT it.

