

# The Existing Laws Regarding Punishment for Household Violence against Females in Bangladesh: A Study on the Perception of Educated Class

Md. Abul Hasam<sup>1\*</sup> Md. Mushahid<sup>2</sup> Dilruba Afrose<sup>3</sup>

1. Department of Humanities, Primeasia University, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh

2. MPhil. Research Fellow, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet-3114, Bangladesh

3. Department of Sociology, Directorate of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, Dhaka, Bangladesh

\*E-mail of corresponding author: hasam.sustsoc53@gmail.com

## Abstract

Household violence against females is becoming a social problem in Bangladesh. It creates disorganization in the family as a unit of society. To stop it, several laws are created by the government, but the existing laws could not stop it. The paper aims at studying the perception of educated class about household violence against females and the laws regarding punishment in Bangladesh. To know the objectives, the study followed analytical research design, social survey method & stratified random sampling. For some variables, the Likert scaling (1-to-5 rating scale) has been applied in the study. By using SPSS, the collected data has been analyzed i.e. frequency and percentage has been done. For hypotheses testing, a  $\chi^2$ -test has been used to test the degree to which two or more groups vary or differ in an experiment. The study findings suggest that out of 101 respondents, only 34.65% know details about the existing laws regarding household violence against females, simultaneously 39.6% don't know and 25.74% are undecided. Out of total, 30.69% respondents have supported the existing punishment provided by the existing laws, 63.36% don't support it and 5.94% undecided. Again they think that the offender should be given exemplary punishment (18.75%), more hard punishment (32.81%), hurt by giving equal attack (2.97%) and bring change in mentality (43.75%). Out of total, 48.51% respondents opined that it will be possible to stop violence against females by creating consciousness about laws, simultaneously 47.52% by proper implementation and 11.88% by reformation of the existing laws. The result of hypotheses testing indicates that the no. of household violence against females will also be increased after proper implementation & reformation of existing laws, taking shelter of law of a woman and giving punishment the offender with imprisonment for seven years with fine for hurt wife by beating. So, awareness is the only way to stop household violence against females. Therefore, these findings may help the government, NGOs and medias to make awareness among the people of the society about the existing laws and females' rights resulting the household violence against females may be stopped.

**Keywords:** Household Violence against Females, Laws, Punishment, Perception, Educated Class, Bangladesh

## 1. Background

Females face violence in the home, in work place, in societies and in the state in Bangladesh. But violence committed by family members within the family environment is the most serious of all types of violence. All the same time, the closed family structure makes it possible for the aggressor to repeat the violence (Jahan et al., 1997). Females are subjected to household violence by male members, in-laws and even by other female members (Bhuiyan, 1991). So, household violence is the violent behavior of their male counterparts which is occurred inside the four walls of home. It is frequently happened in a society which is governed by age-old patriarchy (Pervin et al., 2016). Gender-inequality is deeply embedded in the structure of the patriarchal society of Bangladesh. Male dominance and female subordination are basis tenants of our social structure. All Bangladesh social institutions permit, even encourage, the demonstration of the sexes and try to perpetuate the interests of patriarchy. Bangladesh families offer instances of the display of male dominance in intimates relations in the form of marital violence (Chowdhury, 2014). So, as Bangladesh society is a patriarchal society, household violence against females is significant in our country. Females of all strata are vulnerable to maltreatment and abuse at the hands of husbands, in-laws and other family members. Despite its increasing trend, household violence is viewed as a personal matter that should be resolved privately within the family (Pervin et al., 2016). There are different religions in Bangladesh such as Islam, Hinduism, Budduism. The religion Islam provides marriage, divorce and inheritance related some legal rights. In the case of properly, when a man dies, a Muslim widow inherits one-eighth of his property and if he has no child the widow will get one-fourth of the property. And daughter gets half of every son's inheritance (Bhuiyan, 2003). But in practice, females rarely get full benefit from these rights. In the case of the legal status of females in Bangladesh, the constitution ensures equality of sexes but also acknowledges unequal status by reserving the right of making special provisions for females. In our country, there are several laws such as civil laws, labor laws, laws relating marriage, divorce, child custody, inheritance and maintenance, law of equal protection for all citizens, laws of equality of opportunity, the Dowry prohibition Act, 1980, the child marriage restraint Act, 1929, the Muslim

Family Court Ordinance, 1985, the Anti-females and children oppression Act, 2000 etc. And whoever will commit offence or criminal act shall be punished. The punishment is established in the penal code, 1860, the code of criminal procedure, 1898 etc. Despite these laws and punishment for violation of these in existed in our country dowry, violence against females is still continuing. Newspaper reports show an increasing number of females becoming victims of different types of violence both inside and outside their homes. In local life some common forms of violence and against females are rape, physical and mental torture for dowry, acid throwing, forced prostitution, trafficking, wife battering etc. It is believed that apart from the reported cases, there are a considerable number of cases that are not reported either to the police or to the newspapers (Adams, 2008).

The available statistics on violence show a drastic increase in the crime particularly in the last ten years” (Pervin et al., 2016). Such as, in a workshop, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad disclosed that last year 605 females were victims of violence of which 274 females were murdered for dowry, 1086 were murdered for other reasons, and 170 murdered after rape, 248 faces gang rape, 549 were victims of rape while 175 of acid throwing and 118 females were tortured physically (BMP, 2015). Abuse and harassment of females take place within the family frequently. Violence in the home is a common thing. It is occurred not only in poor or illiterate families but also in rich and literate families. In some communities, female babies and girl children are neglected. Dowry is the main cause of harassment of young brides in thousands of reported cases and at times it leads to death (Sahay, 1998). Therefore, violence has no class, no caste, no religion and it is a universal phenomenon (Bhuiyan, 2003). Household violence is a major problem in Bangladesh. It is clearly common and widespread across the country. Females from all classes face vulnerable torture and abuse by their husbands, in-laws and other intimate family members. So, gender-based violence is a violation of females’ human rights. A home or a family should be a peaceful place but not a place of cruelty (Pervin et al., 2016). But now-a-days, home, sweet home concept is no more for many females because they face violence in the family environment (Jahan et al., 2002). So, household violence exists in every society in various types, forms and frequencies. In the present research area, the Dhaka City, household violence also exists in various forms. In Dhaka, dowry system is existed in different forms comparable to any other parts of the country. It is given in the names of gift but it is common for every bride’s family to guilt to the bridegroom’s family. As a result, whoever is unable to give dowry has to face many types of violence like battering, murder, abuse, deprivation of food, confinement, threats of reprisals etc. In the study area, another powerful evidence of household violence is forced marriage and it is also common in this region. A young girl is being forced to marry an unknown person by her parents. Despite the severe consequences to females’ physical and emotional health, household violence is not recognized as a serious social obstacle and society does not perceive household violence to be a formidable crime. In contrast, it is considered as a personal matter and it should be resolved privately within the family (Pervin et al., 2016). In our society, females of upper class don’t reveal their vulnerable situation because of their social status and they themselves try to solve the problem privately. Females of middle class do not try to file case and feel hesitation to disclose it to others because they are very much concerned about their self-respect. The people of middle class do believe in vanity and in social values and they think that it is their pride (Bhuiyan, 2003). On the other hand, females from lower class never try to reveal it and don’t tell it to others and they treat it as a normal matter. There may have two reasons namely-a) Ignorance of the existing laws and punishment for violence and b) their socio-economic position. But in our country many of violence remain unreported (Siddiqi, 2003). Generally, the response pattern of social attitude to violence, especially the perception of violence greatly depends on the specific context of violence (Jahan, 1994). In this context, in the present study it is our concern whether the people of educated class know about the existing laws of household violence or how they perceive violence against females perpetuated in the home or family environment.

## **2. Objectives of the study**

1. To know the natures and causes of household violence against females
2. To know and analyze the perception of educated class about the existing laws regarding punishment for household violence against females

## **3. Rationale or importance of the study**

Bangladesh is a small country but it has large of social problems. Among these, household violence against females is the most serious problem. But there is not available appropriate research on violence against females. For these reason, the present researchers have encouraged to study violence against females so that they can suggest any policy to solve the problem if they would be a Government employee in any sector. At the same time because of family structure the aggressors can repeat the violence (Jahan et al., 1997). As a part of patriarchic society, Bangladeshi females, from the very early age, are taught to be submissive, tolerant and self-sacrificing. According to most scholars, the patriarchal period of Biblical history is the first half of the second millennium B.C. In ‘Genesis’ the stories of patriarchies provide some indications of a transition from matriarchal and matrilineal to patriarchal and patrilineal family organization. For example, in the Biblical narration two types

of marriage are mentioned. One is matriarchal marriage that gave greater autonomy to females and also gave the right to divorce. The other is patriarchal marriage that abolished the previous antinomy (World History, 1992). In a working paper, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad(BMP) reported that in the country household violence is not still considered as a violence of human rights of females. Patriarchal social and family structure and culture are the main causes of this attitude towards household violence (Kayes, 2008). For this reason the condition of females in Bangladesh is vulnerable. Generally the responses pattern to social attitude to violence, specially the perception and level of support of violence greatly depends on the specific context of violence (Khan, 2015). In our country, there are many laws regarding marriage, divorce, maintenance, guardianship or custody of children and inheritance and punishment for violation of these laws is also existed. In section 11 of the Anti-females and children oppression Act, 2000, life imprisonment was established for ensign death for dowry. Under section 366 of the penal code, 1860 punishment for forced marriage, in sections, 340 and 342 of the same code punishment for wrongful confinement, in section 319 penalty for wife battering, in section 503 and 506, punishment for threats of reprisals, in section 313 of the same code punishment for reproductive coercion are mentioned, under section 5 of the family courts ordinance, 1985 it is said a wife can files a suit in a family court not only for her own maintenance but also for the maintenance of her child (Khondaker, 2006). In spite of these existing laws in our country, violence against females happens in the country especially in my study area, Dhaka. Although, the government commitments to the UN conference on females in Beijing and the world conference on Human Rights in Vienna, no concrete steps have been taken in favor of a uniform family code (Hossain, 2003). Moreover, thought household violence is a common matter in our country, there is no separate or specific law regarding household violence (Adams, 2008).So, for a clear understanding of the problems it is needed to know the nature and extent of the problem. In this context, it is our concern to find out what are the views of middle class people regarding household violence. Thus, the present study try to know the perception of educated class people on household violence against females and laws regarding punishment for it .Though government has formulated many laws regarding household violence, it exists in every society. So, in this study it is tried to explore the natures and causes of household violence against females and also try to explore the perceptions and suggestions of laws regarding household violence that will help the government to take proper step to review the existing laws and also to implement them property. Moreover, this will be an amazing research aspect for the students of sociology. Beside this, it will also contribute to the further development of sociological theory.

#### 4. Literature review

Bangladesh is a patriarchal dominated society. In this society, oppression and subordination by males over females is the common feature. As a patriarchal Muslim society, the customs and values are mostly male-dominated. It is also perceived that sometimes seclusion put the females in vulnerable situation. In a patriarchal society like Bangladesh, females' status, prestige, power etc., are usually determined and dominated by males. Consequently, males' attitude towards females is important and it does not generally give equal and due treatment to the female counterparts. Violence against females is largely embedded in gender norms. Generally the low status of women – economically, socially, culturally and politically tend to be responsible for the violation of basic rights of females by males in a society like Bangladesh (Reilly, 2009; McMillan, 2007). Violence against females is basically the result of perceived differences (such as wealth, power, status, prestige) between men and women as ascribed by norms of patriarchy (Hossain et al., 2001). Due to patriarchy and in the lack of adequate empowerment situation of women, household violence by men against female is a common phenomenon in both of rural and urban Bangladesh. It is more pronounced among the poorer and relatively less educated class. Generally these types of violence against women are done by the males. Power and control over resources were most frequently at the core of events leading to the use of violence in household situations (Barrier, 1998; Gells et al., 1988).

Islam categorized three types of household violence against females in her book “Naribari Chinta O Nari Jibon” such as physical aggression, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Under these types various forms of household violence are traced. Among these some are as follows; 1.Physical aggression such as murder (dowry/other), battering, deprivation of food, reproductive control/coercion etc.2. Emotional abuse as confinement, forced marriage, threats of reprisals. 3. Sexual abuse, for instance rape and incest (Islam, 2002). These above tortures are prohibited and punishable under the existing laws. There are related laws of household violence in Bangladesh as about penalty for causing death for dowry, under The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980 the term ‘dowry’ is defined as any property or valuable security given to agree to be given either directly or indirectly one party to a marriage to the other party the marriage. Later dowry has been redefined is clause (j) of section 2 of the Nari-o-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000 which is as follows-(i) Any money or materials or any other property demanded from the party of the bride by the bridegroom or his parents or any person on behalf directly connected with the marriage before or at the time of marriage of during the continuance there of as consideration for marriage or as a condition for continuing the marital relation. Section 11 of the Nari-o-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000 states that if any husband or his father, mother, guardian, any relation or any other

person on his behalf causes death of his wife or attempts to cause death or causes grievous or simple hurt to her the husband, his father, mother, guardian, relations or any such other person-(a)For causing death shall be punishable with death or for attempting to cause death shall be liable to imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine. (a)For causing grievous hurt shall be liable to imprisonment for life or rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve years but not less than five years and shall also be liable to fine. (a)For causing simple hurt shall be liable to rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years but not less than one year and shall be liable to fine (Khondaker, 2006). About wife battering and penalty for it, under section 319 of The Penal Code 1860 it is said that whoever causes bodily pain, disease or infirmity to any person is said to cause hurt. In section 320 of the same code various types of grievous hurt are mentioned. In section 323 and 325 of The Penal Code punishment for hurt and grievous hurt are noted respectively. For causing hurt anyone shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both. And for causing grievous hurt the term imprisonment may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine (Chowdhury, 2003). About deprivation for food, under The Family Courts Ordinance in 1985 many family courts are established. All courts of Assistant Judge shall be the family courts and all Assistant Judges shall be the judges of family courts. In section 5 of the ordinance, it is stated that a family court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to entertain, try and dispose of any suit relating to, or arising out of, all or any of the following matters:(i)Dissolution of marriage,(ii)Restitution of conjugal rights, (iii)Dower, (iv) Maintenance, (v) Guardianship and custody of children. Maintenance includes food, clothing and lodging. If also includes other necessary expenses for mental and physical well-being of a minor. Educational expenses are also included in the definition. Under section 5 of the ordinance of 1985 it is not only the wife who can file suit is a family court for her own maintenance but also for the maintenance of her child. In section 488 of The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 it is said that if any person neglects or refuses to maintain his wife or his legitimate or illegitimate child, the District Magistrate, a Metropolitan Magistrate, a sub-divisional Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class may order such person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife or such child not exceeding four hundred taka is the whole. And if any person fails to obey the order without sufficient cause, Magistrate may issue a warrant for the whole or any part of each month's allowance remaining unpaid and also issue imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or until payment (Controller, 2003). About reproductive control/coercion, under section 321 of The Penal Code 1860 punishment for reproductive control or coercion is mentioned is the way that whoever voluntarily causes a females with child to miscarry shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. Again in section 313 of the same code it is stated whoever commits the offence defined in the section 312 without the consent of the females, whether the woman is quickly with child or not shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine (Chowdhury, 2003). Punishment for confinement, under sections 340 and 342 of The Penal Code 1860 deal with wrongful confinement and punishment for it respectively any person in such a manner as to prevent that person from proceeding beyond certain circumscribed limits, is said wrongfully to confine that person. The penalty for such confinement is spelled out wrongfully confines any person, shall be punished with imprisonment may of either description for a fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or both (Chowdhury, 2003). About discussion on punishment for forced marriage, the Penal Code 1860 has the offence of kidnapping and abducting for the purpose of forced marriage. In section 366 of the same code it is stated that whoever kidnaps or abducts any woman with intent that she may be compelled, or knowing it to be likely that she will be compelled, to marry any person against her will, or in order that she may be forced or seduced to illicit intercourse, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also liable to fine (Chowdhury, 2003). About penalty for threats of reprisals, under sections 503 and 506 of The Penal Code 1860 threat is defined as criminal intimidation and punishment is prescribed respectively. In section 503 it is said that whoever threatens another with way injury to his person, reputation or property, or to the person or reputation of any one in whom that person is interested, with intent to cause alarm to that person or to cause that person is legally entitled to do, as the means of avoiding the executing of which threat, commits criminal intimidation. In section 506 it is stated that whoever commits the offence of criminal intimidation shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. And if the offender shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life or with imprisonment for term may extend to seven years (Chowdhury, 2003). Punishment for rape and death is caused by rape etc. Whoever will commit rape shall be liable for punishment with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine (Chowdhury, 2003). Again, if any man rapes a woman or a child, he shall be liable for punishment with rigorous life term and a cash fine in addition. If any man out of wedlock, engages in sex with a woman over sixteen years of age with or without her consent or he does it by intimidation or by securing her consent though deception, or he does so with a woman under fourteen years of age with or without her consent he shall be deemed to have raped that woman. If a woman or child raped dies in

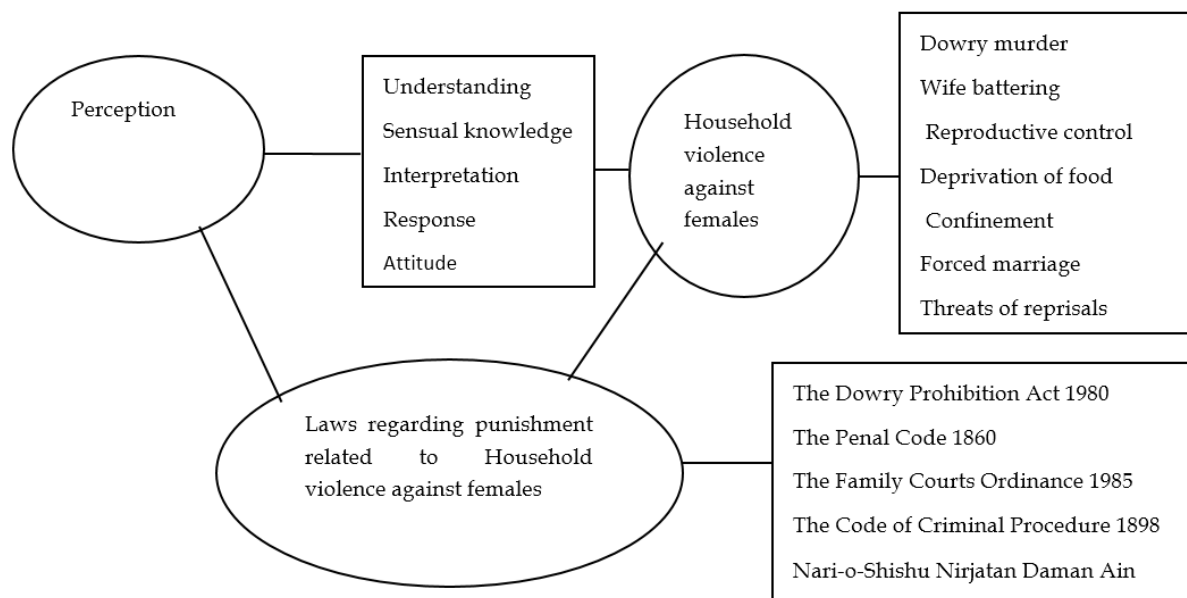


consequence of subsequent acts otherwise of the person involved, in that case the person concerned shall be liable to punishment with death sentence or rigorous imprisonment for life and cash fine no less than taka one lac in addition (Khondaker, 2006).

### 5. Theoretical framework

According to Max Weber, violence is the ultimate foundation of political order. A government that is viewed as legitimate is more stable than one that is not; revolution (armed resistance to overthrow a government) is a rejection by the people of a government's claim to rule and of its monopoly on violence. According to Weber's law, a fundamental principle of perception, sensitivity to changes in magnitude along a given physical dimension decreases when stimulus magnitude increases. In other words, the increment needed in order to detect a change - the Just Noticeable Difference (JND) - is smaller for weak stimuli compared to stronger stimuli. According to Weber, the educated class refers to a well-educated group of white-collar office workers who do not own their own labor. Examples might be hotel administrators, human resources professionals, technology professionals. According to Marxist-Leninist approach, perception refers to understanding and changing the world. Many of the attribute as Christians ascribe to God—eternality, infinitude, an uncreated being, indestructibility, the Lawgiver, the Life, and the Mind—Marxists-Leninists ascribe to dialectical matter. Marxist philosophy affirms matter as ultimately real, rather than God. Thus it is a godless philosophy. Perception is defined by some indicators such as understanding, sensual knowledge and interpretation. Perception does not mean only seeing as one can see anything. But if she/he has the understanding power of receiving knowledge of external things with sensual knowledge, she/he will be able to interpret anything. Here, household violence has also some indicators such as dowry murder, wife battering, deprivation of food, reproductive control or coercion, confinement, forced marriage and threats of reprisals. If any of these indicators can be seen in a society, then it can be said that there exists household violence in that society. It is also tried to explore what they think about violence against females perpetuated in the family environment and how they interpret the existing situation with their sensual knowledge. Moreover, it is tried to know the knowledge/awareness of the respondents about the existing laws of household violence and how they interpret these of household violence and what type of solution they can suggest to reform the existing laws (Wikipedia).

### 6. Conceptual framework



### 7. Conceptual definition

**Household violence:** Household violence is recognized as any act or threatened act of violence which results or threatens to result in physical injury and mental torture and which is committed by a spouse against the other. It may also include injuries, torture and abuse by any person related to husband.

**Perception:** Perception is the process through which one seeks to know and understand other persons. Perception means any way of seeing, understanding, responding or interpreting anything especially with senses.

**Laws:** Laws are the rules and regulations through which undesirable behaviors of people of a society are controlled.

**Educated class:** Educated class is a group of people having same socio-economic condition and same academic qualification and led their life by servicing in any sector. Educated Class means the class where people have education and socio-cultural attainments irrespective of their income by giving service.

## 8. Operational definition of the concepts

**Household violence:** In the study, household violence is defined by seven indicators such as dowry murder, wife battering, and reproductive control/coercion, deprivation of food, confinement, forced marriage and threats of reprisals.

**Perception:** In the present study, perception is defined by six indicators such as sensual knowledge, understanding, interpretation, observation, attitude and response.

**Laws:** In the study, laws are defined by five indicators such as The Dowry Prohibition Act 1980, The Penal Code 1860, The Family Courts Ordinance 1985, The Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 and Nari-o-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000.

**Educated class:** In this study, educated class is defined as that kind of group which members' having same honors and masters degree and they lead their lives by teaching in different universities.

## 9. Methodology

**9.1 Research design and method:** In this study, explanatory research design has been followed so that it would be able to know and analyze the perception of educated class about laws regarding punishment for household violence against females through personal interview. The major purpose of applying this kind of research design is to easily analyze the situation of different cases. To study on the research topic, survey method (quantitative method) has been used. This study is conducted at a single point of time in Dhaka city on January'2016-March'2017.

**9.2 Research site and its rationale/importance:** Firstly, the study area Dhaka City has been selected purposively. Later on, to find out educated respondents, several universities of the study area that provide honors and master's degree have been selected as the field of the study as follow: Primeasia University (PAU), Northern University (NU), Uttara University (UU), Southeast University (SEU), City University (CU), Presidency University (PU) and Royal University (RU). The said institutions among Dhaka Metropolitan City are used as the present research area. Because violence against females takes place available this city like other cities or areas of the country. There are available researches which were done on violence against females of the country but specific researches on violence against females in Dhaka Metropolitan City are not available. This fact encourages the researcher to study on violence against females in the Dhaka city. For this reason, the researcher has selected the Dhaka city as the research area.

**9.3 Population and sampling of the study:** The total 1412 teachers (Sampling frame) of said institutions. The number is collected from the adjacent institutions' registered office. Married teachers are selected as the research population because married persons usually face the most violence than single persons. Here the number of married teacher (105+69+82+91+85+84+44 respectively) of said institutions is 560. In this study, every married respondent has been considered as a unit of analysis. The stratified random sampling method is used so that sample size can represent the all population of all institutions as the present study areas. The Sample size found 128 by using the following formula;

Formula  $S = n/N * 100$  (Nachmias and Nachmias, 1976).

Here S= Sample size

n= population of each stratum.

N=Total population

Now, Population of 'Primeasia University' is 25. Therefore, sample size is  $105/560 * 100 = 18.75 = 19$ . By the same way, the sum of samples =  $(19+13+15+16+15+15+8) = 101$

**9.4 Variables and Indicators:** There are three variables such as perceptions, household violence against females and laws. The indicators of perception are understanding, sensual knowledge, interpretation, observation, response and attitude. The indicators of household violence against females are dowry murder, wife battering, deprivation of food, reproductive control/coercion, confinement, forced married and threats of reprisals. The indicators of laws are-1) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980, 2) The Penal Code, 1860, 3) The family Courts Ordinances, 1985, 4) The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 and 5) Nario-o-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Act, 2000.

**9.5 Data Collection and Analysis techniques:** In this study, interview schedule has been used for survey and interview guide has been used for case study. Firstly the information has been collected by using a structured questionnaire on from 101 respondents through sample survey method. Closed-ended, open-ended and

dichotomous questions have been set up in the structured questionnaire and information has been collected through face-to-face interviews. For some of variables, Likert Scaling has been applied in the structured questionnaire. These variables has been rated on a 1-to-5 rating scale where:1=Strongly disagree,2=Disagree, 3=Undecided,4=Agree and 5=Strongly agree. Further, a guide questionnaire on 5 interview guides has been used for case study to find out in-depth understanding of the respondents about household violence against females and laws regarding punishment. The Collected quantitative information from primary source has been analyzed by using SPSS. Here univariate analysis i.e. percentage and frequency table,  $\chi^2$ -test (for hypotheses test) has been used. Again, according to procedure of Likert Scaling on five rating scale for some of variables, firstly a total score for each respondents has been found out and then average scale values has been found out by subs tracing the low judges (bottom 25%) from high (top 25%) judges. As a result, it would be possible to find out Discriminative Power (DP) out for each variable. To enrich the present study secondary data have been collected from various books, journals, articles, website, research studies etc.

## 10. Findings and discussion

### 10.1 Demographic characteristics of the respondents

In the first age group 30.59% respondents are included, on the second group the percentage in 26.73%. But from the next group the percentage is decreasing. Among the total male respondents are 58.42% and female are 41.58%. In the highest category, 27.72% respondents lead their conjugal life for 2year to less than 3year or 3year to less than 4year and in the lowest category, 11.88% respondents lead their conjugal for less than 1year. Among all of the respondents 18.81% from PAU, 12.87% from NU, 14.85% from UU, 15.84% from SEU, 14.85% from CU and PU and 7.92 RU. Among the total respondents only 16.83% holds PhD, 6.93% MPhil, 51.49% masters and 2.4% honors. In the highest category 51.58% respondents' monthly income is BDT.20000-30000 and, in the lowest category, 6.93% respondents monthly income is BDT.60000 or above (Details in Table-01).

**Table-01: Demographic characteristics of the respondents**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>1.The Respondents' age</b>			<b>4. Place of interview</b>		
26-30	31	30.69	Primeasia University(PAU)	19	18.81
31-35	27	26.73	Northern University(NU)	13	12.87
36-40	18	17.82	Uttara University(UU)	15	14.85
41-45	11	10.89	Southeast University(SEU)	16	15.84
46-50	6	5.94	City University(CU)	15	14.85
51-55	4	3.96	Presidency University(PU)	15	14.85
56-60	2	1.98	Royal University(RU)	8	7.92
61-65	2	1.98	Total	101	100.0
Total	101	100	<b>5. Educational qualification</b>		
<b>2. Gender of the respondents</b>			Ph .D	17	16.83
Male	59	58.42	Mp.hil	7	6.93
Female	42	41.58	Masters	52	51.49
Total	101	100	Honors	25	24.75
<b>3. Duration of couple life</b>			Total	101	100
Less than 1year	12	11.88	<b>6.Monthly income of the respondents(BDT)</b>		
1 -less than 2year	19	18.81	20000-30000	42	41.58
2year-less than 3year	28	27.72	31000-40000	32	31.68
3year-less than 4 year	28	27.72	41000-50000	8	7.92
4year or above	14	13.86	51000-60000	12	11.88
Total	101	100	60000 above	7	6.93
			Total	101	100

### 10.2 Natures and causes of household violence against females

In the highest category 56.44% respondents mean physical and mental torture by household violence against females, simultaneously in the lowest category .99% mean ignorance of opinion and in the middle category, 12.87% mean socio-economic backwardness or poverty. Out of 101, 42.57% respondents agree that violence

against females occurs in our society and strongly agree 57.43% with the statement. In the highest category 26.73% respondents said that wife battering occurs frequently in the society, simultaneously lowest category 1.98% and middle category 21.78% said confinement and reproductive control or coercion respectively. In the highest category 12.87% thinks Socio-economic backwardness or poverty is the cause of household violence against females. Similarly 2.97% others as the lowest category and as the middle category 10.89% thinks social system is the cause of household violence against females (Details in Table-02).

**Table-02: Natures and causes of household violence against females**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>1. What do you mean by violence against females?</b>		
Physical torture	2	1.98
Mental torture	8	7.92
Physical and mental torture	57	56.44
Physical, mental and verbal torture	10	9.90
To do something against one's will	13	12.87
Avoidance	5	4.95
Ignorance of opinion	1	.99
Others	5	4.95
Total	101	100.
<b>2. Household violence against females occurs in our society</b>		
Agree	43	42.57
Strongly agree	58	57.43
Undecided	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	101	100
<b>3. Which type/nature of violence against females does occur frequently in our society?</b>		
Dowry murder	16	15.84
Wife battering	27	26.73
Deprivation of food	12	11.88
Reproductive control or coercion	22	21.78
Confinement	2	1.98
Forced marriage	12	11.88
Threats of reprisals	3	2.97
Others	5	4.95
Total	101	100.0
<b>4. Causes of household violence against females</b>		
Social system	11	10.89
Physically weak	5	4.95
Dependent on husband	19	
Socio-economic backwardness or poverty	13	12.87
Lack of education	9	8.91
Patriarchal dominant or establishment of domination	5	4.95
Difference in opinion	5	4.95
Dowry	7	6.93
Difference in perception	6	5.94
Enmity of females versus females	5	4.95
Establishment of domination and dowry	8	7.92
Establishment of domination and difference in opinion	5	4.95
Others	3	2.97
Total	101	100

### 10.3 Perception of educated class on laws and punishment

Out of total respondents (101) only 34.65% respondents agree or strongly agree that means that they know about the existing laws of household violence and 39.60% disagree or strongly disagree that means they don't know about these laws and 25.74% undecided. It can be seen that near about half of the people of the study area don't know about the laws. Among them who know the laws 22.86% respondents have known by reading law related books and 62.86% have known by both of electronic and print media and 14.26% by hearing from others.



Among the respondents 30.69% say agree/strong agree that means they have support the existing punishment provided by the existing laws and 63.36% say disagree or strongly disagree that means they don't support the punishment and 5.94% undecided . Among them who disagree or strongly disagree they think that the offender should be given exemplary punishment (18.75%), more hard punishment (32.81%), hurt by giving equal attack (2.97%) and bring change in mentality (43.75%). Out of total, 30.69 respondents agree or disagree that means they think that it is possible to stop household violence against females by existing laws and 63.36% disagree or strongly disagree that means they think it is not possible to stop household violence against females by existing laws. Only 5.94% are undecided on the statement. Among them who disagree or strongly disagree, 64.06% they think household violence against females will be stop by properly implementation of the laws and 35.94% think it will be stop by bringing change in social perspective. Out of total, 41.58% agree, strongly agree 24.75%, disagree 22.77%, strongly disagree 5.94% and undecided 4.95% on the statement 'the adequacy of punishment is sufficient'. Out of total, 19.80% agree, strongly agree 18.81%, disagree 39.60%, strongly disagree 14.85% and undecided 6.93% on the statement 'The law for wife battering is sufficient'. Among them who are disagree or strongly disagree, 69.35% they think that the offender should be given hard punishment whereas 30.65% say to bring change in mentality resulting present situation will be changed. Out of total, 48.51% respondents opined that it will be possible to stop wife battering by creating consciousness about laws, simultaneously 47.52% by properly implementation the existing laws and 11.88% by reform the existing laws. The data reveal various reasons for which females don't want to take shelter of law that are, fear from further violence (13.86%) fear of public disgrace (812.87%) fear of social security (16.83%), fear of harassment by law enforce (8.91%), fear of family status (20.79%), because of ignorance about law (10.89%), and fear of public disgrace and fear of family status and threat from in-laws house (15.84%).81.18% respondents agree or strongly disagree that mean it is necessity to reform the existing laws whereas 11.88% disagree or strongly disagree that mean they think that no reform is needed. On the contrary, 6.93% are undecided about the reform of the existing laws. Whoever said agree/strongly agree to the previous question provided various suggestion. Among them 6.10% suggest to establish of the equal right of husband, wife and children, 7.32 suggest to up-to-date the laws, 10.98% suggest to implement the laws properly by the state importantly, 12.20% suggest to construct laws by taking public reaction, 9.76% give suggestion to increase advertisement of laws, 13.41% suggest to make the judicial process easier, 9.76% suggest to keep laws free from political & administrative influence,7.32% besides law to take corrective step,8.54% suggest to make judicial process faster,14.63% suggest to ensure females security taking shelter of law and 3.66% include others(Details in Table-03).

**Table-03: Perception of Educated Class on Laws and Punishment Related Information**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>1.You know details about the existing laws regarding household violence against females</b>			<b>8.The law for wife battering is sufficient</b>		
Agree	20	19.80	Agree	20	19.80
strongly agree	15	14.85	Strongly agree	19	18.81
Disagree	15	14.85	Disagree	40	39.60
strongly disagree	25	24.75	Strongly disagree	15	14.85
Undecided	26	25.74	Undecided	7	6.93
Total	101	100	Total	101	100
<b>2.If agree/strongly agree, how did you know about the laws</b>			<b>9. If disagree/strongly disagree, what should be done according to you?</b>		
By reading law related books	8	22.86	Hard punishment	43	69.35
By both of electric and print media	22	62.86	Bring change in mentality	19	30.65
By hearing from others	5	14.26	Total	62	100
Total	35	100	<b>10.How is it possible to stop wife battering</b>		
<b>3. Punishment provided by the existing laws are supportable to you</b>			By creating consciousness about laws	49	48.51
Agree	13	12.87	By changing social perspectives		
strongly agree	18	17.82	By properly implementation the laws	40	47.52
Disagree	41	40.59	By reform the existing laws	12	11.88
strongly disagree	23	22.77	Total	101	100
Undecided	6	5.94	<b>11. Why females don't want to take shelter of law?</b>		
Total	101	100	Fear from further violence	14	13.86
<b>4.If disagree/strongly disagree, which type of punishment you think</b>			Fear of public disgrace	13	12.87
Exemplary	12	18.75	Fear of social security	17	16.83

More hard punishment	21	32.81	Fear of harassment by law enforce	9	8.91
Hurt by giving equal attack	3	2.97	Fear of family status	21	20.79
Bring change in mentality	28	43.75	Because of ignorance about law	11	10.89
Total	64	100	Fear of public disgrace and family status, and threat from in-laws house	16	15.84
<b>5.It is possible to stop household violence against females by existing laws</b>			<b>12.Necessity of reform the existing laws</b>		
Agree	17	16.83	Agree	40	39.60
Strongly agree	14	13.86	Strongly agree	42	41.58
Disagree	34	33.66	Disagree	7	6.93
Strongly disagree	30	29.70	Strongly disagree	5	4.95
Undecided	6	5.94	Undecided	7	6.93
Total	101	100	Total	101	100
<b>6.If disagree/strongly disagree, How it will be stop</b>			<b>13.If agree/strongly agree, what's your opinion</b>		
Properly implementation of the laws	41	64.06	Establishment of the equal right of husband , wife and children	5	6.10
Bring change in social perspective	23	35.94	Up to date the laws	6	7.32
Total	64	100	Implementation of laws by state importantly	9	10.98
<b>7.The adequacy of punishment is sufficient</b>			Constructing laws by taking public reaction	14	13.86
Agree	42	41.58	Increasing advertisement of laws	8	9.76
Strongly agree	25	24.75	To make the judicial process easier	11	13.41
Disagree	23	22.77	To keep laws free from political & administrative influence	8	9.76
Strongly disagree	6	5.94	Besides law to take corrective step	6	57.32
Undecided	5	4.95	To make judicial process faster	7	8.54
Total	101	100	To ensure females security taking shelter of law	12	14.63
			Others	3	3.66
			Total	82	100

#### 10.4 Scaling analysis

##### Laws and punishment related information

To construct a Likert scale of measuring the activity in group decision making, followings steps are taken into consideration (Babbie, 2004; Trochim , 2006). At first, on the ground of my measurement intention possible scale items are selected. Each item was checked by the respondent from the five fixed alternative expressions. In this five-point continuum, values of 5,4,3,2,1 or 1,2,3,4,5 are assigned. These values express the relative weights and their direction, determined by the active/ inactiveness of the item. The following seven items are used to measure the activity in decision making in the group/org. After asking respondents to indicate their level of activity, there is a total score of each respondent by summing the value of each item. Suppose that, a respondent checked strongly agree in item 1(score5), undecided in item 2 (score3), agree in item3 (score4), disagree in item4 (score2), strongly disagree in item 5(score 1), disagree in item 6(score2) and strongly agree in item 7(score5). This person's total score is  $5+3+4+2+1+2+5=22$ .Following illustration has been used to measurement

1. You know the laws of household violence against females
2. Nari O Shishu Nirnatan Daman Ain 2000 provides that whoever attacks for dowry will be punished with imprisonment for a term with fine-this punishment is sufficient
3. The Penal Code 1860 provides that whoever grievously hurt wife by beating shall be punished with imprisonment for seven years with fine-this punishment is sufficient
4. It is possible to solve the household violence against females by implementing existing laws
5. Females should take shelter of law for their security
6. It is needed to reform the existing laws to stop the violence against females
7. Females don't want to take shelter of law due to fear of social disgrace

**Table-04: Total result of the 101 respondents are given in tabulated form-**

Response	Corresponding scores	Frequency	Percent
Strongly disagree	7-12	10	9.90
Disagree	13-18	5	4.95
Undecided	19-24	11	10.89
Agree	25-30	35	34.65
Strongly agree	31-35	40	39.60
Total		101	100

Now, it is required to compute the Discriminative Power (DP) for each item which helps us to find the items that consistently differentiate who are high on the response continuum for those who are low-

**Table-05: Computing the Discriminative Power (DP)**

Item	Group	Number in Group	1 2 3 4 5	Weighted Total	Weighted Mean	DP(Q1-Q4)
1	High (top 25%)	25	0 7 7 6 5	84	3.36	1.72
	Low (bottom 25%)	25	12 10 3 0 0	41	1.64	
2	High (top 25%)	25	1 5 4 9 6	89	3.56	1.68
	Low (bottom 25%)	25	10 8 7 0 0	47	1.88	
3	High (top 25%)	25	0 7 3 7 8	91	3.64	1.64
	Low (bottom 25%)	25	10 5 10 0 0	50	2.00	
4	High (top 25%)	25	0 9 5 6 5	82	3.28	1.48
	Low (bottom 25%)	25	12 8 3 2 0	45	1.80	
5	High (top 25%)	25	0 5 7 10 3	86	3.44	1.76
	Low (bottom 25%)	25	12 8 4 1 0	44	1.68	
6	High (top 25%)	25	1 8 6 6 4	79	3.16	1.24
	Low (bottom 25%)	25	9 10 5 1 0	48	1.92	
7	High (top 25%)	25	0 7 7 5 6	85	3.40	1.52
	Low (bottom 25%)	25	8 12 5 0 0	47	1.88	

Here, Weighted total=Score\*no. who check that score. Weighted mean=Weighted total /no. in group. Discriminative Power=High (top 25%)-low (bottom 25%). (Nachmias and Nachmias, 1976). All of the above cited-tabulation clearly reveals the expected result. The calculation of Discriminative Power for each item represent that, the strongest items poses the highest discriminative power. In all cases, it is seen from the table that discriminative power varies to the variation of items.

## 10.5 Hypotheses testing

### Hypothesis-01

H<sub>0</sub>: By the appropriate implementation of existing laws regarding punishment, there will either be no significant difference to the no. of household violence against females or will be a significant decrease.

H<sub>a</sub>: By the proper implementation of existing laws regarding punishment, there will be a significant increase to the no. of household violence against females.

### Hypothesis-02

H<sub>0</sub>: By the reforming of the existing laws regarding punishment, there will either be no significant difference to the no. of household violence against females or will be a significant decrease.

H<sub>a</sub>: By the reforming of the existing laws regarding punishment, there will be a significant increase to the no. of household violence against females.

### Hypothesis-03

H<sub>0</sub>: By taking shelter of law of a woman, there will either be no significant difference to the no. of household violence against females or will be a significant decrease.

H<sub>a</sub>: By taking shelter of law of a woman, there will be a significant increase to the no. of household violence against females.

### Hypothesis-04

H<sub>0</sub>: By giving punishment the offender with imprisonment for seven years with fine for hurt wife by beating, there will either be no significant difference to the no. of household violence against females or will be a significant decrease.

H<sub>a</sub>: By giving punishment the offender with imprisonment for seven years with fine for hurt wife by beating, there will be a significant increase to the no. of household violence against females.

**Table -06: Summary tale from SPSS, representing the hypotheses**

Hypotheses	Degree of freedom	Level of confidence	Calculated $\chi^2$ value	Particular $\chi^2$ value/Table value	Significance
Hypothesis-01	1	95 %	82.172(a*)	3.841	.000
Hypothesis-02	1	95 %	66.113(a**)	3.841	.000
Hypothesis-03	1	95 %	81.261(a***)	3.841	.000
Hypothesis-04	1	95 %	12.561(a****)	3.841	.000

a\* 0cell (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count in 16.18

a \*\* 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 14.05

a\*\*\* 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 12.42

a\*\*\*\* 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 18.73

The table-06 reveals that calculated  $\chi^2$  value is greater than particular  $\chi^2$  value/table value for the hypotheses 01 to 04. Therefore, the alternative hypotheses can be accepted by rejecting the null hypotheses. Therefore, the no. of household violence against females will be increased also after proper implementing & reforming of existing laws regarding punishment, taking shelter of law of a woman and giving punishment the offender with imprisonment for seven years with fine for hurt wife by beating.

## 11. Conclusion

In the present time, violence against females is not a new concept. It may be seen either in the family environment or outside of it. In Bangladesh, in the family environment females face various types of violence such as physical and mental torture, verbal abuse etc. but still now maximum people including educated class don't consider verbal abuse as a violence rather they think that physical and mental torture are included in violence. Through this study, it is revealed that verbal abuse is also violence against females and particular law should be made regarding it. In the study area, most of the respondents view those main causes of household violence. Moreover, because of social system, physically weak, dependent on husband, socio-economic backwardness or poverty, dowry, lack of education, patriarchal dominant or establishment of domination, difference in perception and so on, household violence against females is happened in the family environment. Thus, Govt. has to take proper step to empower females by making them educated and engaging them in income generating activities. Again, it is true that there are various laws regarding household violence. But many people don't know about them and even don't know which things are included in the laws and considered as advertisements of these laws. Meanwhile, most females didn't want to take shelter of law because of combination of various reasons such as fear from further violence, fear of public disgrace, social security and family status, lack of education about laws etc. Therefore, Govt. has to provide assurance those females who take shelter of law, will not be harassed not only in the family but also in the society. Moreover, most of the respondents think that it is needed to reform the existing laws and in this regard some suggestions have come out such as establishment of the equal right of husband and wife on children, up-to-date the laws, implementation of laws by state intervention, constructing laws by taking public reaction, increasing advertisement of laws by medias to make awareness about laws and rights of females, to make the judicial process faster and easier, keeping laws free from political and administrative influences, enduring females' security who take shelter of law and taking corrective steps alongside laws. So, we can come to a decision that alongside the laws it has to ensure the proper implementation of these laws. In conclusion, we can say that the perception of the respondents accentuated the present problem as it has come out from the civil society. Therefore, it may help the government in making and implementing policy regarding household violence and can also be an amazing research aspect for the scholars of sociology.

### 11.1 Recommendations

From the above discussion, we recommend that all classes including educated class should keep knowledge on, should be awareness and obey the existing laws regarding punishment for household violence against females and also the government has to update the laws according to running situation and has to implement all of laws regarding punishment. The government should also take appropriate initiatives to make awareness among the mass people about existing laws and effectiveness through mass media, posturing, leaflet and so on. Concurrently the human rights organizations of the country should give proper legal support and/or raise awareness about laws among the females who are facing severe household violence inside and outside home. As a result, this social problem may be stopped.

### References

Jahan, Roushan and Islam, Mahmuda (1997). "Violence against Women in Bangladesh-Analysis and Action", Published by Women for Women, Bangladesh.

- Bhuiyan, R., (1991). "Aspect of Violence Against Women", Institute of Democratic Rights, 13, Dhanmondhi Residential Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Parvin, K., Sultana, N., & Naved, R. T. (2016). Disclosure and help seeking behavior of women exposed to physical spousal violence in Dhaka slums. *BMC public health*, 16(1), 1. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12889-0163060-7>
- Chowdhury, U.F., (2014). Domestic Violence against Women in Bangladesh. Documents.mx <https://www.scribd.com/document/55948371/Domestic-Violence-Against-Women-in-Bangladesh>
- Adams, A. E., Sullivan, C. M., Bybee, D., & Greeson, M. R. (2008). Development of the scale of economic abuse. *Violence against Women*, 14(5), 563-588. Doi:10.1177/1077801208315529
- Sahay, Sushama, (1998). "Women and Empowerment-Approaches and Strategies". First edition, Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi.
- Annual Report (2015). Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Dhaka, Bangladesh <http://mahilaparishad.org/annual-report-2015/>
- Jahan, R. and Islam, M. (2002). "Bangladesh Analysis and Action" 'Women for Women. A Research and Study Group, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Siddiqi, Dina M., (2003). "Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh : Political and Social Dimensions", in 'PFA and NAP Implementation in Bangladesh : Role of NGO', edited by Salma Khan, NGO Coalition on Beijing Plus Five, Bangladesh.
- Jahan, R. (1994). "Morphology of Family Violence", published by Women for Women, Dhaka.
- Women in Patriarchal Societies. The Origins of Civilizations. World History, (1992). [http://history-world.org/Civilization,%20women\\_in\\_patriarchal\\_societies.htm](http://history-world.org/Civilization,%20women_in_patriarchal_societies.htm)
- Kayes, M., (2008). Domestic Violence Escalates Nationwide in Light of the Economy, Survivors Struggle to Find Jobs.
- Khan, A.R., (2015). "Women coping strategies and help-seeking practices: Some observations on Domestic violence in rural Bangladesh". *Asian Journal of Women Studies*. Volume 21, 2015 - Issue 3. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/12259276.2015.1072941>
- Khondaker, Shahnaj, (2006). Published by, "The Anti-Women and Children Oppression Act 2000 and The Dowry Prohibition Act 1980", The Mainstream Law Reports, Dhaka.
- Hossain, Hameeda, (2003) "Human Rights in Bangladesh 2002", Ain o Salish Kendra, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Reilly, N. (2009). *Women's Human Rights – Seeking Gender Justice in a Globalizing Age*, Cambridge: Polity.
- McMillan, L. (2007). *Feminists Organising Against Gendered Violence*, New York: Palgrave
- Hossain, K.T., Imam, M.H., and Khair, S. (2001). *Males' Perception on Violence against Women in Bangladesh* (mimeo). Dhaka: British Council.
- Barrier, P. A. (1998). Domestic Violence. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* 73(3): 271-273.
- Gells, R. and Cornell, C. (1988). *Intimate Violence in Families*, Beverly Hills: Sage
- Islam, Mahmuda, (2002). "Naribadi Chinta o Nari Jibon", J.L. Press & Publications, Dhaka
- Chowdhury, Esrarul Huq, Published by, "The Penal Code 1860", first edition, Dhaka Law Reports, Dhaka, 2003.
- Controller, the Deputy, (2003). Published by, "The Code of Criminal Procedure 1898", Forms and Publications Office, Dhaka, 1993.
- Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence\\_against\\_women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence_against_women).
- Nachmias, D., & Nachmias, C. (1976). *Research methods in the social sciences*. Arnold, New York
- Babbie, Earl R., (1986). "The Practice of Social Research", fourth edition, Wadsworth Publishing Co., California.
- Trochim, William M.k, (2006). "Research Methods", Second edition, 2006, An Imprint of Dreamtech Press. 19-A, Angari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-11002.

### Acknowledgement

First of all, I am indebted to my respected teachers specially Md. Morad, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, SUST, who gave me valuable guidance as my thesis supervisor, and, Prof. Dr. Khairul Islam Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka, who taught on more than one theoretical courses and always motivated to write something in continuous process. I am also grateful to Dr. Nasrin Akhter, the Head of Humanities Department, Primeasia University, who has all-time encouraged me during the study. I would like to express my appreciation to my colleagues especially, Moshir Rahaman, faculty member of English Department who has supported me on English language proficiency used in the article. My thanks are also extended to the team of reviewers, editors and all those who offered time and supported to publish this work.