ABSTRACT

The term ‘violence’ refers to varied perceptions of unacceptable behaviour. The nature of the act suggests that it is inflicted by the superior over the inferior. Thus gender constitutes a significant factor of the study. The research identifies that women are subjected to gender based inequalities in different areas of life and ‘domestic environment’ is not an exception. ‘Domestic Violence’, a manifestation of gender inequality, is prevalent in many forms. The most common form of domestic violence is identified as ‘Intimate Partner Violence’ (IPV) by the national and international statistics.

The research is drawn upon the objective to understand the different factors that contribute to IPV and to critically examine the legal framework for the protection of women against IPV in India. Research adopts a human rights based approach to understand the inferior status of women drawn upon gender inequality and thus to critically examine the legal framework in India for protection of women against IPV.

The study is divided into five chapters which specifically analyses the status of women in the Indian society and the role of law to protect women in intimate relationships. Comparative study of UK and US laws with special reference to international instruments is conducted. Identifying the major drawback of law, the study proves that the existing legal framework is inadequate to protect women from ‘intimate partner violence’.

Key Words: Violence, Violence against Women, Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner and Intimate Partner Violence