

**STUDY ON**  
**READINESS OF STATE MECHANISM TO**  
**IMPLEMENT**  
**THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005**

(Project Period September 2007- February 2008)

Submitted by

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## **Chapter: Introduction**

### **Introduction**

Human Rights Watch, defines domestic violence as “intimate partner abuse,” “battering,” or “wife-beating,” refers to physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse that takes place in the context of an intimate relationship, including marriage. Domestic violence is one of the most common forms of gender-based violence and is often characterized by long-term patterns of abusive behaviour and control. According to a UNIFEM report it appears that nearly one out of every four women in the world may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.

Domestic Violence in fact has become a serious cause for concern especially in India. INCLEN (2000), found it as a problem that cuts across age, education, social class and religion in India. The same study is of the view that 40 percent women had experienced at least one form of physical violence in their married life.

Domestic violence is an extremely dangerous phenomenon which can lead to not only physical but emotional and mental trauma. Violence has significant harmful effects like unwanted pregnancy (Khan et al., 1996), gynecological disorders (Golding and Taylor 1996) and physical injuries to private parts (Starck et al., 1979) besides large-scale mental health impacts (UNICEF, 2000).

The violence is not limited to any specific socio-cultural profile. In fact it cuts across all boundaries making it an increasingly widespread act. According to NFHS 2, 21 per cent of ever-married women in India have been physically mistreated by their husbands, in-laws or other persons since age 15; 19 per cent have been beaten by their husbands and 11 per cent had been beaten in the 12 months prior to the study (IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000).

And perhaps the most disturbing part about the situation is the fact that it is increasing day by day. While National Crimes Records Bureau figures reveal an increase in reporting of gender-based violence from 31 per cent in 1995 to 45 per cent in 1999 (NCRB, 1995-99), evidence is also emerging from population-based surveys suggesting that between 21 to 48 per cent of women from different socio-cultural settings in India have experienced physical violence (INCLEN, 2000; Jejeebhoy, 1998b; Verma and Collumbien, 2003; Visaria, 1999b).

The event usually does not occur in isolation and becomes a repeated act. In a study of 4,005 women reporting physical violence, 63 per cent reported the experience more than three times (INCLEN, 2000).

Thirty seven percent of women Indian rural women have faced abuse and violence at home according to a new survey (survey 111) done by National Family Health body. They were found to be more vulnerable to violence due to lack of education. Rural women with no education are more easily violated by their spouses and in laws, but very few report this in public. However, it has been found that rural women with secondary or higher secondary education are also abused by their marital families more often, than those who are born and bred in urban areas and given less education.

Shifting focus to the state of Gujarat, it has been seen that the condition of women is worse as compared to the rest of the states. Reporting of crimes against women at home, or cruelty by husband and his relatives are high in Gujarat. (Visaria, 1999b)

As per Table I, it is clear that the crimes against women in Gujarat have been steadily increasing and that it is a significant portion of the national average.

A study conducted by a group of non-governmental organisations, "Saurashtra Kutch Network", on violence against women shows a rise in domestic violence against women in Gujarat in general and Saurashtra and Kutch in particular.

"The scale and seriousness of the issue of violence against women in our society is phenomenal where 40-60 per cent women have suffered from one or the other form of violence. In Gujarat, 89 per cent women in Saurashtra and Kutch regions reported undergoing violence. According to Pallavi Sobati, women's programme coordinator of Uththan, one of the NGOs of Saurashtra Kutch Network, "As opposed to what is being publicised these days, our experience at the field level shows that not only have crimes increased but the nature of domestic violence have become more complex and intensive,"

The introduction of section 498 A in the IPC paved the way for recognizing domestic violence as a specific criminal offence in India. This section deals with cruelty by a man or his family, towards a married woman.

After the passage of the PWDVA, India is one of the countries in the world which recognizes the right of the woman to live a life free from domestic violence.

Type of Offences	Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>As per sections of IPC</b>									
Rape (S.376)	Gujarat	331	330	249	262	230	339	336	363
	India	15468	16496	16075	16373	15847	18233		
Kidnapping and Abduction (S.363)	Gujarat	1074	868	731	697	739	905	863	881
	India	15962	15023	14645	14506	13296	15578		
Dowry Deaths (S. 304-B)	Gujarat	94	93	43	36	31	98	37	39
	India	6699	6995	6851	6822	6208	7026		
Cruelty by husband or relatives (S. 498-A)	Gujarat	3886	3739	3191	2866	3185	3965	3998	4898
	India	43823	45778	49170	49237	50703	58121		
Molestation (S.354)	Gujarat	1083	944	803	759	705	757	774	757
	India	32311	32940	34124	33943	32939	34567		
Sexual harassment (Eve-teasing) (S.509)	Gujarat	172	119	91	94	82	164	80	71
	India	8858	11024	9746	10155	12325	10001		
<b>Under Special Acts</b>									
Immoral Traffic (P) Act	Gujarat	40	47		57	74	33		
	India	9363	9515	8796	11242	5510	5748		
Indecent Representation of Women (P) Act	Gujarat				0	0	0		
	India	222	662	1052	2508	1043	1378		
Dowry Prohibition Act	Gujarat				1	0	0		
	India	3064	2876	3222	2816	2684	3592		

**Table I – Showing the crimes against women in the state of Gujarat vis-à-vis India.**

**Source - Crime Bureau; Men and Women in India 2004**

### **The campaign for PWDVA**

It is most striking to observe that matrimonial laws, whether hindu, muslim, Christian or parsi do not contain any declaration of right for the woman to reside in her matrimonial home. This is one of the major factors for women to be driven out and then blackmailed into agreeing to unfair settlements. Needless to say it makes the woman highly vulnerable and susceptible to manipulation.

Many a times a woman is forced to make a choice between returning to the violent home or a divorce by mutual consent giving up the right to matrimonial assets or even alimony altogether.

Alimony too is a bone of contention as it is dependent on the fact that she should not remarry and is quite miserly at times. It is worthwhile to note that a woman has the right to contest a divorce in cases where settlement cannot be reached. But this scenario involves cumbersome legal proceedings usually without any access to support systems and services.

The denial of right to residence therefore is a serious omission that not only violates a woman's basic right but also perpetrates a vicious cycle which can lead to abuse. The law on divorce has no answers for women who do not want a divorce but wish to end the violence.

Prosecution and possible conviction of the offender were the only remedies under criminal law dealing with domestic violence. Section 498 A has certain limitations like it does not protect women from non matrimonial relationships. It is also aimed at providing reliefs i.e. maintenance, shelter, custody etcetera. It does not allow a woman to go into settlements once the case is in the court. There is no chance for a woman to reconcile. There haven been instances where women have dropped charges in the hope of reconciliation and then are unable to file another complaint. The following limitations were prevalent before the PWDVA came into force :

- There was no definition of the term ‘domestic violence’ that comprehensively reflected a woman’s experience of violence in intimate relationships.
- There was no law to recognize a woman’s right to residence or her right to civil remedies.
- Legal reliefs for violence could only be availed of by women in matrimonial relationships.
- Reliefs under civil laws involved protracted legal proceedings without the guarantee of a satisfactory outcome.
- Criminal laws do not allow space for any negotiations.

Even these limited remedies were difficult to access as women rarely had the wherewithal to approach the court. Hence a mechanism to facilitate a woman’s access to courts was missing.<sup>1</sup>

A bill on domestic violence was collectively drafted by lawyers and activists in 1992 and was widely debated upon and circulated. In 1994, the National commission for women came out with their draft of the bill which was highly criticized.

The civil society largely felt that there was a pressing need for a law against domestic violence and were also vocal about the fact that the existing laws were inadequate. A nationwide consultation was held in 1999 and a copy of the law on domestic violence was

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<sup>1</sup> Staying Alive: A report published by Lawyer’s Collective.

formulated. It was then that the Government of India introduced a bill on domestic violence in the Lok Sabha titled as ‘The Protection of women from Domestic Violence Bill 2001’.

### **The rationale of the law**

The significant element in the PWDVA is that it recognizes a woman’s right to a violence free home and not just to entitlements and custody of children. As a result it provides for the right of the woman to reside in a violence free environment. This attitude gives immense strength to women and empowers them.

The law is also primarily civil in nature with some elements of the criminal legal system as well. After a lot of consultation the draft of the law prepared included the following elements.

- a. A clear declaration of the basic intent of the law, namely, the object of preventing domestic violence.
- b. A clear and unambiguous statement of the right to be free from domestic violence and the recognition of domestic violence as a violation of the human rights of women.
- c. The definition of domestic violence, which captures women’s experience of abuse with some degree of precision.
- d. The definition of the ‘shared household’ so that rights can be protected within that household.
- e. The relief that can be given to protect women from violence.
- f. The infrastructure available to victims of violence that can make the remedy accessible.<sup>2</sup>

The passage of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDV Act) heralded a landmark victory for the women’s movement in India. PWDVA is significant in nature because it recognizes a woman’s right to a violence free home. It also defines domestic violence comprehensively and recognizes a woman’s right to reside in the shared household. In addition it provides for reliefs that she is entitled to in cases of violation and lays down a mechanism to facilitate her access to justice. It also marks a paradigm shift as it is a civil law

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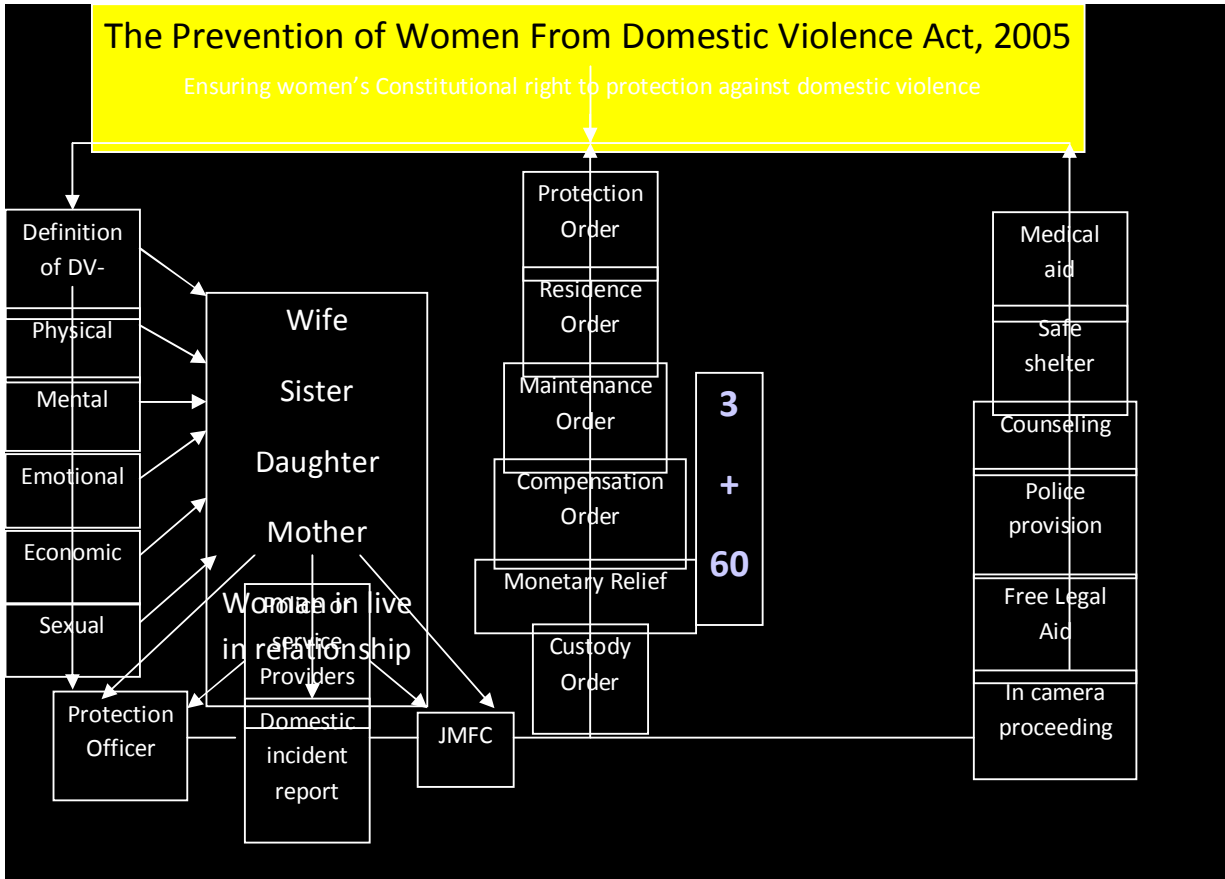
<sup>2</sup> Staying Alive: A report published by Lawyers Collective.



and directed towards ensuring provision of relief and compensation and is not punitive in nature.

It was with the incorporation of Convention of Elimination of Discrimination against Women (“CEDAW”) that the personal or private lives of women came into the public domain for access to justice. Laying emphasis on bringing the private lives of women under the purview of Human Rights it laid the foundation of “personal is political”. Taking cue, the Indian women’s movement, in the early years, raised its voice against dowry related harassment within the home. This resulted in the recognition of the offence of “cruelty” within marriages in the Indian Penal Code. This marked an important milestone in the history of women’s movement in India and the PWDVA is a significant step in the same direction.

**PWDVA AT A GLANCE**



## **Chapter: Methodology**

### **Introduction**

The study basically intends to focus on the implementation of the PWDVA 2005 in the state of Gujarat. Hence the scope of data collection geographically extends to all the districts of Gujarat. The sampling of various districts was done on the basis of convenience with respect to access to organizations working with women or on legal reforms. Hence for the study the first step was to collect data from the experiences of its field units in the following district centres- Dang, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari, Kutch and Amreli. This has also helped in capturing the interventions made by CSJ to use the PWDVA so that women get better access to justice.

Data collection from other districts was done with the help of the existing network of organizations known to CSJ. Primarily the study does not cover all the districts of Gujarat extensively even though the sample of districts is intended to be diverse. The following districts were selected for the purpose of collecting data with respect to domestic violence and assessment of mechanisms provided by the state:

Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Bharuch, Baroda, Surat, Sabakantha, Banaskantha, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Panchmahal, Anand, Navsari, Surendranagar, Kutch, Patan, Nadiad.

### **Objectives of the study:**

- To study the extent of implementation of the PWDV Act, 2005 and analyse the existing situation
- To find out if the machinery/infrastructure and service providers have been constituted as per the PWDV act
- To find out the level of awareness regarding the PWDV act among the lawyers, Probation Officers, magistrates, police etcetera.
- To find out the problems faced by women while filing cases under the PWDV act
- To determine the budgetary allocation for the PWDV act and the trend for the same.

### **Rationale for chosen methodology**

The methodology used for the study was basically qualitative in nature. This approach helps in a better understanding of the reasons or factors that have an impact on the implementation of the Act in the state through illustrations (case studies and interviews) as well as the attitude of various stakeholders.

At the same time information is also gathered through filing of RTI in different districts of Gujarat. Data from different districts regarding number of cases filed under PWDVA; details of Protection Officers, Service Providers; details of training provided to police, protection officers, service providers, judges etc has been asked to know the efforts made by the state in a concrete manner. Through RTI applications one has also tried to get data on the budget allocation for the implementation of the Act in the state.

Further simply statistics about how many cases filed under the PWDVA will not be sufficient enough to determine the status of implementation the Act in Gujarat state and the incidence of domestic violence being reported.

The combination of the above mentioned methods will be able to capture a wholesome picture of the status of women facing violence in Gujarat, existing legal mechanisms and its effectiveness, attitude of various stakeholders towards the concept of domestic violence and the readiness of the state to provide effective infrastructure to implement the PWDVA 2005.

## **Process**

The process of data collection passed through two phases. The first phase was carried out systematically from October to December 2007. This process of data collection was carried out extensively in most of the previously mentioned districts. Drafts of guidelines for in-depth interviews and RTI application was prepared and then reviewed by the advisory body after which the members of field units of CSJ as well as staff in Ahmedabad actively participated in collecting data.

In the second phase an attempt was made to have an in-depth understanding by focusing on the attitude of various mechanisms like the Protection Officers, Judges, Lawyers and members of organizations working with women who face domestic violence towards the Act. Data collection for the same was done in from June to August 2008 and few more districts were accessed. However the sample for this was relatively smaller since the objective was to enhance the existing data. It was also important to get the larger picture by talking to lawyers

who are not associated with any NGO, judges and protection officers so as to understand their mentality and sensitivity towards the PWDVA. This is necessary to understand the reality with the help of mixed responses.

### **Tools for data collection**

#### **In-depth interviews**

In-depth interviews were conducted with lawyers, judges, protection officers, service providers, women facing domestic violence and the police. A structured interview guide was prepared for the first phase of data collection on the basis of which interviews were conducted with different stakeholders in the field. In the second phase the interviews were based on a guideline basically aimed at having a free flowing conversation with different stakeholders aimed at capturing their attitude towards the PWDVA as the mechanism functions. The interviews captured data regarding different stakeholders understanding of PWDVA, their experiences, comments and recommendations.

#### **Filing of Right to Information (RTI)**

Filing of RTI was done in order to know the extent of work done by the state to implement the act effectively and the status of the existing mechanism in place. A proper format for the RTI was prepared which had various questions concerning all the districts of Gujarat. RTIs were filed in both the phases of data collection. The information provided through filing of RTIs also shows the degree of responsiveness of the state towards the issue of domestic violence against women.

#### **Case papers of women facing domestic violence**

The records of case papers of women facing domestic violence was referred in order to know how the cases of each complainant has progressed and the problems of delay in court proceedings etc. Reference to case papers along with interviews with the lawyers has helped in understanding the reasons in improper implementation of the PWDVA.

#### **Focus group discussions**

Focus group discussions were conducted with lawyers who had filed cases under the Act who may or may not be part of an NGO in the second phase of data collection. This helped in getting a comprehensive picture of different views held by lawyers and their experiences.

## **Scope and Limitations**

The scope of the study is obviously wide. The findings of the study can be used for advocacy at state as well as national level. It will also help in identifying the lacunae and gaps in implementation of the PWDV act and can lead to better functioning and availability of services for the same.

The study is limited in the sense that it focuses only on the state of Gujarat and is therefore limited due to its geographical context. Also since it was a strictly time bound study so there are bound to be some facts and findings which are beyond the scope of the present study.

## **Chapter: Analysis and findings**

### **HYPOTHESIS:**

1. The existing mechanism is inaccessible to the victims
2. The Protection Officers are not competent to deal with cases of domestic violence
3. The cases are not disposed within 60 days as per the procedure established by the law
4. The PO are not informed about their role under DVA
5. The Protection Officer and Police are not sensitive to the issue of Domestic violence

6. The State Government has done nothing for sensitization and capacity building of the PO, Police, and other stakeholders
7. No due publicity of the Act was done by the State Government
8. No efforts have been made by the State Government to sensitize people and change the attitude of the society
9. The service providers and medical services are not notified
10. There is no adequate infrastructure and human resource for the execution of the Act
11. There is no adequate rehabilitation mechanism for the victim including her physical and mental rehabilitation
12. There is a lack of co-ordination and collaboration between PO, Police, Judges, Legal Services Authority, Shelter Homes and Children's Home and local organizations (NGOs and CBOs)

#### **Assessment of existing mechanism put in place for implementation of PWDVA:**

##### **Protection Officers**

The Protection officer has an extremely central role to play under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The Protection officers act as first level information officers for the victim and also conduct investigation crucial to the case. According to the Act, a Protection Officer works under the supervision of the court and is vested with the responsibility of facilitating an aggrieved woman's access to the court and assisting the court in discharging its functions. By a GR titled GS 1-2007-MHY-102006-2671-A, the already pre existing District Social Security Officer in Gujarat have been given charge of Protection Officer in 23 districts and the district dowry prevention officer in 4 districts. This has lead to the following problems:

- Due to the multitude of duties and charge assigned to a Protection officer, he is **not able to give adequate time and attention** to the victims and cases of domestic violence. For example the Protection Officer of Kheda district has been given the following responsibilities: District Social Defence Officer, Child Marriage Prevention Officer, Minority welfare board manager and Protection officer. This leads to utter chaos and leaves the PO with no time to attend to the work pertaining to PWDVA. In

the words of the PO of Kheda district, “I hardly ever have time for discharging my duties towards the act. Even with the PWDVA, most of my time goes in attending court cases or in serving notices and am not available for the victims who come with fresh complaints.”<sup>3</sup>

- Also **one district is too huge to be managed by one single officer**. The staff strength has also not been increased in the office of the Social defence officer since the 1970’s. Over the years the number of schemes to be handled by the department has steadily increased but the department remains grossly understaffed. Therefore the PO is unable to discharge his duties properly and has to neglect certain areas or victims. In addition the victims also cannot contact the PO as and when required. <sup>4</sup>The unavailability of the PO can also lead to the harassment of the victim. The PO has to virtually shuttle between attending cases in various taluka/district courts and sitting in his office to receive cases.<sup>5</sup>This leads to the PO not being physically present in his office to receive complaints and therefore this defeats the whole purpose of the act. For example: In the case of Ahmedabad, where we tried to contact the P.O. Ms Sonalben, despite five attempts, we were not able to get her appointment. On one of our visits we found that she had given appointment to the victims and was herself absent. Her personal assistant did not have any idea about the whereabouts of the PO or her next available date. We were told that Sonalben is very busy and she has to take charge of 7 districts as the Dowry Prohibition Officer.
- Most of the offices of the Protection officer are **centered in urban locations**. This makes it extremely difficult for women from rural areas to approach and contact the Protection Officer and visit them periodically. Their accessibility to the PO thus gets severely affected and also inhibits the usage of the PWDVA.

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<sup>3</sup> As per an interview held with Mr. A. Dave, PO of Kheda district, on 07.08.2008.

<sup>4</sup> As per the interview with Mr. A Dave he stated that his office is grossly understaffed and there are times when he does not have time to even Xerox court papers and then the work remains pending.

<sup>5</sup> The PO of Patan district, Mr Parmar, said that there are only two people in his office that is Junior Clerk and P.O. and that he has to travel throughout the district and so is rarely present in his office for the victims of domestic violence.



- Also most of the offices of the PO **do not have separate cabins** where the women can register her complaint. This leads to lack of privacy and also acts as a deterrent for the women towards filing her case under the DV Act.
- **Lack of training:** The protection officers have not received adequate training on domestic violence. The Gender Resource Centre did conduct 3 day workshop with the Protection Officers. In the words of a PO<sup>6</sup> the workshop conducted by the GRC, did not solve much purpose. The lady who was conducting the workshop said that if a Case has been filed in 125 CrPC, it cannot be filed again under PWDVA. Whereas on the other hand the act clearly mentions that the aggrieved is entitled to relief other than the proceedings of the PWDVA.<sup>7</sup> The PO felt that he knew much more than the trainers of the workshop.

## Shelter homes

Most of the shelter homes in different districts of Gujarat are not sufficient enough. From the information received through the RTI filed in August 2008, out of 15 districts 10 have shelter homes for victims under the Domestic Violence Act. But it is important to see that out of these 10 districts all the 9 districts have just one shelter home for the entire district. Surendranagar is the only district where there are three shelter homes. At the same time proper information regarding their function is not available. For example, the shelter home in Vadodara has a capacity of 100 and a budget of Rs. 30 lakhs. But there is no information provided regarding the current number of victims residing. The PO of Patan district said that nobody is referred to the shelter home. In Patan district the shelter home does not open on certain days, this may cause lot of inconvenience to the victims.

The following table shows data available from RTI filed in August 2008 regarding shelter homes in Gujarat:

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<sup>6</sup> Mr A Dave from Kheda district

<sup>7</sup> The Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Section 30 (Chapter 30) Relief in other suits and legal proceedings.

<b>S. no.</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Address of Shelter home</b>	<b>Name of coordinator</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Currently number of victims</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1	Dahod	nil	Nil	nil	nil	nil
2	Kheda=Nadiad	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
3	Porbander	Sheeshumangal, in front of collector's bungalow, bilkha rd, junagadh	meenakshiben jani	nil	5	No answer
4	Narmada	nil	nil	nil	nil	Nil
5	Mehsana	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
6	Rajkot	Shri Kanta Stree Vikas Grah, Dhebar Rd, Rajkot	Sushilaben Seth	nil	nil	nil
7	Vadodara	Nari Sanrakshan Grah, Nizampura, Vadodara	Umaben Parekh	100	nil	30 lakhs
8	Banaskantha	Nari Sanrakshan Kendra, Soneria Bagla Dairy Road, Palanpur	Geetaben Vyas	40	25	5.30 Lakhs
9	Amreli	Vikas Grah,	Prabhaben	80	45	361463

		Manekpura	Pandya			
10	Surendranagar	Vikas Vridhyalaya, Vadhvan  Shri Pancholi Pragati Grah Halvadh  Nari Kendra, Surendranagar	Ushaben Bhekwan	100	No answer	No answer
11	Sabarkantha	Nari Sanrakshan Kendra, Parbada Road, himmatnagar	M N Patel	50	12	10 lakhs
12	Bhavnagar	Nari Sanstha		40	6	
13	Patan	Nari Sanrakshan Kendra, Kansadadar Vaja, Patan	Yaminiben Desai	20	9	No answer
14	Panchmahal	Nari Sanrakshan Kendra, Patthar Talawdi Road, Ankleshwar Mahadev Road, MPT, Godhra, ph no: 241409	Pallaviben R Pandya	40	25	In 2008=09 budget is 5 lakhs

15	Dang	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
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The fact that there is only **one shelter home in each district** is grossly inadequate. This way the shelter homes will not be available to serve the function that they are required to.

The PO of Baroda, Ms Surekha ben **did not know the address of the Protection Home**. This is despite the fact that the PO is mandated to refer the victim to the shelter home. And in addition, Surekha Ben is known to be committed and sensitive to the issue of violence against women. The fact that she herself does not know the address of the shelter home is highly disappointing and speaks volumes about the sorry state of affairs.

### **Service Provider**

Of all the districts that were visited, **not even one NGO has been identified as a service provider**. Except for Nadiad where an NGO has approached the PO for being constituted as a service provider. Even medical services have not been notified in the districts covered by the study. This lack of service providers is having an adverse effect on the victims of domestic violence. There are times when the victim needs counselling and/or help in matters like going to the Protection Officer and approaching the magistrate. Lack of service providers **obstructs the victim's access to all these services**.

The involvement of the civil society is highly crucial for an act like domestic violence. Since it requires that stigmas and social attitudes be challenged therefore the civil society acts as a support system. State sponsored GRC (Gender Resource Centre) has also highlighted the fact that partnership between NGO's and Government Organizations is instrumental to the implementation of DV Act and that this relationship should be at par so as to work in a better way.<sup>8</sup>

### **Medical services**

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<sup>8</sup> As per the report titled, "Workshop on- Implementation of Domestic Violence Act – Awareness, Implications and Mechanisms"

Medical services as per the requirement of the Act are **not designated and notified yet**<sup>9</sup>. Yet when the PO were interviewed, they said that they do refer victims for medical aid, some times even in Government vehicle. There is a de facto usage of the public health system where as formally, the medical services have not been notified yet.

### **Concerns regarding implementation of the PWDVA:**

#### **Role and Attitude of other stakeholders:**

##### **Protection Officer**

- From the experiences of workers of field units of CSJ it is often seen that the Protection Officer does not respond to the applications on time. This creates problems in the first step of filing the case and getting the DIR written. For instance in most of the cases the Protection Officer usually takes at least a month before the investigation report is presented. For example, in Dang district Lalitaben had to go to the Protection Officer's office 2 to 3 times as she was always sent back since the PO was on leave for 10 to 15 days and once he told her that he did not want her to file her case and sent her back. Lalitaben stays 25 kms away from Ahwa and hence it becomes difficult for her to commute every day<sup>10</sup>. This shows that the applicant is harassed from both the sides- the husband and the judiciary.
- In another case where workers from ANANDI in Panchmahal intervened to file a case of domestic violence on behalf of a woman after a serious incident of injury, the Protection Officer with great difficulty wrote the DIR<sup>11</sup>. The woman was sent to Nari Kendra. After two months when the workers approached the PO again, he said that go to the police and write an FIR even though the DIR was already recorded 2 months earlier. This shows that the Protection Officer is not well versed with the law and is

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<sup>9</sup> Information received through filing of RTI in August 2008. All the districts provide nil information and in fact the district of Amreli provided a list of civil hospitals and PHCs in the district.

<sup>10</sup> Through an interview with Suresh Konkani, an advocate working at CSJ's Dang district centre. Lalitaben had approached the centre for help in January 2008.

<sup>11</sup> From an interview with Seema from ANANDI at Godhra.

not clear about his roles and responsibilities. Also the implementing authorities are not functioning in a responsible manner by officers shifting the burden on each other.

- DIR format is not followed properly. Only after insistence the judges and PO agree to follow it.
- In a case in Baroda of Hazra, the Protection Officer told her to send the notice herself<sup>12</sup>.
- According to members of the field unit of CSJ, Palanpur in Banaskantha district, the availability of the PO is a concern. Once the unit member<sup>13</sup> called up the PO before leaving saying that she will reach his office in 10 minutes with the victim. But the PO immediately left office within a few minutes without informing her about his intention to leave the office.
- The Protection Officer of Baroda, Surekhaben Bhoya explains one of her experiences where the police have been insensitive and uncooperative. In one of her cases, the Court had passed protection order and residential order. The PO was ordered to immediately arrange for the safe arrival of the victim to her matrimonial home on the same day. She was taken aback when the in-laws of the victim refused entry even though the PO accompanied her. She reported about this to the police. But on the next day, the police despite making report against the accused, made an adverse report against the PO that she did not comply with the Court's order deliberately. Now, the protection officer herself is facing charge of deliberately avoiding her duty. She has to appear before the Court to rebut the charges leveled against her.
- The PO of Dahod feels that most of the women remarry and accuse previous husband that they should provide them relief under the PWDVA<sup>14</sup>. He also feels that women should not file their cases under 498A and the PWDVA. Even though the PO holds these views it is important to note that he played an important role in dismissing a case of domestic violence in Baria court filed on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in 4 days. The NGO

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<sup>12</sup> From an interview with Hazra conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Baroda.

<sup>13</sup> A paralegal Asha who handles preliminary visits related to DV cases.

<sup>14</sup> From a telephonic interview with M J Patel, Protection Officer, Dahod on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

ANANDI working in the area says that the assistance of the PO has been a big impact on the quick disposal of the case which was decided in favour of the woman<sup>15</sup>.

- ❑ Social security officer is an administrative officer and not given any training except one three day awareness training on DVA conducted by Gender Resource Centre. Also, this is a transferable post. So may happen that the person who got the training gets transferred and the replacement may not have the orientation.
- ❑ No training is given so as to raise their competency in handling such cases including counseling expertise During the interviews, many of the Protection Officers showed ignorance about their role. The awareness about the role of acting as a referral agency was not known to many P.O.s.

One of the P.Os , when asked about whether he informs the victim of her right to free legal aid, responded that so far there has been no need. This shows clearly that the victim is not looked at in the frame work of some one who has been denied justice. Most of the P.Os interviewed said they try to counsel the woman. While the Act envisages that the woman should be counseled with the objective of trauma relief and psychological rehabilitation, in practice, the counseling is about why the woman should go back home and adjust. Another PO did not know the address of the shelter home.

#### **1. THE CASES ARE NOT DISPOSED WITHIN 60 DAYS AS PER THE PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED BY THE LAW**

This information was asked under the RTI how ever, the replies were inadequate and do not clearly show whether the notices have been served or cases disposed off within the required time period or not. How ever practical experience of handling such cases shows that unless pressure is put, courts are not bothered.

#### **A case of Corruption:**

The Ahmedabad Protection Officer was found guilty of taking a bribe from a complainant of domestic violence.

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<sup>15</sup> This case was of a widow living with her in-laws in Dahod who was facing violence from her brother-in-law for a long time. She came in touch with ANANDI through Lok Adhikar Kendra (LAK) of the organization. The women of LAK directly approached the PO with her case in order to get a residence order.

Excerpt from Divya Bhaskar (dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008), Ahmedabad:

The case of Ahmedabad Dowry Prevention Officer caught taking bribe has been put in the court. Sonal Praveenbhai Rawal was caught taking bribe of Rs. 1500 by the Anti Corruption Bureau.

Nasir Khan's sister Mumtaz bibi's in-laws were demanding dowry from her and harassed her physically as well as mentally. In 2004, Mumtaz bibi's in-laws had thrown her out of the house on the issue of dowry. Her brother had thus spoken to Sonal Rawal and it was decided that a case will be filed in the court against Mumtaz bibi's in-laws. But the Protection Officer delayed the writing of the complaint even after repeated requests. Finally the Protection officer demanded Rs.3000 to file the case in the court. After some negotiation, Rs.1500 was settled as the amount. In the meantime, Nasir bhai went to Ahmedabad Anti Corruption Bureau and on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008 the Protection Officer was caught red handed while taking the bribe of Rs.1500 from him.

The ACB has called Sonal Rawal on Friday to the Additional sessions judge R. H. Sharma. According to the judgement the P.O. will be released only on a bail of Rs. 10000.

Interview with Meena ben of Dastak:

The Protection Officer Sonal Rawal had a reputation of not entertaining women from a poor background and only responded to women from affluent families properly. She also took up a lot of time in counselling which delayed any kind of quick legal action. Because of this bias towards women from a particular section of the society and the constant delay in taking any kind of action, many members of NGOs like Dastak, Action Aid and others working for women facing domestic violence were fed up of the attitude of the Protection Officer. It was also a known fact that Sonal Rawal had asked for money from complainants on many occasions.

Eventually when a case where the mother of a women suffering from domestic violence was insulted seriously by the Protection Officer, that the organisations like Dastak decided to take some serious action.

A plot was planned wherein the ACB was informed and the Protection Officer was caught taking bribe from the brother of a complainant. It was also important that this incident is



reported in the newspapers but that process itself was very difficult because the Protection Officer was well connected with local media and finally the story was printed in Divya Bhaskar.

Sonal Rawal had done her master's in social work from Gujarat Vidyapeeth and had work experience with Meena ben at Vikas as a fieldworker.

### **Service Providers**

Also in question is the **mentality of the supervisors** in shelter homes.

- For example, the superintendent at the Nari Kendra in Godhra says that women in the Nari Kendra are those who just run away from their homes as there is no serious injury that they suffer from. Most of them according to her are unmarried mothers and women who run away with other women<sup>16</sup>. The superintendent should not judge the women according to their personal decisions or 'character', rather it is important that the women who come to the Nari Kendra get proper access to facilities and also counselling services.
- The Superintendent goes on to say that largely women file cases for money and women are often at fault as they don't want decisions to come out of court. In the interview it was also noted that she hardly acknowledged her duty of counselling the women who come to Nari Kendra.

During the time of the interview, there were no women in the Nari Kendra whose case was filed under the PWDVA.

### **Judges**

The role of the judge becomes very important during the hearing of a case of domestic violence. The judge's awareness about the Act and his attitude towards the victim play a very crucial role in proper disposal of a case. Some of the points that emerged from our data collection regarding judges are the following:

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<sup>16</sup> From an interview with Pallavi Pandya, Superintendent, Nari Kendra, Godhra on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

- One of the lawyers from CSJ's field unit in Bharuch observed that only one judge had the BARE Act copy of the PWDVA and not others. This clearly shows that some of the judges do not even have access to the copy of the Act and hence are not aware about its provisions<sup>17</sup>.
- A judge in Baria, Panchmahal told a worker from ANANDI to leave the court room because she was not the aggrieved person and she did not have a problem. But when the applicant was left on her own she was not able to say anything<sup>18</sup>. This harsh attitude of the judge intimidated the victim which had a serious impact on her to be able to defend herself.
- One judge in Panchmahal told a complainant that it is Saturday/ Sunday and so do not waste my time and don't come to my house<sup>19</sup>. This makes harder for a victim to access the infrastructure put in place.
- A judge in Baroda in the case of Hazra said that if the case is filed by the woman under 498A then again filing a case under the DV act is not acceptable<sup>20</sup>. This completely contradicts the provisions under the PWDVA.
- A magistrate from Patan district said that the PWDVA is not completely enforceable and effective. It is not practically possible and that the provisions under 125 CrPc and 498 A if corrected will be much more effective<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> From data collected during December 2007 through an interview with Maqbool bhai. This came out from his first experience with a Domestic Violence case.

<sup>18</sup> From an interview with Seema from ANANDI on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008. Seema had accompanied the woman to the court herself.

<sup>19</sup> From an interview with Seema from ANANDI. The field workers of the organization urgently approached the judge for a domestic violence case as the PO was unavailable.

<sup>20</sup> From the experience of Hazra. The Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Section 30 (Chapter 30) Relief in other suits and legal proceedings clearly mentions that cases can also be filed under other Acts such as 498A, 125 CrPC simultaneously.

- A lawyer from the field unit of CSJ in Sabarkantha says that judges often tell lawyers to send the notice rather than the police who's responsibility it actually is. This came out from his experience of handling three cases of domestic in Khedbrahma.
- According to the experience of a lawyer from the field unit of CSJ in Sabarkantha district, a judge said that PWDVA is a hi-fi Act and should be used in metros and not even in cities like Ahmedabad<sup>22</sup>.
- Judges keep pointing out the mistakes in drafting of the application which delays the procedure<sup>23</sup>.
- Sometimes both the judge and the PO push for a compromise between the two parties in order to dispose the case within 60 days.

Besides the above examples of negative experiences with judges there are also examples where the judges have been extremely cooperative and sensitive towards the proper implementation of the PWDVA:

- Example of a judge in Halol, Panchmahal-The judge gave a very good response after workers from ANANDI could not get in touch with the PO because he was at Bharuch because of elections and told the victim to wait for two days. The judge had a good relationship with workers from ANANDI because he had attended trainings organised by the NGO in a village for women and was present as a speaker to assure women that they will get easier access to justice<sup>24</sup>.
- The field unit of CSJ in Palanpur too has had fairly good experience with judges dealing with cases under the PWDVA<sup>25</sup>. In fact the judges at the court in Palanpur are fully aware of the Act. One of the judges that we spoke to commented on the

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<sup>22</sup> From an interview conducted with the lawyer at Ider on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

<sup>23</sup> From the experience of lawyers in the field units of Sabarkantha at the Himmatnagar Court.

<sup>24</sup> From an interview with Mahendra from ANANDI at Godhra on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008.

<sup>25</sup> Through interviews with field unit members and nature of success seen in DV cases handled by the centre.

provision of the residential order under the PWDVA. He said that this order is harsh as women are then forced to live in the same house with the violator<sup>26</sup>.

## Lawyers

The negative attitude of the lawyers towards the PWDVA is highly impeding to the widespread use of this act. It was found out during the study that most of the lawyers had extremely negative attitudes regarding the PWDVA. They are listed below:

- 60% of the **lawyers interviewed felt that the act is incomplete (need to refer to data)**. The provisions do not match the IPC and CrPC. Also the civil and criminal portions are clashing and should be clearly separated.
- The most common opinion is that **women are misusing the act** and are using it as a weapon against their husband and in-laws. According to most of the lawyers interviewed (excluding lawyers from field units of CSJ) 98% of the cases are false and are filed only to unnecessarily harass the husband on very trivial matters.<sup>27</sup>
- In the words of an Assistant Public Prosecutor, since the time frame of the act is 60 days and the opponent has to come again and again, this therefore leads to **harassment of the opposition** and that is why women prefer it.<sup>28</sup>
- When asked how do you decide whether 498 A or 125 CrPC or PWDVA will be used, a lawyer said that they will do face reading and tell which Act is to be used. He also added that **educated women from cities and NGO's are the main culprits** and that they encourage women to file cases thereby destroying homes.
- According to a highly respected woman lawyer from Patan, "Implementation of the act will be **bad for the society**. It will perpetrate a culture of men and women living together without / before marriage." She also said that this **Act is like RDX for males**.

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<sup>26</sup> Interview with M A Kadiwala, Judge Palanpur on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

<sup>27</sup> Interviews held with lawyers from Surendranagar district.

<sup>28</sup> According to an interview with Mr. B.M Thakur, Assistant Public Prosecutor, Patan

There is no need for more acts for women. Real people who need this Act don't file cases at all and the misuse of this Act should be prevented. There should be a penalty for all the cases which have not been proved. Whatever the victim says should not be taken for granted. Interestingly she made this comment in the presence of other male lawyers who were objecting to her statements saying that the PWDVA is actually beneficial for women and there is hardly any scope for misuse. It is also worthwhile to note that she is affiliated to rotary club and lions club and has also led demonstrations for women's rights in Patan district.<sup>29</sup>

- An independent lawyer from Himmatnagar who has been practising since 22 years and specializes in matrimonial cases says that 498A should be for men too. He has filed 6-7 cases under PWDVA. He says that problem comes while filing the complaint. There is delay as PO takes time in preparing the report. He also feels that the procedure is long and needs to be speedier<sup>30</sup>.
- According to a lawyer in the field unit of Sabarkantha some lawyers also feel that the existing PO is not actually authorised under the PWDVA in Gujarat to handle the DV cases as they are Social Defence Officers and hence they start questioning the PO's role.

## **Police**

The police have often not been cooperative with women in registering their complaints even though most of them are aware about the PWDVA and are supposed to record the DIRs. The police in Panchmahal after writing the FIR told **the woman to laminate it and put it around her neck**. An FIR had to be filed because there was no provision of writing a DIR at the police station<sup>31</sup>.

## **5. THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE NOTHING FOR SENSITIZATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE PO, POLICE, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

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<sup>29</sup> Interview with Ms Sandhya, advocate from Patan district.

<sup>30</sup> Interview with Siraj Khan Pathan at the Himmatnagar court on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

<sup>31</sup> From the experiences of Seema, ANANDI at Godhra.

More often than not, the judges, the protection officers and the police as well as the lawyers are unaware of the Act. In the Districts of Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Bharuch, Amreli, the first case filed under the Act has been part of the action research. We had to produce copies of the Bare Act for the use of the judges. When the lawyers, the key stake holder in the implementation were interviewed, there awareness levels varied from no knowledge at all to partial knowledge. Most lawyers opined that even the judges are not fully aware of the provisions of the Act. Most lawyers were also of the opinion that the judges do not handle the cases sensitively.

In an interview, one judge of Baroda openly said that the Act has the potential for misuse by women and is too women friendly. He was of the opinion that the cases ultimately result in compromise and hence are dismissed. This shows ignorance about the purpose of the law. Unlike other criminal provisions, this law is of a civil nature. It provides of counseling, conciliation as well as emergency relief. Dismissing the entire effort by saying the cases get compromised shows ignorance about all this.

Many judges stated that this Act is a family breaker, anti men and prone to misuse by women. One judge also said that most cases are vexatious and filed with an intention to harass and as a defense to save your own faults.

One of the judges interviewed, Ms Pinto, admitted that she could not do justice to two cases because she was unaware of the law and was over burdened and could not read the same on her own.

One magistrate when interviewed in Dang said that because the PO is not well informed about their role, it becomes impossible to do justice to the victim. Without the preliminary inquiry, it is impossible to pass even an interim order.

There is no information available regarding the number of cases filed by the police department. Under the RTI application filed, they earlier said that they are not bound to give the information and later said that they have not maintained the same. In the case of Sunita, she was made to wait for five hours before giving her the form that is required to be filled under the Act.

○ **NO DUE PUBLICITY OF THE ACT WAS DONE BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT**

None of the offices of the Legal Services Authorities that we inquired had any awareness material

about the Act. LSA is the key functionary entrusted with the role of the public legal awareness. We have not received any response to the RTI application regarding the steps taken for publicity of the Act.

Under RTI, it was found out that the Ahmedabad LSA had done 10 camps on womens rights but none of them covered DVA. Similarly, in Bhavnagar, there were 90 camps organized but none of them on DVA. Interestingly, more often than not, the money for camos is given either be senior advocates or by social organizations. What happens to the money to be spent for legal awareness is any ones guess. Amreli LSA informed that there is no fund allocation for awareness camps on DVA.

The Act provides of ex parte order to hasten proceedings. In practice, most cases are pending for period beyond 60 days due to non service of notices.

Similarly, protection orders can be issues by judges despite the fact that there is a compromise. This will ensure that the victim is not harassed after the compromise. However, this is not done.

The findings are thus presented in a nutshell alongside the provisions of the PWDVA as follows :

**Key findings vis a vis provisions of DVA**

- S. 5 Duties of Protection Officer, Police, Service Providers and Magistrate- they shall inform the aggrieved person- of her right to make an application for relives provided under the Act of the availability of services of service providers, protection officers, legal services authority and right to file FIR under 498A, IPC

- There is no record as to how many cases are registered under DVA by Police. (in reply to the RTI application the authorities first replied that it is not within their domain and later intimated that this information is not meant for public)
  - The Interviews with POs and case studies indicate that normally the Police don't register a complaint under DVA and force victims to register a simple complaint and maximum they would lodge an FIR under 498A of IPC (e.g. Sheetalben's case, Sabarkatha; Alka's case, Bharuch; Jagrutiben's case, Sanan Ahmedabad etc.)
- S. 8 Appointment of Protection Officer- (1) the state Govt. shall appoint **such number of PO** in each district as it may consider **necessary** and shall also notify the area within which a PO shall exercise its Jurisdiction.
    - As per a Government Notification No. GS-1-2007-MHY-102006-2671-A District Social Defense Officer has given additional charge as PO in all the districts except Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot, where Dowry Prevention Officer are given additional charge of PO .
    - The POs themselves said that they are overburdened with their pre occupation (e.g. PO Amreli has delegated his powers to his Personal Assistant, PO Ahmedabad and Baroda have given charge of 5 districts as Dowry Prevention Officer etc.)
  - S.8 (2) the PO shall as far as possible be a woman and possess such qualifications and experience read with DV Rules 2006 which provides that only persons with minimum three years experience in social sector shall be appointed PO
    - There are only five women PO in the whole State (as per the information received in reply to RTI Application and from Gender Resource Centre)
    - Further to note that the District Social Defense Officer is not trained in dealing with cases of violence against women. Precisely, only 5 POs have some experience in cases of VAW



- S.9 Duties of PO- to assist the Magistrate in the discharge of his function under this Act
  - The only duty which they perform is to forward a copy of complaint to the JMFC and very few POs like PO Baroda who visits Court on the date of hearing and that is too not always (based on interviews of POs, Lawyers and Judges and case studies)
- S. 9 (1)(b) to make a domestic incident report to the Magistrate and to forward copies of the same to the Police Officer of the concerned Police Station and to the Service Providers
  - The Protection Officer normally doesn't conduct any enquiry in to the incident before making a domestic incident report and also doesn't forward copies to police officer of the concerned police station (based on the interviews of the Protection Officer and Lawyers)
- S. 9 (1)(d)(f)(g) to ensure that the aggrieved person is provided legal aid and make available free of cost the prescribed form in which a complaint is to be made; to make available safe shelter home and to get the aggrieved person medically examined
  - Even the PO doesn't ask for legal aid, shelter and medical needs (based on the case studies) and the PO does not give the prescribed form very easily (as found in Sunita's case, where Ahmedabad PO kept her waiting for the form for more than 5 hours)
- S. 11 Duties of Government- wide publicity; periodic sensitization to Police and Judiciary.
  - As per the information received under RTI Act, no sensitization trainings are given to Police and Judiciary
  - Only POs have given awareness training only and not as to how to use the Act and other procedural aspects of the Act, that is too not on a periodic basis.
  - No follow up of the awareness trainings is done so far.

- From 2006 to till date the Ahmedabad Legal Services Authority has done around 10 awareness camps on women related issues but none of the camps were done on DVA, similarly Bhavnagar LSA had organized more than 90 camps on women related issues but not a single one on DVA Further, Amreli LSA replied us that there is no fund allocated for awareness on DVA
- S. 12 (1) Application to the Magistrate- ... provided that before passing any order on the application of DV, the Magistrate shall take in to consideration any Domestic Incident Report
  - Since no enquiry was done before making a domestic incident report resulting in to low quality domestic incident report impacts the quality of the case during trial before a Magistrate (based on interviews of PO and lawyers and case studies
- S. 12 (4) the Magistrate shall fix first date of hearing, which shall not be ordinarily beyond three days from the date of receipt of the application by the court
  - RTI data with respect to the date of receipt of application and first hearing are not available but on the basis of the interviews of Protection Officers, Lawyers and Judges and case studies: it can be concluded that this does not happen even Judges themselves said that since they are pre occupied in pending cases implementation of this provision is not practicable meaning thereby it is not complied with
- S. 12(5) the Magistrate shall endeavor to dispose of every Application within a period of 60 days from the first date of hearing

RTI data with respect to the date of receipt of application and first hearing are not available so it is difficult to conclude but on the basis of the interviews of Protection Officers, Lawyers and Judges and case studies: it can be concluded that this does not happen even Judges themselves said that since they are pre occupied in pending cases implementation of this provision is not practicable meaning thereby it is not complied with

- S. 14 **Counseling**: the Magistrate may at any stage... direct either or both the parties to undergo counseling. Further Rules provides for appointment Counselor in every shelter home
  - The process of appointment of counselors is not stated in most of the shelter homes (based on the interviews of Protection Officers and visits to shelter homes.)
  - In some cases it was found that the Protection officers themselves are engaged in counseling which is in fact unwarranted under the Act. E.g. PO Banaskatha who engages in counseling and conduct 2-3 rounds of counseling which takes 3-4 days.
- S. 15 Assistance of welfare expert- the magistrate may secure the services of such person, preferably a woman... including person engaged in promoting family welfare, for the purpose of assisting him in discharging his functions. Also, DV RULES makes provision for the appointment of welfare experts by the State Government.
  - No process of appointment of welfare experts has started so far.
- S. 16 proceedings to be held in camera- if the magistrate considers that the circumstances of the case so warrants, and if either party to the proceedings so desires, he may conduct the proceedings under this Act *in camera*
  - The court usually does not inform the parties about this provision and due to lack of awareness the parties do not express any such desire. (based on Interviews of Advocates, Judges and Protection Officers and case studies)

So, the victim has to face the same unfriendly atmosphere of the Courts.

- S.18 Protection Order- the Magistrate may, after giving the aggrieved person and the respondent an opportunity of being heard and on being ***prima facie*** satisfied that domestic violence has taken place or is likely to take place, pass a Protection Order in favour of the aggrieved person.

- The domestic incident report of PO has a role to play during the trial as to the *prima facie* **satisfaction** of the Magistrate is concerned.
- Further, in the cases before the JMFC, the practice of compromise or settlement is very prevalent, which increase the culpability of further violence.
- The Judges are not using their discretionary power to issue Protection Order in cases of a compromise to minimize its probability.

S. 23 Power to grant interim and ex parte orders- (1)in any proceeding under DVA the Magistrate may pass such interim order as he deems just and proper

The lawyers and Judges are not aware of this provision. (based on interviews of advocates and judges)

Therefore, cases remain pending for more than 60 days without any relief to the victim and leading the case in to compromises at the cost of victim's security.

Also, the proceedings remain pending in the Court due to non service of the Notice but the Court doesn't pass ex parte order and neither advocate ask request for the same

## **Chapter: Recommendations**

### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. There should be appointments of full time Protection Officers with independent charge. These may be from the existing departments or may be new appointments.
2. The existing Vividhlakshi Mahila Sahay Kendras should be mandated to link up with the protection officers.
3. The office of Protection Officer should remain open for the whole years including Sundays except on the National Holidays
4. There should be appointments of Additional Protection Officers at the level of Taluka to enhance access for women.
5. The State Government should notify service providers and medical services immediately. Mahila Mandals and Nyaya Samiti like bodies, by whichever name called, should be engaged. The protection officer should have Taluka wise names of Samiti members which may be requested to intervene for counseling.
6. Appointment of women from mandals as police mitras shall be encouraged. The model of training and accrediting mahila mandal members as Gram Rakshak Dal members also may be replicated for implementation of the Act.
7. Samajik Nyaya Samitis under the Panchayat Act should be trained to respond to the victims facing violence.
8. Appropriate coordination mechanisms between Legal Aid mechanism, Judiciary, Police, Department of Women and Child Development, health department etc. needs to be ensured as envisaged in the Act.
9. The State Academies for training of judiciary as well as police should include the topic as part of their induction training. Training should not only focus on information but also attitudinal changes.

10. The State Government should device and propagate various means to bring about an attitudinal change on the issue of violence against women. Example- programs can be conducted through radio, cable, etc.
11. The High Court should issue guidelines for proper implementation of the law specially the procedural aspects.
12. In addition to the above, specifically, organize workshops on the themes of gender; provisions and procedures under DVA; rights of victims; and roles of Protection Officer, Service Providers, Medical Services, Police and other stake holders for protection officers, police, service providers and other stake holders
13. The number of shelter homes and their capacity needs to be increased.
14. The State Government should organize workshops for Private Advocates, Staffs of Legal Services Authority.
15. There should be annual evaluation of Protection Officers and Service Providers to judge their performance and accordingly needful capacity building process should take place to enhance the performance and efficacy of the low performing Protection Officers and Service Providers
16. The High Court of Gujarat should take note of the inadequate implementation of the Act and accordingly issue direction to the State Government to do needful.
17. Appropriate funding should be provided for implementation of the Act. Effective utilization of these funds should also be ensured.
18. There should be one vehicle for the office of Protection Officer to be used only for the purpose of giving services to the victims and official use by the Protection Officer.
19. The state should also ensure that as far as possible the Protection Officers are women who have relevant experience in counselling of women facing domestic violence or have worked with women before.

## **CASE STUDIES**

### **CASE STUDY 1**

Name: Dharmishtha Rasik Bhai

Place: Amreli

Ms Dharmishtha Rasik Bhai and her three and a half year old daughter ( Madhvi Rasik Bhai) were tortured by her husband and in laws since two years. The family members used to say that Dharmishtha Rasik Bhai is dark, educated and extremely stubborn. She was also taunted because she was rich. Every morning her husband would drag her out of the bed by her hair and bang her head on the wall. Such maltreatment was meted out to her daily and it thus became a routine. Such sustained torture affected her deeply and she became mentally dysfunctional. She sought treatment from various neurosurgeons and psychiatrists for the same. Since two years the victim has been living with her father.

Conciliation was tried between the two but the husband did not show up after being called repeatedly. The case was then filed under the PWDV Act on 25<sup>th</sup>. June. 2007. The notice was served by the court but was not received by the opponent. The opponent was repeatedly absent from the court and was not responding to the notice sent by the court. On the second instance the opponent showed up in the CSJ office. The lawyer made him sit there and

meanwhile went and got a warrant in his name from the court. After this incident he was regular in the court.

The applicant's lawyer then asked the court to refer the case to the Protection Officer for proper investigation into the case and all the documentary evidence consisting of the reports of various neurosurgeons, psychiatrists and CT scan reports were presented in the court.

The applicant has asked for a total sum of Rs. 5 lakhs and a house in Amreli for which a monthly rent of Rs 1500-00 has to be paid. The sum of five lakhs consists of Rs. 2 lakhs for the maintenance of the wife and daughter, Rs 2 lakhs for the medical expenses of the victim and Rs 1 lakh for all the forthcoming expenses on medical treatment.

The case is pending in the court at the time of writing this document.

The chronology of events is presented as follows :

25.06.07 : Case filed under PWDV act

06.10.07: first hearing of the case

21.11.07: Proceeding

25.01.08: The opponent asked for another date

28.02.08: The defence lawyer changed and the PO took 15 days for investigation

12.03.08: Proceeding

24.03.08: The list of documentary evidence was presented in the court

09.04.08: An application was presented for the custody of the child on the basis of the report

23.04.08: The interim application was given

03.05.08: The defendant asked for more time

17.05.08: The judge changed

30.06.08: hearing

17.07.08: next hearing



**This above mentioned case study shows us that more often than not, the 60 days deadline is often overlooked in the case of PWDVA. The case was filed in June 2007 but the first hearing took place only in October. This also indicates the unfamiliarity of the implementing authorities especially the judges towards PWDVA.**

**Also it is worthwhile to note that the lawyer himself had to do the running around and even had to advise the judge on certain matters. The PO himself took a lot of time for preliminary investigation.**

## **CASE STUDY 2**

Champaben approached the lawyer and told him that her husband along with her brother in law, sister in law wanted Rs 50,000-00 from her because her husband wanted to buy a house. It was an ancestral house but everybody could not stay there. The husband's younger brother had thrown the husband and wife out of the house. Since the wife's parents could not pay up, she was thrown out of the house.

The case was filed under PWDVA on 27.07.06. The applicant's lawyer argued that the husband was earning Rs. 8,000-00. And moreover, his father had retired and had 2 lakhs rupees. The wife's father on the other hand was a labourer and was not earning well at all. Therefore the applicant's lawyer asked for a sum of Rs 3,000-00 monthly for the wife. And also that the brother in law should stay away separately and the ancestral property should not be sold. Instead of the wife paying the entire amount, the lawyer asked that the whole family should pay the amount collectively and then they will stay separately.

They had a son whose school leaving certificate was not given so that the wife would come back to the husband.

The judge issued the summons in everybody's names but only the husband would show up. Then the warrant was issued in everybody's name at the behest of the applicant's lawyers. The whole family came 2-3 times but they were soon fed up of the case. They were ready for conciliation and agreed not to ask for money from the applicant.

Chronology of events :

DATE	EVENT
26.06.2006	Case was filed
27.07.2006	First hearing
06.10.2006	Second hearing
05.11.2006	Third hearing
21.11.2006	Application was given for concillation
19.01.2007	The defendant came but the court was closed.
01.03.2007	The case was conciled and closed

**The case was not completed within 60 days as the proceedings happened after a lot of gap. Also the Lawyer had to insist that summons should be issued in everybody's name.**

### **CASE STUDY 3**

The victim was married in 1991 and had twin daughters. She was continuously troubled by her mother in law. She was subjected to physical as well as mental torture. At the time of her delivery, her in laws and husband asked her to pay Rs 25,000-00 as a condition for taking her back into the house. The mother of the aggrieved took a loan and paid the in laws Rs 20,000-00 in cash along with household goods.

Two and a half years later, more household goods like mixer, fan, table, bed, television etcetera were given by the victim's maternal family to her in laws.

The victim though was constantly troubled and harassed by her in laws and husband. She was not even given money for daily use and household expenditure. The victim was then thrown out of the house.

The victim then filed an application for maintenance under 125 CrPC on 25/04/2004.

Conciliation was reached on 24/02/2006 on the grounds that the husband and the in laws would not trouble the aggrieved woman further.

However when the woman returned to the house, she was again subjected to torture and was harassed constantly. She was again refused money for household expenses.

On 04/04/2007, the victim's hair was pulled and was dragged out of the house and the house was locked from within.

After this incident the aggrieved woman decided to file a case under the PWDV Act.

The report of the PO was presented on 30.07.2007. In a proceeding held on 22.08.2008. The defence lawyer said that the application does not mention the house number in her application and that there are no bills of all the household goods that were bought by the family of the victim, thus implying that the goods were bought by the husband and his family.

The copy of the conciliation along with the copy of the statement of the applicant was presented in the court by the applicant's lawyer. The report of the PO was duly recognised by the court and the judgement was issued in favour of the aggrieved person.

**The entire case took too much time and the woman got justice after a year inspite of filing under PWDVA which mandates that the case be closed within 60 days.**

#### **CASE STUDY 4**

##### **Case of Taraben from Sabarkantha**

Advocate- Subedar Kevat, Khedbrahma

Taraben had been facing violence from her husband and was thrown out of the house a couple of years ago. Basically her demand was to get maintenance of Rs.3000 and Rs. 1500 per month for her children. Rs.25000 was also sought as compensation for physical and mental harassment. Her case was directly filed in the court with the magistrate under the PWDVA.

21-07-2007 Taraben's case was filed under section 19 directly with the magistrate in Khedbrahma.

04-08-2007 The aggrieved person was called before the court to present her case.

10-08-2007 Report from the P.O. was submitted in the court.

01-09-2007 On this date the respondent was supposed to reply but was not present.

07-09-2007 Respondent's reply was presented.

25-09-2007 Discussion on the proof presented.

06-10-2007 The Judge was insisting that both the parties should reach a compromise. Both the parties were unable to reach on an agreement.

20-10-2007 Judge was on leave.

30-11-2007 Investigation of the respondent, but the defence was not present.

01-12-2007 Defence was again not present (the lawyer did not come).

03-12-2007 Argument

06-12-2007 The order was written.

07-12-2007 Finally the order was passed (residential order).

According to the final order the amount for maintenance was given as Rs.800 and Rs. 600 per month for the children of Taraben. The compensation amount for mental and physical harassment was settled at Rs.10000.

Again another application had to be made since the maintenance amount was not being paid by the husband even after the court order was passed. There was some confusion regarding this as the judge was not clear with the procedural details since under section 28 of the PWDVA, there is no clear specification regarding the proceedings, except that they should be governed by the provisions of the code of Criminal Procedure 1973 (2 of 1974). The recovery application was granted after four dates in the court.

26-06-2008 Notice was released.

05-07-2008 Court proceeding

19-07-2008 Court proceeding

06-08-2008 The application for residential order was satisfied.

**The report of the PO in this case was presented within 6 days but the hearing and proceedings took up a lot of time. Also in this case the judge was insisting for conciliation time and again. The judge was also not clear about the procedural details and so confusion ensued. Also the defence party was not present on more than one occasion and no action was taken against them.**

#### **CASE STUDY 5:**

A woman married for two years had been facing severe violence from her husband. Her husband was actually a goon. The woman came to the Palanpur Nyay manch Office and simply said that her demand is to get a divorce from her husband and nothing else. In her two years of marriage she had simply spent one month with her in-laws. Her husband had been taking away her jewellery and other possessions that she had received from her family. In fact he promised her that he would return her jewellery but instead got fake gold chains. But the workers in Nyay Manch insisted that the woman should ask for relief example maintenance etc under the PWDVA instead of just demanding for divorce. The woman got all the evidence in the for example the fake chains given by her husband etc to show the judge. The PWDVA gave her additional benefits because she not only got divorce from her husband but also got relief in terms of maintenance and protection order. Now the woman is living in her parent's village and also got a job. She does not have any children.

#### **CASE STUDY 6**

This is the case of Ramuben from Datha taluka in Banaskantha district. Her case was against her husband, father-in-law, mother-in-law and brother-in-law. The applicant was beaten up and Rs. 1 lakh was demanded as dowry from her. She was thrown out of the house on the same day.

Her case was filed under the PWDVA as well as 498A. The weak points that emerged from this were:

1. Rs. 25000 was shown as the amount demanded by in-laws under 498A whereas under the PWDVA Rs. 100000 was recorded. This created discrepancy.
2. The PO did not submit any evidence and only conveyed oral evidence based on the application.

## **CASE STUDY 7**

### **Case of Lalitaben Dang district**

Lalitaben had been facing violence from her husband since 2006. Before approaching CSJ's district centre in Dang, she had filed an FIR with the police on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006. She eventually filed her case under the PWDVA on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Before this Lalitaben had to make trips to the Protection Officer's office 2 to 3 times as she was always sent back since the PO was on leave for 10 to 15 days and once he told her that he did not want her to file her case and sent her back. Lalitaben stays 25 kms away from Ahwa and hence it is tough for her to commute every day. This shows that the applicant is harassed from both the sides- the husband and the judiciary.

**The PO was not able to carry out his duties properly. He also harassed the victim by asking her to come 2 or 3 times and also sent her back. This shows complete insensitivity towards the victim by the PO.**

## **CASE STUDY 8**

Sunita was constantly battered by her husband as he believed her to be having an affair with another man. Things worsened and one day her husband drove her out of the house. Her finger was fractured and she went to Vatva Police Station to lodge a complaint. At first, the Police had refused to hear anything from the victim and it is only when her friends insisted on reporting the incident under the Domestic Violence Act the police heard her case but insisted upon filing FIR under S. 498 A of IPC only and refused to take any incident report under DVA. The Police even called up her husband to inform that she wanted to lodge a complaint against him and insisted that she should not lodge a complaint against her husband. After around one month, Sunita along with her Lawyer and friends went to the Protection Officer, Ahmedabad to take the Complaint Form for initiating proceedings under DVA. At first, the

Protection Officer refused to meet the victim and told her to wait outside the office and when he will find time he will call her. When the Protection Officer was asked to give a Complaint Form, he behaved very rudely and said that he has no Compliant Forms so, come after three days. Also he will not give any help to the victim and even if she will go to the High Court no one can do any harm to him. He discouraged Sunita by saying that see nothing will happen to your case as happens in other cases. He kept them waiting from 12:00 noon to 05:00 pm. The Protection Officer had not communicated any of the victim's rights under the Act, which is his duty otherwise.

Under threats and societal compulsions she has been staying with her abusive husband and in laws and has withdrawn all the cases.

**Most of the state machinery including the police and the PO have been grossly insensitive towards the victim. It is because of their apathetic attitude that the victim had to ultimately withdraw her case.**

## **CASE STUDY 9**

Jagruti after being a victim of constant violence went to the satellite police station to lodge a complaint against her husband under the PWDVA. Her complaint was filed but the police did not act on time and she was beaten up again and again. She came to know of a counselling centre in sanand known as Sanan Mahila Vikas Sangathan and lived with one of the members of the counselling centre. When she returned home after a few days, her husband filed a complaint against her alleging that she had come to steal money at the Satellite Police Station. The Police did not take any action against the husband knowing that she had filed a compliant earlier with them.

She then returned to the Sangathan and went to the nearest Police station to file a complaint. She was thororughly discouraged to do so by the Police and was even told that women should not make such complaints and should 'adjust' accordingly. Finally an FIR was lodged under S. 498A but the accused were not arrested but produced before the Judicial Magistrate (First) where he was released on Bail.

On December 22 of 2006, she went to the Talluka Legal Services Authority seeking legal advice and free legal aid. She was advised to file a Maintenance Application under S. 125, CrPC.

**The Police did not take any action against the husband of the woman and she had to suffer a lot. The PO was also equally insensitive and harassed the victim. In addition the counselling centre also did not push the state agencies to provide the necessary support to the victim. This is a case where the civil society has also failed to help the woman alongwith the State Authorities.**

### **Case Study 10**

Vijaya was tortured and harassed by her husband and his family for not bringing enough dowry. The situation soon escalated and a lot of violence was meted out to her. She approached the Protection Officer and registered her complaint with him. The Protection Officer did not ask her for any sort of medical assistance ignoring the gravity of trauma and her physical and mental condition. He did not even tell her about her rights under DVA and no preliminary enquiry was done. Later, the PO committed it to the Trial Court, where it is pending since more than eight months. Now Vijaya is living with her parents entirely dependent on them and without any support from her husband.

**The PO has not performed his duties well and has in turn harassed the victim herself. And also he committed her case to the Trial court where it has been pending since eight months.**

### **Case study of Himmatnagar**

In Himmatnagar the case of domestic violence was registered when the PO was not even appointed for the district. The judge had to be told about each section every day. Then when the judge changed, the new judge said that the application is not framed properly etc and delayed the procedure by saying that it is the Protection Officer's responsibility. The judge would ask the centre lawyers to read each section of the Act and tell them to read the application details to contradict them. It was also seen that private lawyers were afraid to take



up DV cases because the PWDVA is a new Act and hence the centre took advantage of the defendant's poor knowledge.

**The judiciary itself is not aware of the Act and did not even know how the application is to be filed.**

## **ACTION RESEARCH**

Centre for Social Justice has been advocating for the rights of minorities ever since its inception. The Association of Social Justice Lawyers is an initiative of the organisation. With respect to domestic Violence, there have been specific training which has been imparted to the district level staff. It was in interviewing the district staff of CSJ that a vast difference has been found in their approach vis-à-vis the approach of some other lawyers. For instance a lawyer trained by CSJ in Bhavnagar district said that the rest of the lawyers don't use PWDVA because their mindset is very patriarchal and he also said that he always recommends that women should file their case under PWDVA. There have been instances where the lawyers from Centre for Social Justice have been instrumental in filing the first cases under PWDVA in their respective districts.<sup>32</sup> In addition the lawyers trained by CSJ also have contacted the PO and have a good rapport with him in Amreli, Dang, Bhavnagar and Patan district. They also make personal visits to the PO office with the victim and persist for the report of the PO.<sup>33</sup> Their efforts are clearly visible even in the court. They also advise the judge and fellow lawyers about various provisions and sections of the PWDVA. Some of the lawyers and Field Staff also provide legal assistance to other organisations like Anandi, Utthan etcetera and advise the women victims on filing PWDVA.

## **CONCLUSION**

**The report therefore strongly shows the gross inadequacies of the state machinery to implement the PWDVA. It has made a mockery of an act which if enforced can provide**

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<sup>32</sup> As per interview held with Mr. Mrudangraj from Bhavnagar district.

<sup>33</sup> As per interviews with contacts from Amreli, Dang, Bhavnagar and Patan.

women a pathbreaking way to deal with violence. It is strongly said that the recommendations and suggestions may be put in force in earnest so as to help the victims of violence.

## **ANNEXURES**

### **Interviews**

#### **Activists**

##### **Mahendra, ANANDI**

Mahendra had handled one case of domestic violence of a woman from Ankalwa village in Panchmahal district as a paralegal. He says that people know about the organization in Ghogamba through the work of paralegals and that's how women are able to approach with their problems. Mahendra spoke about the case of Lilaben who faced violence from her father-in-law. She had to listen to abuses and was constantly told to get out of the house. Her child was also beaten up.

On 17/12/2007 her case was filed. They made a call to the PO who said that he was in Bharuch because of elections and told them to wait for two days. So they went to the court and spoke to the judge who gave them a good response and the Lilaben's case was immediately registered. ANANDI approached a private lawyer to take up Lilaben's case who handled everything. Lilaben basically said that she wanted to stay with her in-laws.

A constable was sent with the victim and she went home. Lilaben again came once to the centre and a compromise was made. All the decisions were made in court. Husband had to pay a penalty of Rs. 20000. The judgement came out within one month. The concerned judge was sensitive because he was present in ANANDI's training program organized by the centre for women from a village where he assured them better access to justice.

Mahendra says that PWDVA gives judgement faster. In terms of awareness he says that it is important that the police is trained regarding the Act.

**Name: Utkantha Sudhakar Dholakia**

**Age: 36 years**

**Organisation: KMVS**

What do you know about the DV act ?

It is a good act as it covers a lot of things that other previous acts don't. It gives women the right to reside in their house and also covers all kinds of violence like physical, emotional, mental etcetera.

How do women contact your organization ?

Ask Lawyer. Because I don't directly deal in cases

Is there a PO in the district ?

Yes. He is from the department of Social Welfare

Is your organization spreading awareness about the act ?

The organization has created awareness among the paralegals but it is not sure if the paralegals have transmitted the information to the people in the community and villagers. Even if paralegals may have wanted to, this issue cannot be discussed openly.

Do women usually stay till the case is completed ?

No. about 2-3% leave the case midway.

Do you think there are gaps in the impelentation of the act ? What are the gaps ?

Yes. There should be wider publicity of the act. All the people who should know about the act, are not evebn aware of the existence of the act. Its misuse may also happen and should be prevented. The act should be made simple and explained in a lucid language.

Comments about other stakeholders ?

Media is an important stakeholder. An important issue like DV should be properly highlighted and should get adequate coverage. The NGO's should also create awareness about the act and it should be explained in pictorial format to 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard students. The internal staff should also be properly trained. The impression that people have about laws is that ; they are created to break homes. So this opinion needs to be corrected.

### **Seema, ANANDI**

Seema says that the PO of Panchmahal district said to her that the women herself must have done something that her in-laws are beating her up. She told the PO to sign the DIR of a woman facing domestic violence and he signed saying that he was doing because she insisted upon it. The woman's 18 day old child's hand was hurt. After this she was sent to the Nari Kendra in Godhra. The woman and Seema again came to the PO after two months but the PO told them to go to the police and write an FIR. But the police told them that ' you people don't know about the Act'. At the same time the DIR had already been written. The PO on the other hand was forcing the woman to get a compromise done because after all she has to live with her in-laws. The case is now almost 10 months old. Seema says that the police doesn't know about the PWDVA and doesn't tell anyone about it.

Seema says that in Baria the experience with the judge has not been good. He told Seema to leave the court room because she did not have a problem. But when the victim went in she could not say anything. The judge told Seema to give in writing about the woman's case. But nothing was done after that.

Seema says that often it takes two to three hours to get one FIR written. In one case after writing the FIR the police told the woman to laminate it and put it around her neck. Seema says that the police can be easily bribed with alcohol to not write the FIR.

In another case Seema said that a judge told them that its Saturday and Sunday so don't waste my time and don't come to my house. Then the ANANDI paralegals went to the police

station but they were not ready to register the case. They took the police to the hospital where the woman was admitted with serious fractures. This woman was with a live-in relationship with a man who had used the *chakki* to beat her up. The police said that 498A and PWDVA cannot be used because the couple are not married. The FIR was written but the case was not filed under the PWDVA.

Workers from ANANDI had taken the copy of the Act with them. Sections 323, 506 and 114 were charged against the man who was sent to jail for 2 days. Bail was given to the man and the hospital bill was also paid. The man returned the woman to her parent's house after which he committed suicide and later the police blamed the ANANDI workers for the man's death.

### **State Authorities**

#### **Pallavi Pandya, Superintendent, Nari Kendra, Godhra**

Pallavi Pandya knows about the PWDVA because she had attended a training provided on the Act in Gandhinagar. Ms. Pandya said that in the Godhra Nari Kendra there are mostly women who have left their husbands. Currently there are no women whose case is filed under the PWDVA.

She has been working at the Godhra Nari Kendra since May 2008. Initially she was placed in bharuh. Ms. Pandya says that women generally would prefer to stay at their parents' place rather than take the service provider's facility.

Seema from ANANDI was also present while the interview was being taken and she asked the Superintendent that why is it that often women find the Nari Kendra more like a jail to which Ms. Pandya said that it is right.

Ms. Pandya says that PWDVA is a good Act but educated women who have ego misuse it. She explained her theory that if parents since the beginning have a problem then the child will be naturally aggressive. She said that in the Nari Kendra women are those who run away from home but there is hardly any proof of injury. There are also women who are unmarried mothers and have run away with another man. She says that women do it for the sake of money from her experience in Godhra. Women are often at fault and don't want decisions to come out through court. Ms. Pandya says that women should take responsibility of the child.

She did not acknowledge or respond to her duty of counselling during the interview. She has been working in the department for 17 years.

#### **Annexure IV: INTERVIEWS OF PROTECTION OFFICERS**

##### **M J Patel, PO, Dahod**

Mr. Patel has been the PO of Dahod for 5 months before which he was placed in Patan. He feels that 60 days is a very short period for dismissal of a case because the judges are overworked. He says that both the parties don't come on time. Women remarry and accuse previous husband that they should provide them relief. At the same time Mr. Patel maintains that in Dahod women have not misused the Act. He said that one should not file a case under two Acts, that is, 498A and PWDVA.

Mr. Patel believes that it does not matter if the PO is a man or a woman but it is important for the person to understand the Act.

##### **Kashmira Bhatt, PO, Sabarkantha**

The PO says that women are not aware about the PWDVA in rural areas but women in urban areas know about the Act. She says that PWDVA is a different Act and it's a good thing because CrPC 125 takes a longer time. She believes that women cannot misuse the Act.

Ms. Bhatt says that notice can be sent through fax too. The procedure of post takes up a lot of time. She has had a good experience in Sabarkantha as judges respond quickly and PO is giving priority to the case to the extent that affidavit can be made on the same day. She has had experience in Nari Kendra before. She says that in Sabarkantha there haven't been as many cases under PWDVA and hence doesn't feel the need to have a special PO.

Mr. Bhatt feels that PO should not necessarily be women because it depends on the person. But she feels that being a woman she can understand better and a woman can talk to her freely.

Mr A Dave , PO Kheda district

The duty of serving notices should not be given to the PO as it creates lot of hassles and he is unable to do so. I have the following designations : District Social Defence officer, Child marriage prevention officer, Manager of minority welfare board and Protection Officer. I am unable to fulfil all my duties of being a PO as I don't have any staff under me and sometimes I don't even have people to Xerox documents for me. Women victims are not comfortable discussing sexual topics so there should be women PO's. Also there should be a PO in each tehsil and proper training should be given to them otherwise the DV act has no use.

Excerpts from Interview of Mr Parmar, PO Patan district.

I am incharge of the following things :Aid to family of prisoners, Issuing I cards to handicap, To grant pensions to widows and the burden of work is too much. I have only 2 people in the whole office/district to help me with my work. There are also no service providers and the load has increased because of that. Most of the PO's should be women. Just like the ICDS officer is present in every tehsil. In the two training camps/ workshops held by GRC everybody was just giving their own opinion but not about the act.

**Name of the PO:** Mahaveer Singh Gohil

**Jurisdiction:** Amreli

**Number of cases: 29**

What steps does the Protection Officer take when approached by the victim?

At first, the PO ask the victim to narrate the incident of domestic violence, (recording the narrative of the victim) after knowing the case PO explain the victim the procedure of filing a case and give guidance as per the need of the victim.

**Does the PO give information relating rights of the victim under DVA?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in writing the complaint?**

Yes

**What steps does the PO take after receiving victim's complaints?**

PO registers complaints in the Complaint Register maintained under the Act and later forward them to the competent Court.

**Does the Protection Officer make any arrangement for ensuring safety (protection) of the victim?**

The PO provides all kinds of support and services keeping in view needs of the victim.

**Does the PO consult victim before making safety arrangements?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in getting legal aid?**

Yes

**Does the PO help victim in availing medical facilities?**

The PO helps victim in getting medical aid to the injured victims as per their need.

**Does the PO help children in getting medical aid?**

Yes

**What steps does the PO take when the victim cannot afford conveyance to the shelter home or medical service?**

The fund for official vehicle is used for this purpose.

**What arrangement does the PO make for victim and her children in getting shelter?**



PO refer the victim to the State Shelter Home and the children to the Children's Home

**Does the PO inform the Service Providers about the cases where their services may be required?**

No, as the State Government has not notified the service providers under the Act.

**Does the PO help shelter home in appointing the counselor?**

Yes

**Does the PO transfer selected applications to the Court?**

Yes. In the cases where PO finds it fit for sending to the Court.

**Do the service provide, medical service and shelter home come within the territorial jurisdiction of the PO?**

Yes.

**NOTE: THE PO HAS DELEGATED THIS WORK TO AN INCHARGE P J TRIVEDI**

**Name of the PO:** Chunilal Naranbhai Solanki

**Jurisdiction:** Banaskantha

**Number of cases:** 29

What steps does the Protection Officer take when approached by the victim?

**To receive the complaint from the victim**

**Does the PO give information relating rights of the victim under DVA?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in writing the complaint?**

Yes

**What steps does the PO take after receiving victim's complaints?**

The PO does counseling of the victim

- The victim is called three or four times in every case
- All the details of the incident of post marriage violence is asked
- After three days of the counseling, the report would be sent to the Court

**Does the Protection Officer make any arrangement for ensuring safety (protection) of the victim?**

Uptil now no such need has arisen i.e. the PO has not received any complaint where any protection arrangements were required.

**Does the PO consult victim before making safety arrangements?**

Yes (preceding answer and this answer is contradictory)

**Does the PO help the victim in getting legal aid?**

Uptil now no such need has arisen as none of the victims have requested for free legal aid and contracted private individual lawyers for their case.

**Does the PO help victim in availing medical facilities?**

Yes

**Does the PO help children in getting medical aid?**

No such case is received.

**What steps does the PO take when the victim cannot afford conveyance to the shelter home or medical service?**

Cant say

**What arrangement does the PO make for victim and her children in getting shelter?**

Yes

**Does the PO inform the Service Providers about the cases where their services may be required?**

Yes Police is informed

**Does the PO help shelter home in appointing the counselor?**

The process of their appointment is not started

**Does the PO transfer selected applications to the Court?**

Yes

**Do the service provide, medical service and shelter home come within the territorial jurisdiction of the PO?**

Yes

**PROTECTION OFFICER**

**Name of the PO:** B R M Parmar

**Jurisdiction:** Ahva, Dangs

**Number of cases:** 1

What steps does the Protection Officer take when approached by the victim?

**The PO asks question relating the incident of violence and make note of that.**

**Does the PO give information relating rights of the victim under DVA?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in writing the complaint?**

Yes

**What steps does the PO take after receiving victim's complaints?**

The PO takes all the need-based steps immediately after receiving the complaint

**Does the Protection Officer make any arrangement for ensuring safety (protection) of the victim?**

Yes

**Does the PO consult victim before making safety arrangements?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in getting legal aid?**

Yes

**Does the PO help victim in availing medical facilities?**

Yes

**Does the PO help children in getting medical aid?**

Yes

**What steps does the PO take when the victim cannot afford conveyance to the shelter home or medical service?**

Government vehicle is used for that purpose

**What arrangement does the PO make for victim and her children in getting shelter?**

Yes

**Does the PO inform the Service Providers about the cases where their services may be required?**

The State Government has not notified the service providers

**Does the PO help shelter home in appointing the counselor?**

The process of appointment of counselor has not yet started

**Does the PO transfer selected applications to the Court?**

NA

**Do the service provider; medical service and shelter home come within the territorial jurisdiction of the PO?**

Yes

**PROTECTION OFFICER OF PATAN DISTRICT:**

The PWDVA is a very useful act but the most hardpressed and the most stressful job is of the PO. I hardly get time to attend to the victims as I am always busy traveling to attend case hearings all over the district. The victims mostly have to wait for 2 or 3 days before they can file a complaint with me. This leads to loss of crucial time. Also I feel that the PO should be a woman as the victims are not comfortable telling me the details. The government should provide PO in every taluka and the people who don't have any specific charge should be only mad PO's.

**PROTECTION OFFICER**

**Name of the PO:** P G Trivedi

**Jurisdiction:** Bharuch and Narmada

**Number of cases:** 07

What steps does the Protection Officer take when approached by the victim?

**The PO takes all the details of the domestic violence and informs the victim about all of her rights under the Act**

**Does the PO give information relating rights of the victim under DVA?**

The PO gives information regarding her rights under the Act.

**Does the PO help the victim in writing the complaint?**

No, victims write their complaints themselves.

**What steps does the PO take after receiving victim's complaints?**

**Does the Protection Officer make any arrangement for ensuring safety (protection) of the victim?**

The PO has informed the Police one case

**Does the PO consult victim before making safety arrangements?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in getting legal aid?**

Yes. The PO contacts the advocates of Legal Services Authority

**Does the PO help victim in availing medical facilities?**

No

**Does the PO help children in getting medical aid?**

No

**What steps does the PO take when the victim cannot afford conveyance to the shelter home or medical service?**

Official vehicle is used for that purpose

**What arrangement does the PO make for victim and her children in getting shelter?**

No such need has arisen yet

**Does the PO inform the Service Providers about the cases where their services may be required?**

The State Government has not notified service providers

**Does the PO help shelter home in appointing the counselor?**

Yes

**Does the PO transfer selected applications to the Court?**

Yes

**Do the service provide, medical service and shelter home come within the territorial jurisdiction of the PO?**

Yes

## **PROTECTION OFFICER**

**Name of the PO:** Sonaliben Ranel

**Jurisdiction:** Ahmedabad

**Number of complaints:** 60

### **Observations:**

The PO wasn't in her office all the times whenever we tried to approach her. She was supposed to be on official visit all the times. Her Personal Assistant had no reply as to where is she on that very day. And on asking for an appointment her PA did not give any appointment, as he was not having her schedule. There were 4-5 women waiting for PO to register their complaint. The PO has given today's appointment for hearing their grievances but PO was not around.

As told by her PA that apart from being Protection Officer, Sonaliben Ranel is also Dowry Prevention Officer in seven districts. And whenever the PO meets a complainant, PO hears the complaint of victim and then gives complaint form to fill up. If the complainant is illiterate, the PO herself fills her form.

The Personal Assistant of PO had no idea about what first steps does the PO take when approached by victims; what protection arrangements does the PO make for the immediate protection of the victim; what provisions does PO make for free legal aid to the victim, etc.

So, for the obvious reasons, she cannot be accessed all the days by the complainants and also in the times of need. This leads to further harassment of the victim for no reason but the non-availability of the PO. It will also incur more expenses on victims.

In the given circumstances, what maximum can be done that the PO would display the days on which she will attend the victims of domestic violence, but even this is not done, so far as the office of PO, Ahmedabad is concerned.



## **PROTECTION OFFICER**

**Name of the PO:** Surekhaben Bhoya

**Jurisdiction:** Baroda

**Number of cases:** 20

### **Excerpts of the conversation:**

Apart from being PO for District of Baroda, she is also handling five districts as dowry prevention officer. She does counseling of victims and co-operates with them. She has full knowledge of the Act and tells victims about their rights under the Act. She herself does enquiry in to the matters then only prepares domestic incident report, which is later referred to the Judicial Magistrate (First) for trial. In her opinion, Police and Judges need to be sensitized first then only the Act will be implemented properly. She said that the Judges don't know the law and they ask the PO to help and also to bring the bare act along with her at the time of hearing when they refer any case. Normally, she remains present in the Court during the hearing of the case. Generally, the Court does not dispose the cases within 60 days. Ironically, the protection officer does not know the address of the shelter home

She narrates one of her experiences to show the insensitive and non co-operative nature of the police. In one case, where the Court has passed protection order and residential order and the PO was ordered to immediately arrange for her safe arrival to her matrimonial home on the same day, she passionately took her personally to her matrimonial home but her in laws didn't open the doors and they kept asking them to open, therefore she has to take her back. She reported about this to the police. But on the next day, the police despite making report against the accused, made an adverse report against the PO that she did not comply with the Court's order deliberately. Now, the protection officer herself is facing charge of deliberately avoiding her duty. She has to appear before the Court to rebut the charges leveled against her.

**PROTECTION OFFICER**

**Name of the PO:** K D Bhatt

**Jurisdiction:** Sabarkatha

Number of cases: **Four to five cases per month**

What steps does the Protection Officer take when approached by the victim?

**To listen to the complaint of the victim and prepare domestic violence incident report**

**Does the PO give information relating rights of the victim under DVA?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in writing the complaint?**

Yes

**What steps does the PO take after receiving victim's complaints?**

To take the complaint

**Does the Protection Officer make any arrangement for ensuring safety (protection) of the victim?**

The PO give information regarding the shelter home and also refers her if she wishes so.

**Does the PO consult victim before making safety arrangements?**

Yes

**Does the PO help the victim in getting legal aid?**

The PO gives advice to file an application to the Legal Services Authority for free legal aid

**Does the PO help victim in availing medical facilities?**

No such need has arisen yet

**Does the PO help children in getting medical aid?**

No such need has arisen yet

**What steps does the PO take when the victim cannot afford conveyance to the shelter home or medical service?**

No such need has arisen yet

**What arrangement does the PO make for victim and her children in getting shelter?**

Not Applicable

**Does the PO inform the Service Providers about the cases where their services may be required?**

The Service Providers under DVA have not notified till date

**Does the PO help shelter home in appointing the counselor?**

No counselors have appointed in the shelter homes

**Does the PO transfer selected applications to the Court?**

Yes

**Do the service provide, medical service and shelter home come within the territorial jurisdiction of the PO?**

Yes

## **ANNEURE IV: INTERVIEW OF LAWYERS**

### **Subedar Kevat, CSJ, Khedbrahma**

Mr. Kevat says that there are no details about which CrPC needs to be followed; hence they are clueless about the proceedings. He says that judges often ask woman to prove the violence that they have faced. The PO on the other hand has said that she has other work and responsibility and hence cannot take the responsibility. She says that organizations like CSJ are the only ones taking up cases under the PWDVA.

Mr. Kevat says that some private lawyers feel that the existing POs are not actually authorised under the PWDVA in Gujarat as they are also Social Security Officers. From his experience he has noted that the format of the DIR is also not followed. In fact one of the judges said to him that the PWDVA is a hi-fi Act and should just be used in Metros.

Mr. Kevat feels that the recovery section under the PWDVA needs to be defined better because it creates unclarity.

### **Siraj Khan S. Pathan, Private Lawyer, Himmatnagar**

This advocate specializes in handling matrimonial cases. He says that the PWDVA is misused by women. Most of the cases are done by women who need divorce. He says that women demand 1 to 2 lakhs money which is wrong. Misuse is maximum according to him because men are pressurised. Small things are taken up as issues. He says that the PWDVA is not beneficial for men. In fact according to him 498A should be there for men too.

- 1. NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** D G Pathak
- 2. JURISDICTION:** Ahmedabad District Court
- 3. How many cases you have proceeded under this act?** One
- 4. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** Don't know

5. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM? Don't know
6. WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING? 60 days
7. WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT? Can't say
8. WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? Can't say
9. WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT? Don't know
10. IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE? Can't say
11. WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN? Can't say
12. WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES? Can't say
13. IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? No
14. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT? No
15. WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC? Can't say
16. IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE? No
17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNTHESIZED ON THE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THIS ACT? No
18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS? No
19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN? No

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Maqboolbhai
2. **JURISDICTION:** Bharuch
3. **How many cases you have proceeded under this act?**
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** Rehabilitation, protection of women, report to Magistrate
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection Officer
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 30 days, 3 days notice period
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?** Residence Order
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Maintenance, residence order (rehabilitation), medical aid, protection, shelter
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?** Mental, physical and economic
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No he is busy and overburdened with other responsibilities
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** Speedy justice, counseling support for women, unnecessary filing of cases and welfare of women
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Judiciary is not sensitive and ignorant about the law. Only one judge has some knowledge of the law and only he has the Bare Act of the same and not others
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?** It is not implemented properly. There is no awareness.

- 15. WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** Speedy disposal
- 16. IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** Yes
- 17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** No
- 18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** Yes, but efforts are not taken to make it happen so cases are usually not disposed within 60 days
- 19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** No, but the percentage of such incident will definitely go down. Because law does not operate in vacuum. People are unaware. Even judges, lawyers, police, protection officer have no knowledge about the provisions of law. They came to know only when they received applications under the Act

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Karsanbhai Rathod
2. **JURISDICTION:** Rajula, Amreli
3. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 5
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** Inquire matter, report to magistrate
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection Officer
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 60 days
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?**  
Can't say
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Restraint to enter in the home of the victim, maintenance, medical expenses
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Physical, abuse, insult, dowry etc
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** Yes
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** Immediate protection, a complete law as it provides maintenance, compensation, medical expenses etc.
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?**  
Response of judges are good, implementation proper
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
No, it is not up to the expectation
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** I am defense lawyer
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** No



**17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES  
ADRESSED BY THIS ACT? Yes**

**18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS? No**

**19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN? No**

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Hayub Patel
2. **JURISDICTION:** Baroda District Court
3. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 4
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** Not yet appointed
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** No medical aid provided by the PO
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 2 months
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?**  
Residential Order
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Various remedies are there but implementation is not proper
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE IS INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Physical, mental etc.
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** To protect women
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Not good
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** No
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
No
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** It contains various provisions for protection of the interest of women
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** No
17. **IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** No

**18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** Yes, efforts should be taken by the Government to dispose it within 60 days

**19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** No

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Gulab
2. **JURISDICTION:** Vansda
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?** 1
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** Not appointed
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Not known
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 2 months
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?**  
Residential order
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Maintenance, medical compensation,
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Sexual, mental, economic and physical
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** Fast disposal
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** No awareness amongst judges, lawyers (senior)
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
No, my case is pending from 3 months after first hearing
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** Fast disposal
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** Yes
17. **IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNCHRONIZED ON THE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THIS ACT?** No, even judges feel/say that it is very difficult to implement DVA because there is no sensitivity at all in judges, lawyers and society

**18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS? No,**

**19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN? Yes, if people start using it**

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Gyanjibhai
2. **JURISDICTION:** Surat
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?** 2
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** To serve notice within 3 days, report to magistrate, to enquire in to the incident
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection officer
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 2 months
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?**  
Residential Order
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** S. 19-22 of DVA
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Physical, mental, economical, insult, slaps etc.
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** Yes
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** Fast disposal, responsibility imposed on protection officer
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Fast disposal and useful for women protection
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
Yes but not up to the expectation i.e. as per provisions
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** It is a complete law as it contains various provisions for the protection of women in the best interest of women
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** No

**17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES  
ADRESSED BY THIS ACT? Yes**

**18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS? Yes**

**19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN? No,**

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Parmar Hemorsee
2. **JURISDICTION:** Baroda
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?** 1
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** Don't know
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Government hospitals
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 6-7 months
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?**  
Maintenance under 125 CrPC
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Fine
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Insult, physical violence etc.
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** To protect women
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Can't say
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
Can't say
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** Can't say
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** Don't know
17. **IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SATISFIED ON THE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THIS ACT?** Can't say
18. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** No



**19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN? No**

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Sureshbhai H Konkani
2. **JURISDICTION:** Dangs Sessions Court, JMFC
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?** 2
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** To receive application, to make report, forward application to the Magistrate
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection order
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 60 days
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?** To ask protection officer for the same
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Protection order, residence order, residence order, maintenance,
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?** Physical, emotional, sexual, mental, economic violence
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No, social security officer has given charge of protection officer. He is busy with his other responsibilities, lack of awareness and experience, he doesn't respond to the applications
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** 498A is time consuming, delay in criminal cases, chances of success/conviction is less in criminal cases. 125- delay. DVA- fast disposal
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** The implementation is not as per the objective envisaged by the act. Judges are not allowing the provisions of act to be used in the benefit of women
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Practically speaking no

**14. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**

No

**15. WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** It's a complete law and it multipurpose act.

**16. IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** No

**17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** No

**18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** Not easy

**19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** No

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Kirid Parmar
2. **JURISDICTION:** Nadiad
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?** 1
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** To enquire in to the matter, report to magistrate,
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** PO
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** 2 months
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?** To file 498A
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Multiple remedies, resident order
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
All categories of violence very wide in application
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** Yes
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** A lady can get protection in her home, multiple remedies
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Can't say
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
No
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** Can't say
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** No
17. **IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SATISFIED ON THE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THIS ACT?** Not all but the lady judge is more sensible

**18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** Not certain

**19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** It may also be misused by women

**Interview with Mr Mrudangaraj from Bhavnagar**

The PWDVA is an extremely important act for the woman of today. It is designed so that the women get protection from all types of violence. But the judges and other lawyers don't understand and they blame the victim for filing cases under PWDVA. They feel that women misuse it and that they should adjust to the society and should not file such cases. Till now in Bhavnagar, I was the first person to file a case. The PO is also very busy and keeps running around all day. There should be women PO's as it makes the task of disclosing information a lot easier and also that there should be PO in every taluka as the workload is too much and there should be periodic trainings for all officers, lawyers and judges.

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Sudhanshu P Bhatt
2. **JURISDICTION:** Baroda District Court
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?** 2
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** To inquire in to the incident of domestic violence; to make report of domestic incident report to the Magistrate (First); to make arrangements for the victim like medical aid, safe shelter home etc.
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection Officer
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** Sixty days
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?** To stay in the *Seva Sadan* (Shelter Home) instead of staying with the perpetrator of violence
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Multiple remedies are provided
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?** Insult, abuse, slap etc.
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** I think this Act should be enacted for States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh but not for Gujarat because there is no domestic violence in Gujarat.
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Implementation of the Provisions of DVA are not proper
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** No
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?** No

- 15. WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** I appeared in those cases as defense lawyer
- 16. IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** No
- 17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** Yes
- 18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** It is impossible
- 19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** No, as it is being misused by women. Why you NGO people don't work for the protection of men and also why there is no law like DVA to protect men. I know hundreds of men who are victim of husband battering so there must be provisions to protect the interest of men and the misuse of law by wives.

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Bhupendrabhai M Patel
2. **JURISDICTION:** Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Eight
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** There are numbers of duties but he does nothing as he does know his powers and duties under the Act
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection Officer but no such support is given by him
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** Sixty days
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?**  
There is hardly any implementation of the provisions of the Act therefore, no one can secure her safety as authorities are not interested in securing her safety
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Multiple remedies
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE IS INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Mental, physical and economical violence
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No, and even if women access them, they pressurize her to compromise.
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** Can't say
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?**  
Protection Officer is not accessible, he is not sensitive to deal with such cases also he is illiterate in DVA so he doesn't know what are his duties; even Judges are not sensitive enough.
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Can't say
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
No



- 15. WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** As it covers all categories of women i.e. wife, daughter, sisters, mother etc.
- 16. IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** Shelter is available but rarely any victim of DV is referred there by the Protection Officer or Police
- 17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** Majority of the Judges are not sensitive and even they do not have knowledge of the law. Some of the Judges don't know that such law is in existence. Judges usually pressurize women to compromise the case and even in cases where substantial evidences against the perpetrator are on record.
- 18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** Can't say
- 19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** It will reduce violence against women gradually but constant efforts have to be made by the authorities who are responsible for its implementation

- 1. NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Harivadan B Chauhan
- 2. JURISDICTION:** Additional Public Prosecutor, Ahmedabad
- 3. HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Not handled
- 4. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** Even Protection Officer doesn't know about this.
- 5. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING NEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Don't know
- 6. WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** Sixty days

7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?**  
Can't say
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Don't know
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Don't know
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** Can't say
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Not applicable
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** No
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
Can't say
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** Not applicable
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** Don't know
17. **IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** Can't say
18. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** No, there is lots of pendency.
19. **DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** This law has brought no difference, as there is complete ignorance amongst people and authorities. Victim goes to Police and not to Protection Officer. Police doesn't help victims to access facilities under this Act and instead register FIR u/S 498A of IPC, which doesn't help victim to get justice.

**NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Gaurangbhai Vyas

**JURISDICTION:** Public Prosecutor, Ahmedabad Sessions  
Court

**Excerpts of the Conversation:**

Till date, only one appeal is given to me but the victim does not want to proceed further. Women are not availing relives provided by this Act due to the social bondages and stigma attached to it. It is a good law if used by the victims of domestic violence. Since, women from traditional Indian family are dependent on their husbands after marriage therefore, keeping in view the future of her children can't use the law.

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Mridung Raj Chudasana
2. **JURISDICTION:** Bhavnagar
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Seven
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** To inquire the matter
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection Officer
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** Sixty Days
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?** To stay with her parents or in shelter home but not with her husband
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Compensation for injury suffered and maintenance etc.
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
Mental, physical, sexual violence and threats etc.
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** No
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** Can't say
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Can't say
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
Can't say
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** As it covers all categories of violence. Child custody is also ensured to the victim woman.
16. **IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** Don't Know

- 17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** Very few Judges are sensitive.
- 18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** Possible if Judges wish so
- 19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** Yes, as it is very wide in application and only if people and authorities use it properly.

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Mr. Chetan
2. **JURISDICTION:** Bharuch
3. **HOW MANY CASES YOU HAVE PROCEEDED UNDER THIS ACT?**  
One
4. **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROTECTION OFFICER?** To inquire in to the matter and to report the same to the Magistrate (First) in the prescribed format
5. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO THE VICTIM?** Protection Officer
6. **WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPLICATION AFTER THE FIRST HEARING?** Sixty days
7. **WHAT WILL YOU SUGGEST WHEN AN AGGRIEVED PERSON IS LIKELY TO BE INSECURE TO LIVE WITH THE RESPONDENT?** To move an application for Interim Relief for alternative accommodation
8. **WHAT REMEDIES ARE THERE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Various remedies are provided like protection order, residential order, compensation and maintenance
9. **WHICH TYPE OF VIOLENCE ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS ACT?**
10. **IS PROTECTION OFFICER ACCESSIBLE?** Yes
11. **WHY DVA IS ENACTED EVEN WHEN THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN?** It covers all provisions of laws for the protection of women's interest
12. **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PROCEEDING DV CASES?** Good, Judges dispose off the matters within sixty days
13. **IS IT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Yes
14. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, SO FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DVA IS CONCERNED, IS IT UP TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT?**  
Yes
15. **WHY YOU PREFER DVA INSTEAD OF VARIOUS OTHER PROVISIONS LIKE 498A OF IPC AND 125 OF CrPC?** Its is multipurpose law

- 16. IS SHELTER HOME ACCESSIBLE?** No
- 17. IN YOUR OPINION ARE JUDGES SYNSETIZED ON THE ISSUES ADRESSED BY THIS ACT?** Yes
- 18. IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN 60 DAYS?** Yes, but due to this time limit due process of law is not being followed fully.
- 19. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DVA MAY REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?** No

**NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** G Vankar

**JURISDICTION:** Baroda

**Excerpts of the conversation:**

This law is a complete law but its provisions are not implemented in spirit. It will take some time to make its implementation as per its provisions. Not a single case is disposed within the prescribed statutory time limit for its disposal. Only if the implementing agencies make efforts for its proper implementation then only in one or two decades it will diminish.



1. **Name of the lawyer:** Jeetesh G
2. **JURISDICTION:** Gandhinagar and Junagadh
3. **Give short information about DV Act**
4. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 4
5. **What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** To register cases of domestic violence
6. **The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** These days more cases are reported it is not that it is increasing day by day it was present in the society from the very past
7. **What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60 days
8. **What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** Victim of DV who has no place to stay, Government make some arrangements for her stay
9. **Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?** It doesn't seem so but some change will definitely happen
10. **Which type of violence included under this Act?** All categories of violence against women

- 1. NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Rashidaben mansuri
- 2. JURISDICTION:** Dared, Himmatnagar, Sabarkatha
- 3. GIVE SHORT INFORMATION OF THE DVA:** It is useful for getting custody of child, protection against domestic violence
- 4. How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 4
- 5. What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** Samaj Suraksha Adhikari has given charge of PO and provides need based relieves
- 6. The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** Can't say
- 7. What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60 days but usual practice takes more time
- 8. What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** Victim of DV who has no place to stay, Government make some arrangements for her stay
- 9. Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?**  
Can't say
- 10. Which type of violence included under this act?** Mental, economic violence

- 1. NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Piyushbhai Ravjibhai Parmar
- 2. JURISDICTION:** Bharuch
- 3. GIVE SHORT INFORMATION ABOUT DVA:** it's a civil law as other laws are not sufficiently potentially able to deal with the problem of DV same as earlier
- 4. How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 6
- 5. What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** Nominated by the govt. give full information about the rights of victim under the Act, immediate report to police for providing protection to women, medical aid
- 6. The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** Dowry demand
- 7. WHAT is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60
- 8. What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** Same as the above
- 9. Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?** if the law is implemented in toto will reduce domestic violence in the society
- 10. Which type of violence included under this Act?** Physical violence, sexual, verbal abuse or insult, mental, economic

- 1. NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Imtiyaz
- 2. JURISDICTION:** Himmatnagar, Sabarkatha
- 3. GIVE SHORT INFORMATION ABOUT DVA:** It provides speedy justice.  
It is for all categories of women and not only wife as it was in earlier laws
- 4. How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 3
- 5. What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** Nominated by state, to take information of DV
- 6. The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** CANT SAY
- 7. What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 90
- 8. What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** Same as the above
- 9. Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?** Yes,  
it has a scope for conciliation and it is better than 498A
- 10. Which type of violence included under this Act?** Mental, physical, violence perpetrated by family members, case can be maintained against family members

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** A R Ghorl
2. **JURISDICTION:** Palanpur, Banaskatha
3. **GIVE SHORT INFORMATION OF THE DVA:** Unlike other laws, it has enlarged the definition of domestic violence
4. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 2
5. **What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** Appointed by SG. To report to the Magistrate after the receipt of application
6. **The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** Can't say
7. **What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 90 days
8. **What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** To give safe shelter to the victim
9. **Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?** Yes but there is no effective implementation of the Act
10. **Which type of violence included under this Act?** Physical and mental

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Harisha Hasmukhbhai Bhagat
2. **JURISDICTION:** Bharuch
3. **Give short information about DV Act.** The object is to prevent violence against women
4. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 1
5. **What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** Appointed by Govt.
6. **The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** The bearing or *sahan shakti* of women has gone down
7. **What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60
8. **What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** To give shelter, to provide security to her and her kids
9. **Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?** No, it is being misused by women
10. **Which type of violence included under this Act?** Physical, mental, verbal abuse

- 1. NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** Raja Gopal Pillai
- 2. JURISDICTION:** Bharuch
- 3. Give short information about DVA**  
It is to prevent physical and mental violence against women
- 4. How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 1
- 5. What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** State Government appoints them.
- 6. The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** Because 498A is not helping women to get justice and punish the perpetrators of domestic violence
- 7. What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60
- 8. What is the role of shelter homes under DVA?** Same as the above
- 9. Do you believe that DVA may reduce the violence against women?** No, not at all
- 10. Which type of violence included under this Act?** All type of violence. It has enlarged the scope of definition of DV

1. **NAME OF THE ADVOCATE:** N I Patel
2. **JURISDICTION:** Baroda
3. **Give short information about DVA:**  
It is enacted to remove the insufficiency of 125. it provides maintenance, medical expenses, residential order, shelter home and even police help
4. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** 3
5. **What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?**  
Full time PO not appointed yet. Police protection,
6. **The number of the cases under DVA is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** CAN'T SAY
7. **What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60
8. **What is the role of shelter homes under DVA?**  
Same as the above
9. **Do you believe that DVA may reduce the violence against women?** It will go down, men fear Court
10. **Which type of violence included under this Act?**  
Mental, physical, dowry related violence is also covered



1. **Name of the lawyer:** Mr. Prakash Gaurishankar Pandya
2. **JURISDICTION:** Ahmedabad
3. **Give short information about DV Act:** It is enacted for speedy justice and to enable easy access to justice to women
4. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** Two
5. **What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** This law imposes a great deal of duties on Protection Officers and also punishment is provided in case of not performing their duties
6. **The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** DVA is a multipurpose law and aggrieved person can get justice easily and quickly even without going to the Court and Police
7. **What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60 days
8. **What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** DVA provides for right to safe shelter in a shelter home for the victim of DV, such shelter homes are maintained by State Government or Non-Governmental Organizations
9. **Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?** Yes, because it is a multipurpose law and meant for speedy trial.
10. **Which type of violence included under this Act?** Verbal abuse, insult, slap, physical, mental and economic violence are included

1. **Name of the lawyer:** Yusufbhai S Sheikh
2. **JURISDICTION:** Patan
3. **Give short information about DV Act:** it is a very strong law to prevent violence against women
4. **How many cases you have proceeded under this Act?** Four
5. **What is the process of appointment of the protection officer and what is their role?** The State Government can appoint any person, who has expertise in the field. His duty is to register cases of domestic violence and refer them to the Police and Court having jurisdiction.
6. **The number of the cases under DV Act is increasing day by day what is the reason behind that?** Can't say
7. **What is the time period for the disposal of the application after its first hearing?** 60 days
8. **What is the role of shelter homes under DV Act?** Any victim of domestic violence, who has no place to stay, can stay here. The Protection Officer and Judge can refer her to shelter home
9. **Do you believe that DV Act may reduce the violence against women?** Yes, as it has very effective provisions and also it is meant for speedy redressal i.e. within 60 days from first hearing.
10. **Which type of violence included under this Act?** Physical, mental and economic violence. It also covers violence by her own family members

## **ANNEXURE V**

### **INTERVIEWS OF JUDGES:**

**NAME OF THE JUDGE:** Hon'ble Mr. K D PARMAR

**DESIGNATION:** JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE (FIRST), BHARUCH DISTRICT COURT

1. **IN YOUR OPINION, DOES DVA PROMOTE VIOLENCE FREE HOMES IN THE SOCIETY?** Yes, because the victim women need not to visit Police Station. And it also provides for time bound disposal of cases.
2. **WHETHER THE LAW LIKE DVA IS NECESSARY IN GUJARAT?** Yes
3. **CAN A JUDGE ORDER FOR IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DVA? IF YES IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** Yes, if the applicant demands
4. **IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FIXED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE CASE?**  
Sixty days
5. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TODAY TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 60 DAYS?**  
No, but temporary or interim relief may be granted to the victim within the prescribed limit
6. **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE DEALING WITH CASES UNDER DVA?** It is good law and protects the interest of women.

**Judge, Himmatnagar Court**

The judge said that it is important to write details and date in the complaint properly about the incident. Independent witnesses are required for examining whoever they may be. One can't just examine the complainant. He says that people from CSJ district centre just get women in the box. NGOs should be aware about the PWDVA so that they let people know. Women have many laws in favour of them. Lawyers also don't know about the PWDVA. NGOs should let people be together than break families. The Court's job is to unite the society. Judges in fact do legal literacy camps.

The judge also said that the PWDVA recognises only legal relationships like marriage and not live-in relationships. He refused to acknowledge the stated provisions in the Act that clearly contradict this.

**M A Kadiwala, Judge, Palanpur Court**

Mr. Kadiwala says that the PO should properly serve the notices when issued and then implementation will be faster. He says that the period of three days should be made reasonable. Residence orders should have some norms when the court passes it. He says that what is the point of the order when women have to go back to the same home and continue living. Mr. Kadiwala feels that the PWDVA should be based on the ground reality. Currently he is hearing two cases of domestic violence which are in initial stages.

NAME OF THE JUDGE: \*\*\*\*\* (requested not to disclose his/her name)

DESIGNATION: Judicial Magistrate (First), Baroda

1. **IN YOUR OPINION, DOES DVA PROMOTE VIOLENCE FREE HOMES IN THE SOCIETY?** Yes, but it may be misused by women
2. **WHETHER THE LAW LIKE DVA IS NECESSARY IN GUJARAT?** Yes
3. **CAN A JUDGE ORDER FOR IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DVA? IF YES IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** Yes, if demanded by the applicant
4. **IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FIXED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE CASE?**  
Sixty days
5. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TODAY TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 60 DAYS?**  
No
6. **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE DEALING WITH CASES UNDER DVA?** Till date, full time Protection Officer has not appointed by the State Government. As per the law, the PO has to conduct an enquiry but the PO refers it to the Police to enquire the matter or else he asks his subordinate to conduct an enquiry on his behalf and then he just put his signature on the enquiry report and forward it to my Court or the Court of other JMFC. So far as Baroda is concerned, almost every matter is dismissed as the parties compromise their matter.

**NAME OF THE JUDGE: \*\*\*\*\*** (requested not to disclose his/her name)

**DESIGNATION:** JMFC, Ahawa, Dangs

1. **IN YOUR OPINION, DOES DVA PROMOTE VIOLENCE FREE HOMES IN THE SOCIETY?**
2. **WHETHER THE LAW LIKE DVA IS NECESSARY IN GUJARAT?** Can't say
3. **CAN A JUDGE ORDER FOR IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DVA? IF YES IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** Yes, if the victim demands
4. **IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FIXED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE CASE?** Yes, Sixty days
5. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TODAY TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 60 DAYS?** Not now as there is no awareness but gradually with the time it would be possible if all the authorities established under this Act would make all round efforts for its implementation.
6. **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE DEALING WITH CASES UNDER DVA?** The Protection Officer has no knowledge about his duties under this Act and generally did not conduct any enquiry in to the matter and refer the complaint without any domestic incident report. Therefore, it is difficult to pass any immediate relief for the victim as the preliminary inquiry was not performed by the PO.

NAME OF THE JUDGE: **Hon'ble D S Pinto**

DESIGNATION:

1. **IN YOUR OPINION, DOES DVA PROMOTE VIOLENCE FREE HOMES IN THE SOCIETY?** The framers of the Act enacted a law after considering all of its the pros and cons therefore, in my view it will definitely reduce violence against women in the society
2. **WHETHER THE LAW LIKE DVA IS NECESSARY IN GUJARAT?** Can't say
3. **CAN A JUDGE ORDER FOR IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DVA? IF YES IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** Yes, if victim demands
4. **IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FIXED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE CASE?**  
Don't know
5. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TODAY TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 60 DAYS?**  
Can't say
6. **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE DEALING WITH CASES UNDER DVA?** So far, two such cases were referred to my Court but even I didn't know the law and due to overburden I am also unable to read the law.

**NAME OF THE JUDGE:** \*\*\*\*\* (requested not to disclose his/her name)

**DESIGNATION:** Civil Judge (Senior Division)

1. **IN YOUR OPINION, DOES DVA PROMOTE VIOLENCE FREE HOMES IN THE SOCIETY?** It is totally impossible. Enacting and implementing new laws would not reduce violence in the society, as it does not address the genesis of the violence against women.
2. **WHETHER THE LAW LIKE DVA IS NECESSARY IN GUJARAT?** Never, women will use it as a weapon to harass men
3. **CAN A JUDGE ORDER FOR IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DVA? IF YES IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** Yes, whenever victim demands
4. **IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FIXED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE CASE?**  
Yes, sixty days
5. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TODAY TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 60 DAYS?**  
No, it is impossible
6. **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE DEALING WITH CASES UNDER DVA?** Since, I am a Civil Judge (Sr.) did not deal with any trial under DVA but on the basis of my experience of trials in other matrimonial matters, around 70%-75% cases are vexatious and laws are often misused by women just to take revenge. In DVA, there is no provision to protect men who are troubled by their wives. In India, there isn't any law for protecting the men; the Parliament should enact such men oriented laws.



**NAME OF THE JUDGE: \*\*\*\*\*** (requested not to disclose his/her name)

**DESIGNATION:** JMFC, Modasa, Sabarkatha

1. **IN YOUR OPINION, DOES DVA PROMOTE VIOLENCE FREE HOMES IN THE SOCIETY?** Never, it will disintegrate families
2. **WHETHER THE LAW LIKE DVA IS NECESSARY IN GUJARAT?** Not necessary
3. **CAN A JUDGE ORDER FOR IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DVA? IF YES IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** Yes, if victim demands
4. **IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FIXED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE CASE?** Don't know
5. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TODAY TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 60 DAYS?** Impossible as it is illogical and devoid of realism.
6. **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE DEALING WITH CASES UNDER DVA?** It is generally misused by women and women file false cases on the provocation of her parents to avenge.

**NAME OF THE JUDGE: \*\*\*\*\*** (requested not to disclose his/her name)

**DESIGNATION:** JMFC, Sanan, Ahmedabad

1. **IN YOUR OPINION, DOES DVA PROMOTE VIOLENCE FREE HOMES IN THE SOCIETY?** Yes definitely, the Act is multipurpose in action and also very stringent in nature. Gradually, the graph of violence against women will go down but Police and Protection Officer needed to be made sensitive to act in accordance with the objective of the Act.
2. **WHETHER THE LAW LIKE DVA IS NECESSARY IN GUJARAT?** Yes
3. **CAN A JUDGE ORDER FOR IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DVA? IF YES IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** Yes, if the victim demands
4. **IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FIXED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE CASE?**  
Yes, sixty days
5. **IS IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TODAY TO DISPOSE OFF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 60 DAYS?**  
It is possible if there are enough Judges
6. **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE DEALING WITH CASES UNDER DVA?** There is still no full time Protection Officer and that is too one PO for the whole district, therefore victims are unable approach them in times of need.

**ANNEXURE VI****DETAILS OF CASES REGISTERED IN COURT (BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED UNDER RTI)****DISTRICT: AMRELI**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Case No.</b>	<b>Details of the Parties</b>		<b>Date of issue of notice</b>	<b>Date of passing of interim order</b>	<b>Date of order of residence</b>	
		<b>Complaint</b>	<b>Respondent</b>				
1	156/07	Dakuben Balubhai Sankhar / Shaileshbhai Babubhai Sankhar / Parul Balubhai Sankhar  At: Babrkot, Jafrabad, Dist.: Amreli	Balubhai Velabhai Sankhar At; Babarkot, Jafrabad, Dist.: Amreli				w
2	1/07	Kuwarben Navdhanbhai	Mala Ranchod Maliya / Anand	30/08/07			T

		Bariya L & T Chowk, Near Bajrangbali Dairy, At: Kowaya, Ta: Rajula, Dist.: Amreli	Vathram Maliya / Jeeva Veera Maliya / Santuben Nanjibhai Maliya / Hansiben Ranchod Vathram Maliya  At: Siyrbet, Ta: Jafrabad , Dist.: Amreli				
3	339/07	Jagrutiben Parshottam Rathod Behind B.K. Tankna Dela, Chakraghad Road, Amreli	Girit Kanji Chavda / Kamlesh Kanji Chavda / Kanji Layji Chavda  Block No. 88, Kateshwar Society, Sheri No. 2, Katargaam Road, Laita Chowkdi, Surat				
4		Shilpaben Vitthalbhai Babaria  Bhakti Nagar Plot, Bamshay Road, At: Kowao, Vadia	Vallabhai Kanjibhai Katheriya / Dipesh Vallabh Katheria / Vimlaben Vallabh Katheria Jaswantgadh Para, At: Chital , Amreli				

			<p>Pankaj Vallabh Katheria, Bajrang Nagar, Surat</p> <p>Jagrutiben Veenubhai (Rajkot)</p> <p>Alkaben Lalitbhai At: Keshod, Ta: Junagadh, Dist.: Saurashtra</p>				
5	2/07	<p>Ramilaben Dhanjibhai Parmar</p> <p>At: Navi Mandaldi, Ta: Rajula, Dist.:Amreli</p>	<p>Pankaj Amrutlal Vaghmai / Amrutlal Vaghmai / Shantaben Amrutlal Vaghmai At: Sandhipuram (Moti Ber)</p> <p>Chetnaben Amrutlal Vaghmai Nanduben Amrutlal Vaghmai (Surat)</p>	10/9/2007			
6	155/07	<p>Tabassum Jafarbai Dhaniwala Behind Sub Jail, Abal Miya Naka, Amreli</p>	<p>Jafar Ismail Dhaniwala / Faridaben Ismail Dhaniwala</p>				

			Room No. 17; Block No.: B -2, Chistiya Colony, Near Lamba Gate, Station Road, At: Dhoraji, Dist.: Rajkot				
7	4/07	Laxmiben Hirabhai Solanki Fish Market, Jafrabad, Dist.: Amreli	Bavsiben Jeeva Solanki / Dabhiben Jeeva Solanki / Lakshmiben Jeeva Solanki / Somiben Jeeva Solanki / Ukaibhai Jeeva Solanki / Ramjibhai Jeeva Solanki / Damubhai Jeeva Solanki  At: Mota Khara, Valia Sheri, Jafrabad, Dist.: Amreli	15/10/07			
8	3/07	Neetaben Pravinbhai Bipalia Ta: Rajula, Dist.: Amreli	Pravin Rathji Bipalia House No. 295, Lalita Park society, Katargam, Surat  Ravji Sheeyaji				wit

			Bipalia / Nanduben Ravji Bipalia / Naresh Ravji Bipalia / Gopal Ravji Bipalia				
9	5/07	Bhanuben Balabhai Vaghela 7, Kaladti Nagar, Rajula, Dist.: Amreli	Bala Lalji Vaghela / Raviyat Lalji Vaghela / Vallabh Lalji Vaghela / Champaben Lalji Vaghela / Alkaben Lalji Vaghela  At: Kansa, Ta: Gariadhar, Dist.: Bhavnagar	19/10/07			T
10	6/07	Bhavnaben Yogeshbhai Chauhan At: Ramtekri, Near Water Tank, At & P.O. : Rajula, Dist.: Amreli	Yogeshbhai Kanubhai Chauhan / Ambaben Kanubhai Chauhan / Kanubhai Bhurabhai Chauhan / Rameshbhai Kanubhai Chauhan  Madhvanej Vadi, Near Water Tank, At & Ta.: Savarkundla	15/10/07			

11	7/07	Manguben Ravjibhai Ghaya At: Mafat Plot, Mandal, Ta: Rajula, Dist.: Amreli	Ravjibhai Kanabhai Ghaya / Kanabhai Raiyabhai Ghaya / Bachiben Kanabhai Ghaya / Mantabhai Kanabhai Ghaya / Jeetubhai Kanabhai Ghaya At: Tamam, Kalsar, Ta: Mahuva, Dist.: Bhavnagar	18/10/07			
12	8/07	Somiben Gigabhai Gujaraia Betaiavaas, Behind Water Tank, At& Ta.: Rajula, Dist.: Amreli	Gigabhai Sajanbhai Gujaria / Devuben Sajanbhai Gujaria / Savitaben Sajanbhai Gujaraia / Narsheebhai Sajanbhai Gujaria / Sajanbhai Rumanbhai Gujaria  Betaiavaas, Behind Water Tank, Near Rampir Temple, At& Ta.: Rajula, Dist.: Amreli	15/10/07			
13		Bhavnaben Jagdishbhai Rathod	Jagdishbhai Nathabhai Rathod /				



		C/O Maganbhai Mohanbhai Seju Observation Home Quarters, Pratappara, At: Amreli	Champaben Nathabhai Rathod / Nathabhai Jeevabhai Rathod  Bhaktibahavsingh Society At: Gopalgram, Ta: Dhari, Dist.: Amreli				
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**DISTRICT: ANAND**

Sr. No.	Case No.	Details of the Parties		Date of issue of notice	<b>Date of passing of interim order</b>	<b>Date of order of residence</b>	
		Complaint	Respondent				
1		Falguni Navinchandra Trivedi Mahaveer society, Jitodia Road, Anand		26/7/07			Th
2		Lataben Lalatbhai Patel 11, Dhanraj Park At: Pipodra, Ta: + Dist.: Anand		5/9/2007			
3		Jayaben Deviprasad Thakar 39, Simandhar Society, Near Water Tank, Borsad Chowkdi, Anand		15/09/07			C

4		<p>Samimbano Mushtafakhan Pathan Add: Dantarwado, Badamiyan ni Pole, Khambat, Dist.: Anand</p>		30/10/07			
5		<p>Dahiben Babubhai Solanki Ta: Khambat, Dist.: Anand</p>					
6		<p>Preetiben Ashkobhai Suthar 2 B, Navratna Society, Behind Railway Crossing, Vallabhvidya Nagar, Anand</p>		7/11/2007			

**DISTRICT: BANASKANTHA**

Sr. No.	Case No.	Details of the Parties		Date of issue of notice	Date of passing of interim order	Date of order of residence	
		Complaint	Respondent				
1	426/07	Joytsnaben Amrutlal At: Kumbhalmer, Ta: Palanpur Dist.: Banaskantha	Rakeshkumar Karshandas / Karshandas Sabilbhai At & P.O. : Umroo, Ta: Patan				N
2	2070/07	Priyankaben R. Vyas At: Maruti Park Society, Disa, Dist.: Banaskantha	Sachin Hareshbhai Vyas/ Hareshbhai Naranbhai Vyas/ Nishant Hareshbhai Vyas Dharti Township, Palanpur  Manojbhai Rajgor Dhananjay Park, Palanpur				N

3	738/07	Samuben Hemabhai Prajapati  At & P.O.: Nanasada Ta: Danta, Dist.: Banaskantha	Joytabhai Manabhai / Jayantibhai Joytabhai / Amuben Joytabhai  At & P.O.: Paaniyaari, Ta: Danta Dist.: Banaskantha				N
4	385/07	Kesiben Ashokbhai Prajapati AT & P.O. : Kumbhasan Ta: Palanpur, Dist.; Banaskantha	Ashokbhai Mohanbhai / Mohanbhai Manjibhai / Rajiben Mohanbhai / Amrutbhai Mohanbhai  AT & P.O. : Kumbhasan Ta: Palanpur, Dist.; Banaskantha				N
5	425/07	Ramilaben Valjibhai Makwana At & P.O.: Malandarwaja, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Valjibhai Sanabhai / Sanabhai Manabhai / Rajabhai Pragabhai At: Dhanera, Old Police Station  Ishwarbhai				N

			<p>Ratnabhai At: Nandotra, Ta: Dantiwada Dist.: Banaskantha</p> <p>Bhupeshbhai Trivedi At &amp; P.O.: Gayatri Mandir Road Ta: Disa, Dist.: Palanpur</p>				
6	424/07	<p>Asmaben Arshadbhai Dhuka At: Kaleda Ta: Vadgaam,</p>	<p>Arshadbhai Hibjur Rehman / Hibjur Rehman Abdulla At &amp; P.O.: Hardebasana Ta: Vadgaam</p> <p>Abdul Hafiz Abdul Rehman / Ashfak Hashid Abdul Rehman At: Kaleda Ta: Vadgaam</p>	3/8/2007			N
7	2337/07	<p>Bhartiben Lakshmichand Disa, Three Hanuman Road Dist.: Banaskantha</p>	<p>Ashwinbhai Babulal Charvada, Ta: Hadvad Dist.: Surendranagar</p>				N

			Babulal Agamtaji / Paresh Babulal / Jagdish Babulal At: Bhonyan, Behind Nutan Cold Stores, Ta: Disa, Dist: Banaskantha				
8	228/07	Saberaben Hanifbhai Nedaria At: Bavalchundi, Ta: Vadgaam	Hanifbhai Ahmedbhai Nedaria / Ahmadbhai Tajibhai Nedaria / Hamid Ahmadbhai / Jabir Ahmadbhai At: Teniwada, Ta: Vadgaam  Usman Habib / Husen Suleman At: Kalusar, Badarpura, Ta: Vadgaam	4/9/2007			N
9	395/07	Imran Gulam Mustafa / Gulam Mustafa Khudabaksh / Babubhai Mustafa  At: Bhopanagar,	Imran Gulam Mustafa / Gulam Mustafa Khudabaksh / Babubhai Mustafa  At: Bhopanagar, Huseney chowk, Ta:	4/9/2007			N

		Huseney chowk, Ta: Disa, Dist.: Banaskantha	Disa, Dist.: Banaskantha				
10	475/07	Rubinabano Samunsherkhan  At: Virbai gate, Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Ezazbhai Gulambhai / Imranbhai Wahidbhai  At: Kheda				N
11	480/07	Aminaben Ismailbhai At: Fofadia Kuwa, Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Rehman Jafarbhai / Rahim Jafarbhai At: Sarkhej, Ahmedabad  Ismail Bhikabhai / Suleman Bhikabhai / Rahim Bhikhabhai / Rehman Bhikhabhai  At: Kheralu, Khokarvaas	3/8/2007			N
12	455/07	Veenaben Panabhai Solanki At: Chapi, Vadgaam	Laljibhai Poojabhai / Dharmabhai Ratilal / Jayantilal Ratilal At: Kirtipura, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.:	3/9/2007			N



			Banaskantha				
13	456/07	Kumudben Manilal Khamar At: Lokniketan , Ratanpur, Ta:Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Jaskanbhai Narsangbhai Chowdhary At: Pansa, Kheralu				N
14	510/07	Salmaben Sirajuddin At: Virampur, Ta:Amirgadh, Dist.: Banaskantha	Sirajuddin Ismailbhai / Ismailbhai Noormohammed At: Virampur, Ta:Amirgadh, Dist.: Banaskantha				N
15	423/07	Limdiben Velabhai At; Kanpur, Ta: Amirgadh, Dist.: Banaskantha	Prabhubhai Motibhai / Babubhai Devabhai / Vaja Rama / Bhuta Babu  At: Gojipadni, Ta: Amirgadh, Dist.; Banaskantha				N
16	477/07	Zubedaben Habibbhai Varadia  At: Badargadh, Ta:	Habibbhai Mamjibhai Varadia At: Badargadh, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.:				N

		Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Banaskantha				
17		Hetalben Bhaichandlal Prajapati  At: Lunwa, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Nareshbhai Bhikhabhai / Amrutbhai Bhikhabhai  At: Changwada, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha  Bhikhabhai Veerabhai  At: Becharpur, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha				N
18	457/07	Rubinabano Imrankhan Pathan At: Ambar Society, Palanpur Dist. : Banaskantha	Imran Shamshuddin / Shamshuddin Satarkhan / Sarfuddin Shamshuddin / Shahibano Shamshuddin / Irfankhan Shamshuddin / Jenafben Shamshuddin  At:Near Amirgadh				N

			Bus Stop, Ta: Amirgadh				
19	66/07	Hansaben Rameshbhai Barot  At: Chamanpur, Ta: Diyodar	Rameshbhai Ishwarbhai Barot  At:Government Residence, Ta: Disa				N
20	536/07	Ushaben Jyotibhai Prajapati At: Laxminagar Society, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Kalpeshkumar Varghilal / Varghilal Shankarlal / Rakeshkumar Varghilal  At: Harij , Jalaram Society	6/9/2007			N
21	530/07	Ranjanben Pradipbhai Bodan At: Bisweswar Colony, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Pradipbhai Natwarlal / Natwarlal Pyarelal At: Shihori, Near Water Tank (Raj)  Gopalbhai Girdharilal At: Gangotri nagar, Himmatnagar	2/9/2007			

22	443/07	Fatibai Mamudbhai Shaikh At: Gidasan, Ta: Vadgaam, Dist.: Banaskantha	Anwarkhan Sahelkhan / Aalmkhan Sahelkhan / Firozkhan Sahelkhan / Samsherkhan Sahelkhan  At: Gidasan, Ta: Vadgaam, Banaskantha	4/9/2007			
23	337/07	Sangitaben Narendrakumar Purohit At: Baratpur, Ta: Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha	Bharatkumar Mahendrabhai / Lalitikumar Mahendrabhai  At: Chansma Jain society	9/7/2007			

**DISTRICT: BARODA**

Sr. No.	Case No.	Details of the Parties		Date of issue of notice	Date of passing of interim order	Date of order of residence	
		Complaint	Respondent				
1.	1384		Rajanbhai Swaminath Pillai  B-1, Mahakali Society, Ajwa Road, Baroda				C
2	2083		Rajendra Kashinath Taret, E-28 Parshawnagar, Vasna Road, Baroda				C
3	1270/07		Nileshrav Shivajirav Dhumal B-13 Naagdev Nagar Society, Nr. Nathiba Nagar, Vaghodia Road, Baroda				C

4	1271/07		Trilokchandra Ramlakhan Chaudhary, E/1, 202 Township - 1, Darbar Chokdi, Manjalpur, Baroda				C
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**DISTRICT: BHARUCH**

Sr. No.	Case No.	Details of the Parties		Date of issue of notice	Date of passing of interim order	Date of order of residence	
		Complaint	Respondent				
1	2084/07		<p>Jayeshbhai Jethabhai Patel At: Kavabhagaud, Mishrashala, Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch</p> <p>Shantaben Jethabhai Patel At: 2 Swatik Nagar Society, Kalakroad, Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch</p>				C

			Pravinbhai Jethabhai Patel At: At: Kavabhagaud, Mishrashala, Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch				
			Satishbhai Jethabhai Patel No. 4-5, Housing society, Nr. Swatiknagar society, At & P.O.: Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch				
			Gitaben Satishbhai Patel No. 4-5, Housing society, Nr. Swatiknagar society, At & P.O.: Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch				
			Maheshbhai Jethabhai Patel No. 6-7, Laxminagar Society, Behind Sodgala, Village:				

			<p>Punakumbharia, Ta: Chauriaasi, Dist.: Surat</p> <p>Jyotiben Maheshbhai Patel No. 6-7, Laxminagar Society, Behind Sodgala, Village: Punakumbharia, Ta: Chauriaasi, Dist.: Surat</p> <p>Vitthalbhai Nathabhai Patel At &amp; P.O.: Bhankhet, Ta: Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch</p> <p>Rajubhai Vitthalbhai Patel At &amp; P.O.: Bhankhet, Ta: Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch</p> <p>Dharmendrabbhai Shivabbhai Patel At &amp; P.O.: Bhankhet, Ta: Jambusar, Dist.:</p>				
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			Bharuch				
2	21/07	Shahid Suleman Bakshi At: Vaagra, Dist.: Bharuch	Shahid Suleman Bakshi At: Devla, Ta: Jambusar, dist.: Bharuch  Nazma Shahid Suleman Bakshi At: Devla, Ta: Jambusar, Dist.: Bharuch	19/05/07			T c
3		Jamilabano Nurani Fadio, At: Vaagra, Dist.: Bharuch	Shahid Ehsang bhai At: Vidyanagar  Ehsang Chatrasang At: Kavli  Samir Ehsang At: Vidya Nagar  Mehmooda Sakir At: VidyaNagar	29/05/07			Tf
4	462/07	Tarkeshwari Ambalal At: Kasba, Ta. +	Ambalal Lallubhai Harijan At: Lalbaug,	6/8/2007			

		Dist. : Bharuch	Vadodara				
5	652/07	Hemlataben Panchal Bharuch	Maheshbhai Goverdhanbhai Panchal Falshrutinagar, Bharuch	5/10/2007			
6	653/07	Alkaben Dillipbhai Solanki At: Ayodhyanagar, Link Road, Bharuch	Chanchalben Muljibhai Solanki / Kanubhai Muljibhai Solanki / Madhuben Kanubhai Solanki / Nitinchandra Kanubhai Solanki / Harish Kanubhai Solanki  At: rohitvaas, Juna Bazaar, Karjan, Ta. + Dist.: Vadodara	16/10/07			

**DISTRICT: GANDHINAGAR**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Case No.</b>	<b>Details of the Parties</b>	<b>Date of issue of notice</b>	<b>Date of passing of interim order</b>	<b>Date of order of residence</b>	
1	58/07	<p>Shah Chandresh Shankarlal / Makwana  SShankarlal Chaganlal / Kamlaben  Shankarlal Makwana / Shilpaben  Shankarlal Makwana</p> <p>294, Doubledekker, Sector – 24, Behind  Chandra Photo Studio, Gandhinagar</p> <p>Prabhakar Jyotiben Ashwinkumar /  Prabhakar Ashwinkumar</p> <p>Sector 30, Near Akshardham Temple,  Gandhinagar</p> <p>Vidyaben Mukeshkumar Parmar /  Mukeshkumar Parmar</p> <p>Shyam Bungalows Part –II, IOC road,  Chandkheda, Ta+Dist.: Gandhinagar</p> <p>Dipikaben Jitendrakumar Sutaria /</p>	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	cc

		<p>Jitendra Sutaria</p> <p>70, Sarthi Bunglows, Highway Road, Chandkheda, Ta+Dist.: Gandhinagar</p>				
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**DISTRICT: SABARKANTHA**

Sr. No.	Case No.	Details of the Parties		Date of issue of notice	Date of passing of interim order	Date of order of residence	
		Complaint	Respondent				
1	58/07	Soniaben Dasrathbhai Vaghela Behind Jila Udyog Kendra, Himmatnagar, Dist.: Sabarkantha	Jagdishbhai Jayantibhai Solanki Raikanagar, Hadiyol Chaparia, Himmatnagar, Dist.: Sabarkantha				
2		Savitaben Manharbhai Parmar At: Eklara, Ta: Idar, Dist.: Sabarkantha	Manharbhai Ratnabhai Parmar At: Pethapur, Ta: Himmatnagar, Dist.: Sabarkantha				
3		Tanvirbano Ayubmiyan Kazi At: Near Chora, Kadia, Vadana Nakey, Modasa,	Zarinaben Abdul Latif / Abdul Latif Jumabhai Shaikh / Tarannumbano / Mohd. Hussain /	12/10/07 and 1/11/07			

		Dist.: Sabarkantha	Mukhyatjim / Imranbhai At: Jamalpur Chakla, Ahmedabad				
4		Divyakunwarba Manharsinh Rahewar  B-7, Bansidhar Apartment, Himmatnagar, Dist.: Sabarkantha	Ajaysinh Arjansinh Raol B-75, Alok Appartments, Nandigram, Near Tetpur Water Works, Nana Chiloda, Ahmedabad  Arjunsinh Shivsindh Raol / Lilaba Arjunsinh / Devarajsinh Arjunsinh / Hanumantsinh Fulsinh Chauhan / Kishoresinh Chauhan				

**DISTRICT: SURAT**

Sr. No.	Case No.	Details of the Parties		Date of issue of notice	Date of passing of interim order	Date of order of residence	
		Complaint	Respondent				
1		Aarti Shyamsundar Kapoor At: 801, 8th Floor, Shyam Sundaram Apt., Bhatar Road, Surat	Amit Yogendra Bhutani / Seema Yogendra Bhutani / Yogendra Bhutani Flat No. 503, Om Apt., S.P. Verma Road, P.S. Kotwal, Patna, Bihar	27/07/07			
2		Nazimabano Sherkhan Chimni Tekra, Near Power House, Salabatpura, Gandhinagar, Surat	Asfullakhan Sherkhan House No.: 454, Near Masjid, Chimni Tekra, Behind Power House, Surat	31/08/07			
3		Manisha Nareshkumar Jadhav	Naresh Ranchod Jadhav Gurunagar Society,	6/10/2007			

		Madhuvan Society, Maroli Char Rasta, Navsari	Kadodara Road, Puna Gaam, Surat				
4		Rachna Mukesh Shedao Block No.: B, House No. : 7, Bhatar Tenament, Bhatar Road, Surat	Mukesh Shedao Block No.: 24, Room No. : 11, Sudabhavan, Bhestaan, Surat	10/10/2007			
5		Hansben Ramanbhai Patel At: Limbayat, Udhna, Surat	Rammna Damodar AT: Sumit Dying Mill -I, Pandesara, Block No.: 315, GIDC, Surat	24/10/07			
6		Bhavna Sandipkumar Shroff 8th Floor, Vijay Tower, Adajan Patia, Behind Ajeetnath Appartment, Near Ganga Jamuna Appt., Surat	Shobhna Trikamlal Shroff 8th Floor, Vijay Tower, Adajan Patia, Behind Ajeetnath Appartment, Near Ganga Jamuna Appt., Surat  Anjali Trikamlal Shroff / Sandip Trikamlal Shroff /	1/11/2007			



			Premila Trikamlal Shroff / Pradipkumar Trikamlal Shroff  At: 102, Hetal Aprt., Part - I , Flat No.: 51, Adajan, Rander Road, Surat				
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## ANNEXURE VII

### **PROTECTION OFFICERS AND THEIR ORIENTATION REGARDING “THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTICE VIOLENCE ACT, 2005”**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name and Address of the Protection Officer</b>	<b>Any orientation program conducted for P.O.s under the law, till now (Y/N)</b>	<b>Effect (impact) of orientation of orientation program</b>	<b>Xerox c provid (Y/N)</b>
1	Mr. C.P.Joshi C/O Jilla Asharay Gruh Compound Opp: Astodia Darwaja Ahmedabad	Y	There is no follow up regarding the impact as the objective of the orientation program was to educate the Protection Officers regarding the legal aspects of the Act.	Y
2	Mr. Bharatbhai Desai Protection Officer Block No.5 ,Old Sachivalay, Ground Floor Gandhinagar	Y	Same as above	Y
3	Mr. Mahavir Sinh Gohil Bahumali Bhavan Gandhi Road, Ground Floor	Y	Same as above	Y

	Amreli			
4	Mr. I.B. Chaudhary Narmada Bhavan C/Block- 1st Floor Baroda	Y	Same as above	Y
5	Mr. P.G. Trivedi Bahumali Bhavan , Ground Floor Gaytrinagar Bharuch	Y	Same as above	Y
6	Mr. R.B. Joshi Bahumali Bhavan G-2, Anexi ,Nr.S.T.Bus Stand Bhavanagar	Y	Same as above	Y
7	Mr. R.M. Trivedi 227/228-Jilla Sewa Sadan Nr.Borsad Chokadi Anand	Y	Same as above	Y
8	Kashmira Bhatt Bahumali Bhavan Block – B, Ground Floor Himmatnagar Sabarkantha	Y	Same as above	Y
9	Mr. C.N. Solanki Amir Road Rasata	Y		

	Palanpur Banaskantha			
10	Mr. Vinodbhai Chatriwala Bahumali Bhavan 1st Floor Godhara, Panchmahal	Y	Same as above	Y
11	Mr. M.N. Singada Nr.Information Department Chowk Bazar Surat	Y	Same as above	Y
12	Mr. K.M. Patel Bahumali Bhavan Collector Office Compound Navasari	Y	Same as above	Y

**ANNEXURE VIII****DETAILS OF AWARENESS PROGRAMS FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Center / Place</b>	<b>Date or Month</b>	<b>Number of Stakeholders Present</b>	<b>Activities in the Awareness Program</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	
1	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	23/11/06	35	Legal awareness program	615	Dr. I. F. M.
2	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	20/01/07	252	Legal awareness program on “Justice to the Victims of Domestic Violence”	2161	
3	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	17/02/07	94	Legal Shibir	698	
4	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan	02/03/07	26	Legal Direction	380	

	Kendra, Gandhinagar					
5	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	06/03/07	32	Legal Direction	250	
6	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	07/03/07	24	Legal Direction	250	
7	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	13/03/07	201	Awareness on Domestic Violence and who can avail Legal Aid	1052	Ru
8	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	07/05/07	26	Legal awareness on the issues of labor	320	
9	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	16/05/07	36	Awareness program on Domestic violence	235	

10	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	29/8/07	47	Awareness on saving female fetus, breastfeeding, domestic violence and legal help	480	
11	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	18/09/07	114	Awareness on saving female fetus, domestic violence and legal help	860	
12	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	17/10/07	20	Baal Adalat	360	
13	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	16/11/07	83	Legal awareness campaign on domestic violence	1180	F

14	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	10/08/07	22	Legal Awareness on Divorce	760	
15	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Gandhinagar	14/08/07	20	Marriage	590	
16	Amva Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra , Dhanduka	September 06 – November 06	27	Legal awareness program on Women and law	385	A
17	Amva Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra , Dhanduka	December 06 – February 06	20	Empowerment of women	470	Advc
18	Amva Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Dhanduka	March 07 – May 07	43	Legal awareness on Domestic Violence and women empowerment	865	Rehar



19	Amva Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra , Dhanduka	June 07 – August 07	61	Awareness program on women and their rights	660	Halir
20	Gyandeep Education Trust, Saijpur, Bodha	21/09/06	32	Legal awareness program on Domestic Violence in Ramnagar		Alkat
21	Gyandeep Education Trust, Saijpur, Bodha	21/09/06	29	Legal awareness program on Domestic Violence in Limbadia		Kosh
22	Gyandeep Education Trust, Saijpur, Bodha	21/09/06	38	Legal awareness program on Domestic Violence in Singarva		Muke
23	Gyandeep Education Trust, Saijpur, Bodha	21/09/06	42	Legal awareness program on Domestic Violence in Singarva		Alkat Solan
24	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	29/12/06	18	Legal awareness program regarding Domestic Violence	32	Hetall
25	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	27/01/07	27	Legal awareness program regarding Domestic Violence	40	Hetall
26	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya	20/02/007	46	Legal awareness program regarding Domestic Violence	47	Hetall

	Trust, Chandlodia					
27	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	23/03/07	68	Free Legal Aid	2522	Hetall
28	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	28/04/07	24	Free Legal Aid	40	Hetall
29	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	29/05/07	20	Free Legal Aid	20	Hetall
30	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	08/06/07	38	Free Legal Aid	14	Hetall
31	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	21/07/07	29	Free Legal Aid	14	Hetall
32	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vatsalya Trust, Chandlodia	17/08/07	22	Free Legal Aid	14	Hetall
33	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan	08/12/06	22	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women		Tarun

	Kendra, Sarkhej			from Domestic Violence in Makarba		
34	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	17/10/06	69	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Fatehvaadi Primary School	1125	Tarun
35	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	23/12/07	25	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Shahvadi Village		Manji
36	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	03/01/07	22	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence with the women of Vastral Village		Manji
37	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	16/01/07	18	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Chunaravasa		Tarun
38	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	20/01/07	58	Legal awareness program	750	Lata

39	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	07/02/07	14	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Satyam Aprt. Rakhial		Tarun
40	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	13/02/07	17	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Sarkhej		Tarun
41	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	14/12/07	15	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence		Manji
42	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	24/02/07	16	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Gayatrinagar Chandkheda		Nasre
43	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	02/03/07	17	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Badrakha		Tarun
44	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	07/03/07	19	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence		Geeta

				at Bhatt		
45	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	27/03/07	18	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence		Nasre
46	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	06/04/07	20	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Ghatlodia		Tarun
47	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	14/04/07	250	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence in association with Legal Service Authority	9070	Dr. A
48	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	11/05/07	23	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Vanjar		Nasre
49	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	22/05/07	17	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Rajoda		Smita
50	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan	16/06/07	22	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women	900	Smita

	Kendra, Sarkhej			from Domestic Violence at Fatehwadi		
51	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	13/07/07	17	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Sanand		Smita
52	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	18/08/07	18	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Badarkha		Darsh
53	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	07/09/07	18	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Sanathal		Taher
54	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	29/09/07	16	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence and free legal aid at Chamundanagar		Darsh
55	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	09/10/07	20	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Piplaj		Taher
56	District	31/10/07	14	Legal awareness program		Nasee

	Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej			on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Thaltej		
57	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	17/11/07	12	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Paldi		Darsh
58	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	17/11/07	13	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Ambawadi		Manji
59	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Sarkhej	23/11/07	13	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Bopal		Taher
60	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	05/12/06	22	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Amipur		Garvi
61	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	20/12/06	25	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Kerala		Shard

62	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	19/01/07	45	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Jekda	500	Adv.
63	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	10/02/07	40	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Kavla		Adv.
64	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	09/03/07	18	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Bhamsera		Jagru
65	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	13/04/07	20	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Kavitha		Garv
66	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	21/04/07	16	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Juwal		Shard
67	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	02/05/07	23	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence		Shard



				at Kavla		
68	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	18/05/07	25	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence at Aadroda		Aartil
69	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	09/06/07	40	Legal awareness program on the new law of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence and free legal aid at Dholera	1000	Dr. A
70	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	10/07/07	16	Legal awareness program on the new law of protection of women from Domestic violence and free legal aid at zekda		Shard
71	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	07/08/07	14	Legal awareness program on the new law of protection of women from Domestic violence		Jagru
72	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	22/08/07	18	Legal awareness program on the new law of protection of women from Domestic violence at Bagdana		Jagru
73	District Vividlakshi	18/09/07	17	Legal awareness program on the new law of		Shard

	Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla			protection of women from Domestic violence at Bavla		
74	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	24/10/07	12	Awareness program on women and law		Aartit
75	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bavla	16/11/07	13	Legal awareness program on the new law of protection of women from Domestic violence at Kavla		Aartit
76	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Naroda	11/09/07	34	Legal awareness program on the new law of protection of women from Domestic violence		Renul
77	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Naroda	31/10/07	16	Legal awareness program on the new law of protection of women from Domestic violence		Apek
78	District Vividlakshi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Naroda	11/12/07	37	Legal awareness program on the new law of protection of women from Domestic violence	570	Neela

## ANNEXURE IX

### DETAILS OF PROTECTION OFFICER AND SHELTER HOME

Sr. No.	District	Details of Protection Officer	Details of Shelter Home
1	Ahmedabad	Protection Officer C/O Jilla Asharay Gruh Compound Opp: Astodia Darwaja Ahmedabad	Mahipatram Rupram Ashram, Raipur, Ahmedabad  Vikas Gruh, Paldi  State Home for Women
2	Gandhinagar	Protection Officer Block No.5 Old Sachivalay, Ground Floor Gandhinagar	
3	Bharuch	Protection Officer Bahumali Bhavan Ground Floor Gaytrinagar Bharuch	Lady reception Center
4	Baroda	Protection Officer Narmada Bhavan C/Block- 1st Floor Baroda	State Home for Women
5	Surat	Protection Officer Nr.Information Department Chowk Bazar	State Home for Women

		Surat	
6	Sabarkantha	Protection Officer Bahumali Bhavan Block – B Ground Floor Himmatnagar Sabarkantha	Lady reception Center, Himmatnagar, Dist: Sabar Kantha
7	Banaskantha	Protection Officer Amir Road Rasata Palanpur Banaskantha	Lady reception Center, Palanpur, Dist.: Banaskantha
8	Amreli	Protection Officer Bahumali Bhavan Gandhi Road Ground Floor Amreli	Vikas Gruh, Amreli
9	Bhavanagar	Protection Officer Bahumali Bhavan G-2, Anexi Nr.S.T.Bus Stand Bhavanagar	Tapibai, R.Gandhi Vikas Gruh, B. Lady reception Center, Palitana, I
10	Panchmahal	Protection Officer Bahumali Bhavan 1st Floor Godhara Panchmahal	Lady reception Center, Godhra, D

11	Anand	Protection Officer 227/228-Jilla Sewa Sadan Nr.Borsad Chokadi Anand	Lady reception Center, Khambat, Dist.: Anand
12	Navasari	Protection Officer Bahumali Bhavan Collector Office Compound Navasari	Lady reception Center, Vansda, Dist.: Navsari

