

# Final Report

## A study on Gender Based Violence and Discrimination at Home in the Plantation sector

MULTI SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS (PVT) Ltd

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## Acronyms / Key Terminology / Definitions

### Acronyms

- CSA - Case study approach
- DV - Domestic Violence
- GBV - Gender Based Violence
- ISD - Institute of Social Development
- PHDT - Plantation Human Development Trust
- KII - Key Informant Interview

### List of Definitions

**Gender:** Either of the two sexes (male and female), especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones. The term is also used more broadly to denote a range of identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male and female. "a condition that affects people of both genders"

**Intimate Partner Violence:** Intimate partner violence is a serious public health problem all over the world that can have a profound impact lifelong health, opportunity and well-being on women.

**Domestic abuse:** also called "domestic violence", can be defined as a pattern of behavior in a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behavior that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. It can occur within a range of relationships including couples who are married, living together or dating and by extended family. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith or class. Victims of domestic abuse may also include a child or other relative, or any other household member.

Domestic abuse can be mental, physical, economic or sexual in nature. Incidents are rarely isolated, and usually escalate in frequency and severity. Domestic abuse may culminate in serious physical injury or death.

## Executive Summary

### Background

The Institute of Social Development commissioned this research on Domestic Violence in the Plantation sector in late 2021. The idea of doing this research is commendable. Though there are a number studies and surveys done across sectors and concentrated on the plantations, on violence by intimate partners and others, information on the household and extended family dynamics that contribute to this situation is scanty. Domestic Violence which falls as one of the types of violence within GBV has different impacts as it is pervasive, complex and very often continuous with lasting consequences on the victim and her children.

### Approach

The approach that was decided for the research was to base findings on Case Studies supported by Key Informant Interviews and Desk Review. In a study that was limited by time and resources, this approach allowed the research team to go in depth and extrapolate trends and patterns from the Case Studies. Each case study was organized according to 1. Description of events 2. Types of violence 3. Intra household and community dynamics specific to location and community 4. Causal Analysis 5. Consequences. 31 case studies were completed together with 14 KIIs in Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Matale by a research team of three persons.

### Key findings

The average age of the respondents was 33 years with 36% having studied only upto Grade 5. 30 were in a married situation with the youngest of 20 years being a single mother. All were living in line rooms on plantations, mostly with extended family. Skills in the form of both employability and to deal with life were lacking.

The findings from key studies reveal that intimate partner violence of all types is double that of the rest of the country. All women who were part of the study stated that they were staying in the marriage due to lack of options and support.

### Complexity of violence

- Emotional violence is encountered in 100% of cases in all Districts. This type of violence is therefore cross cutting all other types of violence
- Sexual violence is highest in Nuwara Eliya at 71% and so is economic violence at 100%. Physical violence is highest in Kandy 91%. As mentioned above emotional violence is 100% in all 3 Districts.
- All 4 types of violence are also highest in Nuwara Eliya which is in 4 out of 7 cases and is 57 percent.
- Average of all types of violence is also highest in Nuwara Eliya at 89%, Matale is 70% followed by Kandy which is 58%. Kandy also did not have any women who faced all 4 types of violence; physical, sexual, emotional and economic

### Key Causes

Analysis shows that alcoholism, living with extended family, myths and beliefs and lack of trust between partners compounded by issues related to money and assets drive this grave phenomenon. Further causes which are underlying and at the root include lack of economic empowerment, feminization material and

social poverty, living in the family home, lack of education up to higher grades and lack of linkages to support systems

**Key recommendations in the report that need to be acted upon with utmost urgency**

- Forums need to be organized to identify existing or new CBOs/CSOs which can be the links between rights holders and duty bearers. After identifying an effective structure activities need to be implemented to strengthen these. All women in plantations should be encouraged to join these organizations after explaining the benefits.
- Strongly link ground level and divisional level support mechanisms, village/estate based groups, all stakeholder service providers and victims of DV. Victims need to be supported through an integrated approach of counselling and empowering, provision of livelihoods and legal services (This is urgent)
- A grass root level awareness raising and gender sensitization campaign needs to be arranged and implemented to improve male engagement on prevention of GBV and DV. The Promundo Men Care program would be a start. This should be done through practical methods.
- Promotion of happy family and happy village concept of the Health Promotion Bureau to improve interrelations and bonds among family members and community. One time program is not enough for this and it should be a process and no of sessions with follow ups as part of a Program.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 General

It is well understood that this task is different to what has usually been done as the research is to be concentrated on social power dynamics, resulting in structural violence and discrimination **at home**.

### 1.2 Statistics

It is well known that the incidence of especially Domestic Violence (DV) is highly prevalent in Sri Lanka. A study done by the United Nations system says that DV in Sri Lanka could be as high as 60% of households, with a marital couple or living as a partner.

*“Importantly, physical violence by a partner was reported by a much higher proportion of ever partnered women living in the estate sector. Although the sample for the estate sector was small (N=92), in this group, more than one third (37.9%) of ever-partnered women on estates have experienced physical violence during their lifetime and 14.8% in the past 12 months”<sup>1</sup>*

The same report states that the prevalence of sexual violence by a partner was also highest on the estates. This was 1.8% higher than the national average and stood at 8.5 %. Also the age of being subjected to sexual violence was 20 years earlier than the rest of the country. It also stated that the prevalence of facing physical and sexual violence during the lifetime of ever married women was double in the plantations when compared to rest of the country. The Sri Lankan prevalence was 20% and in the plantations 40%. According to this report children of mothers facing violence were more likely to drop out of school, to be mentally disturbed and to repeat the violence in later life. Therefore it is undoubted that children on plantations suffer much more in this regard than the rest of the country.

This finding has been confirmed in another study completed in a limited area confined to Nawalapitiya across the rural, urban and estate sectors in November 2021.

*“Among all the participants, the prevalence of any abuse was 59.5% and the prevalence for the past year was 41.3%. The lifetime prevalence of physical abuse was 39.5% and for psychological abuse it was 39%, both of which were high in the study population. The highest prevalence for the past 12 months was recorded for psychological abuse was 26.3%, followed by physical abuse 89/14.8%. **In the estate sector, the prevalence of lifetime abuse and the same for the past year was considerably high compared to the urban and rural sectors which reported similar prevalence rates. With regard to estate sector females, 79.4% have experienced some type of abuse during their lifetime.**”<sup>2</sup>*

Though DV between male and females living as partners in a marriage or otherwise has been well studied, information and analysis of the inter-power relationships between members of the extended family such as daughter-in-law and mother-in-law, between married siblings, grandparents and the different forms of violence existing through these dynamics such as incest, emotional violence such as tormenting and mental torture, economic violence such as deprivation, mobility restrictions.

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<sup>1</sup> Women’s Wellbeing Survey, 2019, Dept of Census and Statistics

<sup>2</sup> “Prevalence of IPV across urban, rural and estate sectors: A preliminary study” authored by H.P. Reyal and D. Guruge (attached to the Rajarata University’s Applied Sciences Faculty’s Health Promotion Department) and M.N. Perera (attached to the Kelaniya University’s Medical Faculty’s Public Health Department) and published in the *Journal of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka’s 27th Volume’s Second Issue* in September 2021.

Another important aspect to consider is the safeguarding of reproductive health rights and power over one's own body.

There are child rights and gender rights violations for example in parents forcibly coercing children to engage in domestic labor. Especially girl children are sold to households for work. The well known causes of such events such as extreme poverty cannot be assumed unless onsite locality specific research and examination into these situations are done and the causes and manifestations well understood.

More background information can be found in Annex 02 – Extracts of Desk Review, Annex -03 – Legal Background

### 1.3 Research Objectives

The research was conducted with the ultimate objectives of using the findings and recommendations to

- a. capacitate plantation community women and girls to access their rights, resources and standing equitably
- b. ensure that the nature of issues, causes and prevalence of gender based violence as well as possible solutions which are particular to plantation women and girls are reflected in policies, programs, actions and resourcing at national and sub regional levels

## 2. Approach

### 2.1 Basis for research is the Conceptual framework of the Wheel of Power and Control



Figure 1: Wheel of Power and Control<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Developed by Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN, <https://www.theduluthmodel.org/>

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are the most apparent forms of domestic abuse and violence and are usually the actions that allow others to become aware of the problem. However, regular use of other abusive behaviors by the abuser, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of abuse. Although physical assaults may occur only once or occasionally, they instill the fear of future violent attacks and allow the abuser to take control of the victim's life and circumstances.

The Power & Control wheel is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by an abuser to establish and maintain control over his/her partner or any other victim in the household. Very often, one or more violent incidents may be accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.

## 2.2 Research Focus:

The concentration of the study is on the Hill Country Tamil population in the 3 Districts of Central province namely Matale, Kandy and Nuwara eliya. The research had focused both on the plantation working community as well as those living on the plantations but not working within the plantation institutions. These are people and families who work outside. The unit of concentration was both nuclear and extended families. While household dynamics should be examined, the impact of families connected in some way, friends and neighbors who do not live within the household will be studied. The data collection has been done form the stakeholders and community members.

## 2.3 Research Methodology:

The study was conducted using

- case study method and 30 interviews were conducted with women survivors in three districts.
- 14 key informant interviews were conducted to gather the information form relevant stakeholders.
- Collected data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis method and presented using case study approach.

## 2.4 Research Sample

As explained in other chapters, case studies and Key Informant Interviews were conducted with the survivors and stakeholders as follows.

**Table 1: Summary of the Research Sample**

District	No of survivors interviewed	No of KII s
Kandy	12	05
Matale	11	05
Nuwara eliya	07	04
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>

*Table 2: Details of Plantations selected*

Plantation		Management	Remote	Abandoned
District	Name of Estate			
<b>Nuwara Eliya</b>	Concordia/ Goatfell	RPC	Yes	No
	Courtledge/ Summerhill	RPC	Yes	No
<b>Kandy</b>	Hagala/ Kandekatiya	SLSPC	Yes	No
	Gomara/ Thunisgala	SLSPC	Yes	No
<b>Matale</b>	Nikaloya Lower	SLSPC	Yes	No
	Rathwatte Upper	Elkaduwa Plantation	Yes	No
	Galakoluwa Estate		Yes	Yes
	Kandenuwara	Elkaduwa Plantation	Yes	No

#### **Details of case studies (survivors)**

The following women were interviewed in three districts of Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Matale (Names have been changed to protect confidentiality)

**Table 3: Details of Survivors interviewed**

No	CS No	Name	Age	Education	Marital status	Estate/division	Children	
							Daughter	Son
<b>Nuwara Eliya District</b>								
1	1	Ms. Madhivadini	33	O/L	M	Concordia /Goatfell	01	02
2	2	Ms. Devimani	32	A/L	M	Concordia/ Goatfell	01	
3	3	Ms. Geetha	27	A/L	M	Concordia/Goatfell	01	01
4	4	Ms. Prabha	33	No	M	Concordia/ Goatfell		01
5	5	Ms. Vasanthini	45	Grade 5	M	Court Lodge/ Summer hill	01	02
6	6	Ms. Pranirsha	20	Grade 5	Single	Court Lodge/ Summer hill		01
7	7	Ms. Letchumy	49	Grade 2	M	Court Lodge/ Summer hill	01	02
<b>Kandy District</b>								
1	8	Ms. Vathani	37	Grade 5	M	Haggala/Kandaketiya	03	02
2	9	Ms. Niranjani	34	Grade 10	M	Haggala/Kandaketiya	02	03
3	10	Ms. Vasuki	36	Grade 8	M	Haggala/Kandaketiya	01	02
4	11	Ms Lalitha	45	Grade 10	M	Haggala/Kandaketiya	03	01
5	12	Ms. Seetha	30	Grade 13	M	Goomera, Thunisgala		01
6	13	Ms. Muththu	28	Grade 11	M	Goomera, Thunisgala		02
7	14	Ms. Mariamma	32	Grade 9	M	Goomera, Thunisgala		02
8	15	Ms. Priya	26	Grade 5	M	Goomera, Thunisgala	01	01
9	16	Ms. Velamma	36	Grade 11	M	Goomera, Thunisgala	02	
10	17	Ms. Luxmidevi	36	Grade 13	M	Goomera, Thunisgala	02	01
11	18	Ms. Bamini	34	Grade 11	M	Goomera, Thunisgala		03
12	19	Ms. Anjalidevi	25	Grade 13	M	Goomera, Thunisgala	01	
<b>Matale District</b>								
1	20	Ms. Karuppudevi	42	Grade 2	M	Nikaloya Lower	03	02
2	21	Ms. Naguleshwari	36	Grade 5	M	Nikaloya Lower	02	01
3	22	Ms. Jayalalitha	37	Grade5	M	Nikaloya Lower	01	01
4	23	Ms. Abhiramani	43	Grade 11	M	Rathwatta upper	03	
5	24	Ms. Vijayarani	54	Grade2	M	Galakoluwa estate		04
6	25	Ms. Manopriya	38	Grade 7	S	Kandenuwara	01	
7	26	Ms. Sharmila	29	Grade11	M	Kandenuwara	01	01
8	27	Ms. Vinoja	47	Grade 3	M	Kandenuwara	01	02
9	28	Ms. Manomani	35	Grade 5	M	Kandenuwara	03	
10	29	Ms. Nithya	35	Grade 9	M	Rathwatta Lower	01	
11	30	Ms Sathivadini	38	Grade 5	M	Maussalokawatte		04

## List of key informants

*Table 4: List of Key Informants*

District	Name & Designation of the Officer	Sex	Location
Kandy	Mrs Roshani, Nursing Officer, Mithuru Piyasa	Female	General Hospital Kandy
	Ms S Soyza, Welfare Officer, Alakola Estate	Female	Alakola Estate
	Mrs Sandya Perera, Public Health Midwife, Alakola Estate	Female	Alakola Estate
	Ms Shanmugadeepa, Project Officer, Kandy area	Female	ISD
	Mrs Anoma, District Women Development Officer	Female	District Secretariat
Matale	Ms Mohanapriya, Volunteer, ISD	Female	ISD
	Ms Nayani, District Women Development Officer	Female	District Secretariat
	Ms Rupa, Welfare Officer, Rathwatte Estate	Female	Rathwatte estate
	Mr Shan Rathwatte, Manager	Male	Rathwatte estate
Nuwara Eliya	Ms Himali Ekanayake, Nursing Officer, Mithuru Piyasa	Female	District General Hospital
	Ms Rasika Jayasinghe, District Women Development officer	Female	District Secretariat
	Mrs Devika Karunarathne, Senior Superintendent of Police	Female	Police station Walapane
	Ms Manimegala, Regional Social Mobilizer	Female	Plantation Human Development Trust
	Ms Pakyawathi, Welfare Officer, Courtlodge Estate	Female	Courtlodge Estate

### 3. Summary of Findings and Analysis on the nature of violence.

This is totally based on the case studies.

#### 3.1 Findings

##### 3.1.1 Summary

*Table 5: Summary of Findings*

District	Two types of abuse with analysis	Three types of abuse with analysis	All Four types of abuse	No of children affected
<b>Nuwara Eliya</b>	01 with economic and emotional, minor physical pushing, pulling hair	02 (01 - sexual, emotional, economic 01 economic, physical, emotional )	04 – all physical, economic, emotional, and sexual	14 children of 7 women (2 children/woman)  Average age of women: 34 years
<b>Matale</b>	04 women (02 emotional, economic, 02 emotional, physical)	06 women (03 Physical, Economic and Emotional 03 Physical, Sexual & Emotional)	01 women (all physical, economic, emotional, and sexual)	28 children of 11 women (2.5 children per woman)  Average age of women : 40.5 years
<b>Kandy</b>	08 women (07 are physical & emotional 01 economic , emotional)	04 women (physical, emotional and economic)	-	31 children of 12 women (2.9 children = 3/woman)  Average age of women: 34 years
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 (43%)</b>	<b>12(40%)</b>	<b>05(17%)</b>	
<b>Children</b>	73 children from 30 women (overall 2.4 children/woman)			

##### 3.1.2 General Analysis across each District

###### **Nuwara Eliya:**

All seven women are economically abused in Nuwara Eliya. This is in the form of depriving food, medicine, education, forcing to take micro credit, pawning women’s jewelry and threatening and demanding money from woman’s parents.

Physical violence has been in the forms of severe barbaric acts such as burning, putting kerosene on the head and breaking arms.

Furthermore all seven women in Nuwara Eliya say that death is much better than their married life. One woman already tried to commit suicide and failed. She was in hospital for one month.

The woman facing slight physical violence with three school going children is struggling to weave her future. The husband has another woman in Colombo. She has exposure to the wider community but finds it difficult to plan for the future as there is no support structure.

A young woman (20 years of age) with a Kidney transplant, without both parents, has been sexually abused by a close relative (the young woman) was at the home of the relatives and under their care and protection. As a result of the sexual abuse she got pregnant. The wife of the abuser then chased her away. The family health worker informed the police a year ago but no action has been taken yet. The young woman has no income to look after the child.

Out of 14 children of these 7 women, **10 children are under the age of 11** years. The consequences on the children will be described under that relevant section,

None of the cases were reported to the Police

#### **Kandy:**

All 12 women have faced physical and emotional violence. 11 out of 12 women have been physically beaten for the perceived reason by their husbands that they have extra marital relationships in and around Kandy. Not a single case of sexual violence reported.

Physical violence is in the form of; 01 woman's arm being broken. 08 stitches were required to resolve the injury on the arm; another woman's finger was broken. The finger is permanently disabled; Yet another woman's hair has been cut and she has also been burned on the legs up to the knees; Five women face severe harassment. This includes being chased from home, demanding money and physical beaten by mothers -in-law, fathers -in-law and brothers-in-law.

As far as emotional violence is considered special mention has to be made about 02 fathers ill-treating their sons, saying that the sons are not his and from other men. One woman has a disabled child. She is blamed and insulted and told that she gave a birth to an unlucky child. Child is also ill-treated by members of the family.

The mother of one woman who has faced 03 types of violence in Kandy has committed suicide.

There are **31 children** in these families.

None of the cases were reported to the Police

#### **Matale:**

All 11 women have faced economic violence. The next most prominent form is that 9 have faced physical violence. In three cases husbands mistrust the wives and hate the sons saying that the children are not his. One woman was beaten while she was pregnant. In the case of another woman, the husband forced her to abort the pregnancy saying that it is not his child, which she did.

The only time that a complaint was made to the police station was when the daughter of one of the women who was part of the study was sexually abused by a member of the household. This was an Uncle.

One woman had an extra marital relationship and the man cunningly took Rs. 150,000/ saying his mother was seriously ill. He came back, showed the money is in his wallet as if to return the 150,000 and invited her to a hotel pretending to return the money. She went, had sex and he chased her away. Money was not returned. This also amounts to economic violence.

Another woman was cheated by a married man and converted into Islam. He made sporadic visits resulting in two pregnancies. Now she is abandoned working in houses to feed the two children. She complained to the quazi (mosque) courts and the case ended without justice to the woman.

None of the women subjected to the case study reported these to the Police, except the case of abuse of the daughter by an Uncle

Summary of observations

**Table 6: District wise summary of type and incidences of abuse**

District	Physical Violence	Sexual Violence	Economic Violence	Emotional Violence
Nuwara Eliya	6/7	5/7	7/7	7/7
Kandy	11/12	0/12	5/12	12/12
Matale	9/11	4/11	6/11	11/11

Prevalence across District (though numbers are few some trends can be analysed)

**Table 7: District wise percentages of type of abuse**

Type of abuse / District	Nuwara Eliya	Kandy	Matale
Physical	85%	91%	81%
Sexual	71%	0%	46%
Economic	100%	42%	54%
Emotional	100%	100%	100%

### 3.1.3 Complexity of violence

- Emotional violence is encountered in 100% of cases in all Districts. This type of violence is therefore cross cutting all other types of violence

- Sexual violence is highest in Nuwara Eliya at 71% and so is economic violence at 100%. Physical violence is highest in Kandy 91%. As mentioned above emotional violence is 100% in all 3 Districts.
- All 4 types of violence are also highest in Nuwara Eliya which is in 4 out of 7 cases and is 57 percent.
- Average of all types of violence is also highest in Nuwara Eliya at 89%, Matale is 70% followed by Kandy which is 58%. Kandy also did not have any women who faced all 4 types of violence.
- It must be noted that prevalence is not a deciding factor if numbers assessed are low and in this case it is so. But the trend analysis is worth investigating in larger numbers.
- None of the women in the case studies have reported the violence faced to the Police. Therefore it can be assumed that GBV is extremely high in the plantations, much higher than what is even slightly visible. As stated in the introduction, all types of violence is much higher on the plantations than the rest of the country

### 3.1.4 Specific examples of the different types of violence

Physical: slapping, kicking, twisting arms, pushing, hitting head against objects, injuring with sharp objects, burning, breaking limbs, hitting with objects, forced out of the house especially at night, cutting hair

Sexual: Forced sex extending to marital rape, non marital rape both of young girls and married women, forced to perform unusual or unnatural sex, violent sex stopping short of rape

Economic: Not giving money for essentials, deliberate deprivation of women and children, pawning gold and not redeeming, forcing to get money from parents, forcing to obtain microcredit, harassment because no dowry was received, not allowing mobility to be employed and earn an income, not giving food during pregnancy, bigamous marriages, destroying assets and other valuables in the home.

Emotional: Threatening and coercion, showing power and overwhelming domination, neglect, mistrust, denigrating, slavery, lack of warmth

## 3.2 Causal Analysis

**This is based on findings of Case Studies, KIs and Literature Surveys which included primary or secondary data**

### Summary

The causal analysis of GBV is never straightforward. Though a problem tree with clear problem branches has been generically drawn, by many agencies working on this problem, it is complicated by the fact that the final analysis is complicated with the intertwining/interplay of the branches with minor and major causations.

According to the Council of Europe and many other agencies, causes of GBV can be categorized in to 4 main branches. These are 1) cultural (also includes social and religion) 2) legal c) economic and d) political

### 3.2.1 Immediate causes of Domestic Violence in the cases under consideration:

The ADVANCE (Addressing Domestic Violence in Antenatal Care Settings) Study on Gender-Based Violence and Correlates in Underprivileged Tea Plantation Sectors of Sri Lanka, was conducted among 800 pregnant women in the tea plantations in 2019. According to the study, 51 % of those surveyed had faced either

physical or sexual violence in their life time by a partner and 45% had faced this type of violence in a domestic situation. 10.4% had faced sexual violence by an intimate partner.

The study concluded that one in two women have experienced GBV of which Domestic Violence is nearly 90%, in their lifetimes in the tea estate sector, and prevalence of abuse is also high during immediate past year which includes pregnancy and pre-pregnancy periods. **High alcohol use, fighting with other men and low household income are the most significant correlates.**

### **Socio religio-cultural causes**

It has been identified through the case studies of this assignment and KIIs that the socio cultural dynamics are significant immediate causes of DV as well as GBV associated with the home environment where the perpetrator is not the intimate partner.

The causation here also matches to a certain extent with the study mentioned above.

### **Alcoholism**

It can be seen from 18 case studies out of 30 or 60% that alcoholism accompanies the incidence of DV. However it cannot be assumed that alcohol or drug addiction is the real cause. Though drunk, the man comes home to perpetrate violence and does not target anyone on the street. The Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIC) says that DV after drinking is really a case of the drunken man speaking the mind of the sober man. In the case of DV, drinking is an excuse to legitimise violence to ensure the dominance and superiority of men through a **patriarchal and sexist view (male privilege). Alcohol is a convenient excuse.** During KIIs alcoholism was cited as a major contributory factor to DV.

It was also found from the case studies that other family members such as mothers-in-law and fathers-in-law too assault the victims, sometimes under the influence of alcohol. As the victim is seen as someone quite low in the patriarchal power structure, other women who perceive that they are superior emulate their brother or son to demonstrate the same dynamics.

### **Myths and Beliefs**

In-laws and extended family especially females, too perpetrate and continue the imbalance of power. This is done through a religious and historical tradition that has sanctioned the physical punishment of women under the notion of entitlement and ownership of women. Many of the case studies cite the use of myths and pseudo religion to exert power. The burning of camphor on the palm of women to check her chastity and faithfulness is one such barbaric act committed by a husband. This is supposed to be a popular practice related to Goddess Paththini.

### **Living with the extended family**

Secondly, the couple residing with the extended family has seen the perpetration of multiple forms of violence on the victim. The grievances very often are based on myths such as “bad luck has followed you into the house “or “you have given birth to an unlucky child”. About 25% to 35% of women who were studied have had violence targeted at them from the extended family.

Limited space limited resources are shared by them in a house hold and living in congested environment in their line rooms /Living style of the plantation community /it leads to a frustration and victim will the women who have less power in the house hold

At the end women have internalized feelings of inferiority and they too prescribe to stereotyping themselves as weak and men as superior. On many an occasion attempts have been made to force victims out of the house. One of the major reasons for ill treatment by the extended family is also based on imagination of infidelity. This leads to another direct cause which is..

#### **Lack of trust by intimate partner**

This is cited in a large number of case studies. Where grave abuse has been perpetrated because of believing tales carried by the extended family or members of the immediate community. This too is rooted in patriarchal dynamics where women are questioned on their “purity and faithfulness” all the time whereas males can have multiple partners and be polygamous. Men cannot be questioned about their lack of fidelity as immediately power play comes into being.

#### **Arguments about money and assets**

A prominent direct cause of DV cited in the case studies is in the third main category of causes which is economics. Here both household economics and macroeconomics come into play. Most of the males and even females in general lack employment skills. Therefore their means of earning a living is as an estate labourer or doing laboring outside of the estate in the same locality, in another district, in Colombo or going overseas. As described in the case studies only one male had gone overseas. All the others were labourers or minor employees in hotels or shops.

Limited incomes, compounded by a drinking habit, lack of household cash management by both spouses, as well as extra marital affairs means that money for household expenses is always an issue. Much of the violence inflicted upon women was to extract funds from sources mentioned under economic violence. Lack of giving dowry has also been cited in a few case studies as leading to violent reactions by husbands. This has its roots both in cultural and economic expectations of “selling the female and buying a male with the best price”. This is obviously unfair trading as most of the women also have limited education and skills and find it beyond their power to resist this “commodification”

### **3.2.2 Underlying causes**

Many of the causes at this level belong to the main causative pillars of legal and economics

#### **Lack of ownership of and access to and control over assets**

##### **Living in the family home**

There are legal implications which are very severe when living in the family home. This belongs to the legal causation, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> branch of causes as identified above. Women generally marry and come into the home owned by the husband or his family. This not only makes the women asset poor but also controlled and dominated into slavery. This is quite obvious in a number of the case studies. Means to generating an income within the “family” home also becomes impossible.

##### **Assets**

Gold jewellery has been a topic of concern, where on many an occasion these have been pawned almost forcibly and then not redeemed. Women of the Hindu culture lay high esteem on their jewellery and not having it makes them loose this self esteem as well as obstruct a means of obtaining liquid cash. This is a

major determinant if the victim stays in the marriage or not, as to leave the family home without any cash or assets is not possible.

### **Banking and access to cash and credit**

It is unclear if these women have individual bank accounts. Very often these victims have parted with cash from their earnings or from their parents on the request of some male in the picture. Most often in response to bogus claims by “swindlers”, posing as future partners.

Loan shark micro credit institutions have also made them destitute by taking on loans at very high interest rates. These institutions who should be supporting to empower women economically to provide credit at fair rates do the opposite and therefore women have no support base of earning a livelihood with the support of such credit. Therefore they remain in abusive relationships for economic reasons. Existing micro credit loan schemes basically target women; women tend to get loans since it is easy. This creates a situation of violence since they cannot pay them back. (Exploitation of vulnerability of women) Husbands force them to apply for loans and they are compelled to do so, if not they beat women.

Though the women are earning, their position is not improving and does not have decision making power on expenses

### **3.2.3 Root Causes**

#### *3.2.3.1 Poor Economic situation of women: feminization of material and social poverty*

- Life skills – assertiveness, confidence, networks, communications

These are not received from formal schooling. This is lacking in the rest of the country but even less so in estate schooling. This is due to cadre vacancies, lack of teaching staff who are qualified in all round education and developing a holistic child. A special area of concentration should be how girl and boy children communicate with each other with respect and understanding on an equal platform. In general children from plantations are not even respected and valued by their teachers.

- Employment skills

The lack of employability skills is due to the fundamental reasons of lack of affordability and accessibility due to distance to schools for conventional education and institutions that provide vocational training facilities.

These vocational training institutions run under the VTA and NAITA. There is also a lack of career guidance and vision provided to the youth of these areas, as the community does not know nor see a life after leaving school.

Of the early school leavers a large percentage are from the plantations. Higher grade schools especially offering science education are few and far between on the plantations.

Furthermore the lack of gender responsive programming of higher education in skills and making girls and boys feel equally comfortable to access these facilities is also not present and this is more important in the plantations as a clear lack of gender equality and equity exists with a greater degree of disparity.

Women who were subjects of this study and the associated males seem to be quite a distance away from the services discussed as the victims were from the worst case scenario on the plantations.

- Mobility skills

Unlike the predominantly Hindu communities in other provinces mobility in the form of riding bicycles and motorbikes or challoies are less on the plantations. In the absence of other public transport which is sporadic, this obstructs the movement of women to services, employment and trading associated with self employment.

- Isolation

It is obvious from the case studies that these females are far away from support services as well companionship and befrienders. This has led to a feeling of desolation and helplessness, which in turn leads to depression.

### *3.2.3.2 Layers of vulnerability*

A number of social dynamics could be drawn from the case studies. These are;

- Being a female child
- Early marriage
- Early age pregnancies and accidental pregnancies
- Selling for domestic labour
- Glorification of marriage

There is still a mentality of “male preference” when begetting children. The female child is seen as a liability and male as an asset. Therefore a male child born out of a violent sexual act is yet preferred over the female. It was mentioned that since a male was born out of such a union a decision was made to keep him, whereas if a female child was born, this child would have been sold.

As there are limitations in accessing conventional or vocational education, and parents have not been provided an understanding of a child’s future, in all aspects of ; education, reproductive health, careers etc, marriage is seen as the only way out for a girl. There is a simple relationship between the glorification of marriage (however hard the experience has been for the parents themselves) and early marriage.

This in turn starts a cycle of early marriage, early pregnancy, malnutrition, poverty, disenchantment, arguments, violence, the children of this marriage being vulnerable and going on the same cycle. This is the cycle of vulnerability through generations compounded by plantations being a world of their own, being suppressed by a labour related hierarchical structure of bondage. Males are also suppressed and depressed in these structures and this leads to unleashing of power on females generally in very negative ways.

### *3.2.3.3 Poverty of Services*

**This section includes a substantial contribution from Key Informant Interviews**

The plantation communities should rightfully be provided special attention especially in view of the fact that the plantations are part of the backbone of the economy, disparities in socio economic development is high and being a totally isolated social landscape. When considering the points below;

- Awareness on rights
- Lack of referral to services – needs based, rights based
- Plantation communities not linked with services of the DS office

- Lack of knowledge on DV among men and women
- Education

the question arises on “how appropriate are services to the needs and context of these communities? And how effective is the delivery”. The following example from the case studies will provide those who read and use this research of an idea of the bullet points mentioned above.

Please refer to Case Study No 06, the case of the 20 year old kidney transplant patient from Nuwara Eliya. The following points demonstrate the poverty of services both at the impact and process levels

- **Awareness on rights and entitlements**

- The young woman concerned was unaware of the allowance of Rs 5000/month paid to kidney patients by the Dept. of Social Services granted through GN and through the SSO of DS office.
- Does not know the procedure to obtain child’s birth certificate
- Does not know how to follow the Police case
- Does not know that paternity of child can be proven through a DNA test
- Does not know that the father of the child should pay compensation for the child based on proof of paternity.
- Lack of knowledge on reproductive health
- No idea of legal frameworks

- **Lack of referral to services**

- The PHM referred her to the Police but no guidance given on follow up
- No Family Planning advice given nor action taken to avoid further pregnancies
- No referral to WDO or SSO in the DS office for support in livelihood
- No referral to Mithuru Piyasa when she was abused

- **Lack of knowledge on DV among men and women**

- The existence of the Domestic Violence Act no 34 of 2005 is not known
- Do not recognize the phenomenon of DV as an offence
- Service providers do not recognize it as structural violence and how fundamental it is
- Even if impact on children is known to a certain extent, the cycle of intergenerational violence is not known
- More awareness on child care such as importance of nutrition, ECD, handling adolescence, guidance on education and inculcating life skills. Though many NGOs and agencies work in these sectors, their coverage is not scaled up and there are plantation areas that do not receive any of these services
- That corporal punishment given in school and the way children are chastised at home and effect on causation of DV in later life not known. Plantation schools children are said to suffer higher degree of corporal punishment (A Study on Child Disciplinary Methods Practiced in Schools in Sri Lanka, 2017<sup>4</sup>,

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.childprotection.gov.lk/images/pdfs/acts-guidelines/24.1.2018%20Disciplinary%20Methods%20final%20report%2006-07-2017.pdf>

- **Disparities in education**

- According to the case studies 11 women have studied upto Grade 5 or less. This is 36% of the total number of women studied. 40% have studied from Grade 6 to 11. But not sat nor passed their O'L. Therefore 76% have not passed O'L. Only 20% have passed their O'L with 4% or 2 of the women passing their A'L. The well known issues in plantation schools are; lack of higher grades as mentioned earlier, long distance to schools with higher grades, lack of facilities for recreation, arts, no teachers for different different subjects. Compulsory education committees being dysfunctional.

### **3.3 Consequences of Domestic Violence extracted from the case studies and KIIs**

#### **Mental Health of victims**

Depression ,Suicidal thoughts, Mental disability of women through trauma ,Feelings of hopelessness, anger, sadness, shame, Guilt at not being able to look after parents and children in the required manner

#### **Physical Health of victims**

Loss of energy and lethargy, women become disabled through limb and organ injury, malnutrition

#### **Social and economic impact on victim**

Lack of recognition for women, Break up of families: men deserting the family, women do not have a place to go and continue to stay in their abusive homes even though they experience regular violence and they are trapped and the community does not accept them, no confidence to mix with community, Lack of ability and resources to engage in livelihood, Lack of access to credit as not being creditworthy, no assets to hold as collateral, Legal implications on ownership of house and land

#### **Impact on Children**

Children are unsafe, not being treated for health problems, School performance affected, family fragmentation leads to leaving school early, Running away from family, Engaging in child labour, suicide, mental health issues, physical issues, malnutrition and lack of optimum growth, less productive individuals, Children in turn repeat violence, getting into bad relationships and facing same problems

#### **Impact on Community**

Disturbance to neighbors and their children, Less productive individuals become a burden to the community and state, Increased state costs – health, Police, social protection, Cost of disability life years to name a few<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/domviolence/impact/community>

## 4. Conclusions

1. It is obvious from the findings of case studies that victims have been subjected to abject cruelty resulting in untold suffering. This is verified by the Study cited in the report where GBV on plantations is double that of the rest of Sri Lanka. Another study on GBV faced by pregnant women reveals that one in two women on the plantations have been physically and/ or sexually abused in their life time.
2. Despite the many projects and training in Gender and GBV targeted at the plantations the situation of patriarchal structures and rigidities remain. These are so entrenched that the inequality of power relations between males and females does not seem to have changed.
3. The complexities of violence in that all types mixed together is highly prevalent. Emotional violence is cross cutting all types of violence. Of all the Districts the females subjected to the case studies from Nuwara Eliya seem to have suffered the greatest degree of violence.
4. The level and intensity of violence is so high that a majority of women are disappointed in their marriage and many had suicidal thoughts.
5. The major contributory factors, have been categorized as direct, underlying and root causes are stated succinctly. The top 3 direct causes are alcoholism, living together with extended family and the belief in myths and pseudo religious practices. There is also a substantial contribution to this situation due to women's lack of economic empowerment. These causes need to be alleviated as a matter of urgency and ethical behavior towards these women and others. Much can be done by ISD and other partners to work with the government to bridge the service gap. This is a result of the government administration not bridging the gap of service disparity on plantations to provide usual services excluding health services which have been amalgamated recently.
6. Both males and females do not understand DV as a social phenomenon that is not acceptable and that communication is the way to resolve conflicts.
7. A majority of the 73 children of the women who participated in the case studies are young children in their formative years. Many of their child rights including the right to play and be happy, the right to food and the right to protection, are violated by the unacceptable behavior of parents, especially their fathers. Males especially do not seem to care about the welfare of their children and the total responsibility for caring is on the mother. They are also violent towards children
8. A limitation of the study is not being able to engage with the perpetrators.

## 5. Issues (in order of priority), Recommendations and responsibilities

*Table 8: Issues, Recommendations and Responsibilities with time frame*

No	Issues	Recommendations	Responsibility and Time Frame
1.	Community does not have a proper link with existing related government stakeholders (social care unit officers) and actors who are involved in prevention of GBV	<p>Forums need to be organized to identify existing or new CBOs/CSOs which are the links between rights holders and duty bearers. After identifying an effective structure, activities need to be implemented to strengthen these. All women in plantations should be encouraged to join these organizations after explaining the benefits. Eg: of effective structures such as Mother support groups coordinated by PHM, Women’s Society (Kantha Karya Samaja) coordinated by Development Officer and WDO, WRDS coordinated by RDO, Youth Clubs, Children’s Clubs</p> <p>Mobilise communities to claim their right to be part of the same WRDS and other CBOs mentioned, which are already formed with mainly rural sector communities. Negotiate with GNs and RDOs regarding convenient meeting locations so that both the plantation community and these existing rural member can attend. If plantation communities are joining existing CBOs, the existing membership must be made aware on the importance of inclusion and the issues that can be sorted out for the plantation communities by joining. The plantation community too should be made aware of the dynamics in these organizations and how to effectively and diplomatically communicate with these existing members. Resource constraints should be discussed with administrators at the District and Provincial level.</p>	<p>Strategy to be drawn up by senior managers and these same managers should dialogue with the government administration initially.</p> <p>Links at the ground level can be developed by ISD project officers</p> <p>ISD can do this negotiation <b>(within 6 months to 2 year)</b></p>
2.	Nonexistence of proper community-based mechanism to address domestic violence and other cases of GBV. Also absence of a mechanism to trace women and girls in	<p>Establish a proper community based mechanism led by the community and link it with existing government structures and the CBOs mentioned above to mitigate violence</p> <p>Eg: small GBV self help groups (SHGs) of 3 women or two women and one man to be the immediate support group in close proximity on the plantation itself. They should be trained to refer GBV cases to relevant service providers and follow up. Special unit for GBV to be set up within</p>	<p>ISD together with Divisional Social Care Unit.</p> <p>Examples on structures and mechanisms can be referred from PALM Foundation Nuwara Eliya and OXFAM set up SHGs in Batticaloa <b>( 1 to 2 years)</b></p>

	high-risk situations and offer support	<p>WRDS (3 member unit comprising of a representative for married women, unmarried women aged 19 and above and unmarried girls upto 18 years) This Unit mechanism will be the Village SHG and referral will be made by them to link to GBV prevention and mitigation structures. WRDS constitution may have to be changes to include this mechanism.</p> <p>The SHG will be linked to the Division level Gender Committee and District GBV Prevention Committee (Forum). This Government monitored system has authority and power. Furthermore the GBV Forum has many stakeholders representing both state and non-state duty bearers including the connection to Mithuru Piyasa. Knowledge sharing is another benefit on the part of NGOs in a network that needs to be refunctioned/reinstated.</p> <p>Victims need to be supported through an integrated approach of psychosocial counselling and empowering, provision of livelihoods and legal services and safe houses.</p>	
3.	No safe places/shelters for women and girls, who badly need to get away from violent events	Shelter to be set up for DV and survivors of other forms of GBV/teenage pregnancies. (at the moment only counselling is done as there is no proper place to keep them) Look at process and resources to set up such shelters by requesting knowledge from organizations which have experience. (If there are no shelters in the 3 Districts)	<p>WDO of the District to facilitate on a request by ISD. Information can be requested from JSAC Jaffna. (WDC Kandy and WIN Kandy branch are other options</p> <p>Support could be requested from international agencies <b>( 2 to 3 years)</b></p>
4.	It is observed that the community especially men do not have gender sensitivity and knowledge of the impact on domestic violence	Hence a grass root level awareness raising campaign needs to be arranged and implemented to improve male engagement on prevention of GBV including DV. The Pomondo Men Care program can be imparted to a large no of men and women as this has shown to have a great positive impact.	NGOs with experience on imparting this program are World Vision and Berendina. ISD and other stakeholders can communicate with these organizations <b>(start within 6 months and continue for 5 years)</b>

5.	Lack of provision of well managed micro finance schemes which can play a vital role in empowering women economically and thereby reduce DV	Need to identify strategies to stop rogue financial institutions messing up with vulnerable women. Same time introduce/link with existing bona fide loan schemes (pro poor) Work with government administration	ISD with the support of community and state service providers <b>( 6 months to 2 years)</b>
6.	Plantation management's awareness and intervention on family disputes are minimal and not addressing this issue reduces productivity among women workers	Work closely with the management specifically to find ways to address GBV and DV. This could be done by <b>promoting Zero tolerance standards.</b>	<b>ISD</b> senior management together with Plantation management  <b>(3 years starting immediately)</b>
7.	Cruel, inhuman behaviour, degrades women and prevents fulfilling sexual relationships.	Adult and young males should get involved in reproductive rights and obligations. In order to achieve this create awareness on sexual and reproductive health among teenagers and women and men in plantations.	ISD to initiate engagement of FPA and MOH offices in the Districts.  <b>(1 to 3 years)</b>
8.	Usage of social media and on-line platforms by children could also lead to GBV and DV. Hence this needs to be addressed properly by the stakeholders	Educating parents on social media as well as how to guide their children on social media will be a good solution for this.	ISD can work with youth clubs and women's societies through the DS office.  <b>( 2 to 5 years)</b>

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## Annexes

### Annex 01 – Case Studies

#### **Findings on Domestic Violence through Case Study Approach (CSA)**

Each Case Study is organized according to

1. Description of events
2. Types of violence
3. Intra household and community dynamics specific to location and community
4. Causal Analysis
5. Consequences

Names of the women interviewed have been changed to protect confidentiality

## Case Study No 1: Madhivadini (Nuwara Eliya)

### 1. Description

Madhivadini says:

*"I was living happily with my parents and siblings".*

However, her elder brother died due to cancer when he was 23 years old and his last request from Madhivadini was to look after the parents after dies.

Her parents arranged her marriage. She did not 'want' a marriage from the beginning, but her parents forced her to marry as there would be no one to look after them in their old age. Although she did not like the marriage, she finally thought that this marriage will help her to support her parents when they needed in the future.

She came to live with the husband and his parents. After the marriage, the husband went to Colombo telling her that he had to rent a trade stall in the Pettah to make their living. She later realized that he was lying to her. He was hiring a 3 wheeler that belongs to someone else. He still says that he is paying Rs. 30,000/ as the rent to the Manning Market stall which she doesn't believe.

She bore three children in the marriage.

When she makes telephone calls asking money for daily meals he sends a very small amount on average approximately Rs 5000/. With this she has to pay back the credit to the neighbourhood shop, buy food, pay for schooling needs, medicine etc. She cannot manage with the money sent even for a week.

*"My hopes completely vanished after the marriage"* says Madhivadini.

*"He is in Colombo, comes once a month. He doesn't provide necessary financial or mental support to me or my children. He came home yesterday, stayed only 3 hours at home and left."* Says Madhivadini

She further says, *"One of my major hopes was to help my parents financially, but now I cannot even visit them. I do not have the bus fare. Because of my children, I cannot go out to work as there is no one to look after them. I cannot leave them with my parents as it will be an additional burden to them. I cannot leave them with his parents as his mother always goes to her other sons. She does not have any love for these three children"*

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

Physical Violence: Husband does not assault her physically except occasional slapping, pushing and pulling her hair. He does not consume alcohol in her presence.

Emotional Violence: When Madhivadini says something controversial or asks questions, he conveniently ignores, keeps silent or avoids and leaves home. He never responds to Madhivadini's concerns. Her strong feeling is that he has a woman in Colombo. He earns for that family, leaving his three children behind.

*"I had gold worth Rs.700,000 when I married him. He pawned all my gold to 'Siyapatha Finance'. He does not give me money to redeem these. I know one day I am going to lose my gold, which I can sell and feed my children when they are starving without any help from him"*

*“His mother is a wicked woman and says all the troubles started in the family only after I set my foot in the house. His father gives a small amount of money when children do not have food. He cannot support sufficiently to feed my children.”*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- Emotional abuse - Using male privilege – Treating her like a servant, withholding information on whereabouts
- Economic abuse – Depriving of basic necessities, depriving her of using her own assets
- Emotional abuse – putting her down

### **3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors**

*“I have no love towards him, I never felt love. It is a headache to keep the relationship as I have no support and I have no faith in him”.*

*“When I was young, I worked in a shop in Colombo and earned money. I need to work, but it is difficult to find work in the area where I live. I have no skills to pluck tea leaves. The way how I wanted to lead my life is not to pluck tea. But this is not the point. I have lots of ideas to earn money; to establish a small shop, go to Colombo, rent a piece of land and cultivate vegetables. All are only dreams that cannot materialize”.*

*“My man is not a trustworthy, responsible person. I do not love him. My only asset was my gold which I bought when I was working in the shop in Colombo. What can I do with these three small children, I cannot beg, no support to start a livelihood. A thousand times I think of dying instead of suffering like this”.*

The whole story is about emotional and economic violence; cheating, not providing necessary protection, depriving of food, clothing, medicine etc, not providing warmth and affection, having extra marital relationships, pawning her gold.

*“Every moment in my life, I regret this marriage.”*

She thinks all these happened to her because she is a woman. Men do evil things to their wives and children, still enjoy their lives because they were born as men.

***She says “I am 33 now. How many years do I have to suffer this life. If I can support my children’s education, they will have a good life and will help me when I am old”.***

### **4. Causal Analysis**

- The attitude of parents, which is conservative and stereotyping – Women cannot live alone you have to marry.
- Lack of community support and organization
- Lack of skills according to her current situation.
- Lack of control over own body – Lack of knowledge and decision making on sexual and reproductive health rights
- Care and service gaps in psychosocial, child care, health, reproductive health and livelihood.

### **5. Consequences**

Impact on Madhivadini is numerous.

- Lack of self-esteem - She cannot tell people around her the true story assuming that they will degrade her (her dignity). She doesn't face the public as she doesn't have gold to wear – (her values)
- Lack of meeting child rights and needs - Children's' education, nutrition, safety, dignity, personality development are challenged. All their rights are denied.
- Lack of security and protection - She has no hopes that the man will stay with her permanently. She has no support hand/protection (guide her) to face for the situation. He will come and go, have sex, the results could be another child. She cannot say 'no' to him.
- Emotional insecurity and feeling of guilt - Strong guilty feeling as she is not able to support her parents according to her brother's last request before he died. One day she may commit suicide with all three children. *"Every moment in my life, I regret this marriage. It came to my mind so many times."*

## Case Study No 2: Devimani (Nuwara Eliya)

### 1. Description

Devimani is 32 years old, lives in her husband's home with the husband and 2 year old daughter. When she was a child, she worked in Colombo as a domestic help for 8 years. She fell in love with her friend's brother and eloped with the man and married him. After the marriage her husband went overseas on a visit visa, worked there and was caught and imprisoned. Thereafter Devimani also went there to work as a housemaid, negotiated to raise a loan from her employer, paid and got her husband released. She had to pay 2500 riyals for the husband's fine. Her employer paid the fine and deducted it from her monthly salary. After the contract period was over both returned home. He worked as a daily labourer after they returned.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

Devimani's husband works outside the estate and get paid daily. He doesn't give money for home needs but consumes alcohol daily and beats her daily. From her savings and money borrowed from her parents she bought a plot of land for vegetable cultivation. She says "I, like a fool, bought the land in his name. I have no legal rights to the land". Soon after he leased it for 4 years and Devimani has no idea what he did with that money. He always asks her to get money from her parents. He says your parents spent big money for your wedding, but they are not giving you. The man always threatens her to get money and if not tells her to go back to her parents.

*"He broke most of the things at home that I had bought with my money. Furniture, cooking utensils etc. all the gold what I had was mortgaged".*

"He is very violent when having sex. Whenever he wants sex, I cannot say 'no' ". Devimani consulted the family health midwife without his knowledge as he will not approve of it if he knew, She took contraceptive injections not to get pregnant.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- Emotional abuse - Using male privilege – Treating her like a servant. Calling her 'bitch', putting her down
- Economic abuse – Depriving of basic necessities, exploitation
- Physical abuse – Beating daily
- Threats - pushing to borrow from parents or leave
- Intimidation - Smashing things, destroying property
- Sexual abuse - Violent and forced sex

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

"I saved some money by working abroad. That money was spent on renovating the marital house to which I have no legal rights. Now I have no money and no place to live". Her husband, his father and mother all consume alcohol and are equally violent when intoxicated.

*"I don't want to say everything that happened and is happening to me to my parents. I have two younger sisters, if I go back to my parents, marriage proposals for my sisters will also be negatively affected. It will not be easy for them find marriage partners too".*

*"Another reason is that after marriage, a woman has no legal right to her parents' home. Other siblings don't want me to return".*

Devimani borrowed Rs. 110,000/ Rs. from her parents to buy the vegetable plot convincing her parents that it will help her family secure a sustainable income

*“Finally, I went for the second time to my parents again and ask another Rs. 100,000/ loan and gave it to him”. The reason for asking money again from the parents was that she could not bear the pain of his violence if she did not bring money. However, although she brought money from her parents the violence did not stop*

#### **4. Causal Analysis**

Her reason for this violence is that he being a man is so powerful. *“We women don’t have that power, women are afraid of their men, otherwise leave the man and go home”.*

*“As women we get pregnant and love the children more than men. Therefore, women don’t leave their husbands as the child needs a father. Men know that and therefore they do whatever they can to make women more vulnerable”*

#### **(5) Consequences**

*“I want to go home with the child leaving him behind, but I am afraid that he will come and assault me”.*

*“Women can escape from husbands’ violence only if they stay at home with their parents without marrying. No other way”.*

*“I paid his fine when we were abroad, bought a plot of land in his name, built his house using my money, borrowed large amounts of money from my parents. Still he has reasons to beat me. What else I can do further except commit suicide”*

*“I am very scared of him. He can even kill me”*

He denigrates her saying that she did not bring any dowry but eats from what I earn like a bitch. She feels guilty and insulted.

She is trapped by the marriage

### **Case Study No 3: Geetha (Nuwara Eliya)**

#### **1. Description**

Geetha is 27 years old and educated up to A/Levels. Her mother passed away when she was 30 days old. The father married again and the step mother had treated her well.

*She says "I met with this Sinhalese person and eloped with him to his sister's house when I was 16 years old. I was not able to marry him as I was a minor. I waited there till I was of age to marry."*

After marriage she joined a small group of 5 people engaged in raising micro credit loans. Her husband is a daily-wage labourer but very often doesn't go to work though there is work.

Geetha has an 8 year old daughter and a 5 year old son.

#### **2. Nature of violence**

Geetha's husband forced her and insisted that she raises a loan of Rs. 100,000/ from the group which she did. This loan was never invested in anything, According to Geetha, he husband used it for consuming alcohol with friends. When he started getting used to consuming alcohol, he started to beat her. Once he broke one of her arms too. He would beat her and pull her out of the house and leave her outside, lock the door and take the key with him. She was compelled to wait outside until he returns home. He prohibited her from going anywhere when he is out.

*"He doesn't respect me, doesn't recognize my presence. When my husband doesn't respect me, the rest of the community too don't respect".*

*"When he gets sick, I take care of him like a mother but if I fall ill, he would say 'you were at home, how did you get fever'. He never gives me even a glass of water when I am sick. He is a very cruel man".*

When he consumes alcohol, he acts like he is possessed and starts to beat her endlessly. If the child comes to the scene, he beats the child mercilessly. It is very difficult to stop him.

*"He doesn't allow me to go out for work".*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- Emotional abuse: Using coercion and threats, doesn't respect, ignores, doesn't love, intimidates, hurts the children, restricts mobility, forced to leave their residence, ill-treats when she is sick: Putting her down, making her feel bad about herself, making her feel guilty
- Physical abuse: broke the arm, endless beating, hair pulling,
- Financial: micro credit exploitation, hiding to escape from lenders, robbed valuables at home

#### **3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors**

*Geetha says, "We are from the highest caste in our community and my family wanted me to marry a person from a high caste. As I eloped with a Sinhalese my parents were angry with me and never wanted me to integrate into their family again. But my stepmother secretly helped my children"*

When my husband behaves irrationally people don't get involved and support me or help to stop this man from his cruel behavior

As there is no end to the troubles, Geetha sought the intervention of the deity. She went to Hindu temples for help and begged from God, offered numerous poojaas. There were no results. A friend then gave her a bible to read. She converted to Christianity and was baptized in church. Now when there is a problem, the church people visit home/or discuss the matter. She has hopes this will be the solution but it is still to be seen.

As the loan she obtained was a Group loan, all members of the group is responsible to pay back the loan. Geetha was postponing the repayment and the other members in the group were forced to pay it. Geetha has no earnings and the husband did not try to earn money and repay the loan or even discuss the issue.

As the other group members were forcing them to pay the loan, they secretly left the area and went to an Aunt's house far from the area. While they were there, her group members entered Geetha's house and took whatever they can sell – gas stove, gas cylinder, chairs etc. They knew that there was no way to escape from the group. They had to return home but did not make a police complaint fearful that the group members will take revenge.

#### **4. Causal analysis**

She thinks alcohol consumption and the friends' influence are the reasons for DV.

- No support from the family
- No support from the community
- Her vulnerable situation exploited by the micro credit institutions
- She is confused, not able to find why these happen.

#### **5. Consequences**

To come out of the existing debt Geetha raised another loan from Commercial Credit without knowing the interest rates or the nature of the agreement. The new loan was more than the due payment of the previous loan. (Rs 100,000/). She paid the group loan and received a balance of Rs, 28,000/ to her hand from Commercial Credit.

"I am so scared of him" says Geetha

Disappointment, blaming herself thinking 'I could be wrong, why did I decide to elope with this man, I could have stayed at home until my parents found someone better for me'

Observation: She is malnourished, physically deteriorated, doesn't look at you (no eye contact), is restless and she doesn't seem to have the energy to get beaten further.

## Case Study No 4: Prabha (Nuwara Eliya)

### 1. Description

Prabha is 33 years old and has a 2 ½ year old son. She never attended school. When she was very young, even before puberty her father sold her to a (employment) broker. She went to Colombo and worked for more than 10 years as a domestic help in Colombo houses. She worked in Athurugiriya, Panadura with Sinhala families. When Prabha returned home from one house for the New Year holiday, her father sold her to another (employment) broker and she was sent to another house as a domestic helper.

Three years ago she married a man arranged by her parents. After marriage, she lived with the husband's extended family including parents and sisters/brothers in law. It is a packed home with children from two marriages.

### 2. Nature of violence

*"Where I am living with my husband, his sister-in-law controls everything. Even what I wear, where I go or not go. She plays the mother in law's role".*

*"The biggest problem is his brother-in-law. Some days he comes home early, pushes me into a corner and asks to have sex. If I say no to him, he hits or squeezes my neck until I am ready to have sex with him. My husband has a sense of these incidences, but he doesn't ask me and I cannot tell him too. I cannot tell my husband as he himself will blame me asking why I was not able to avoid his brother".*

*"If my sister-in-law gets to know, she will chase me from this house".*

*"I don't know how to escape from this dirty situation. My husband aggressively reacts to anything and ends by beating me for nothing".*

*"The sex life in this house is very painful. My husband has no mercy when having sex. If I resist, he says obviously I am having sexual relationships with other men and ask about them. When I have nothing to say, I get battered every time".*

*"He bangs my head on the bed, he hits my face.. in the morning my body is swollen. If someone asks I would say, I knocked on the bed or slipped and fell but everyone knows what happens and still no one comes to my rescue".*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- Emotional abuse: (by husband) Intimidating, putting her down, making her feel bad about herself, suspicious of her
- Emotional abuse: (by other women) restricts mobility, restricts choice of attire
- Physical abuse: Banging her head on the bed, hitting her face (by husband), squeezing her neck (by brother in law)
- Sexual abuse: Forced sex by brother in law, violent sex by husband

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Prabha's husband is much older than her. She has no idea of his age. When she first came to live in this area, the people in the community asked if she eloped with him as he was very older than me.

Her husband, his father, brother and the brother's wife consume alcohol together daily and fight each other daily. Small quarrels end in major fights, shouting and hitting each other. Her husband's brother

once hit her husband with an object severely wounding him, requiring hospitalization for one week. She further says that he is sober during the day, but at nighttime he gets mad. She believes that he mixes marijuana (Ganja) in the arrack that makes him and all others who consume this alcohol, mad.

The house they live in belongs to her husband as he is the youngest male in the family. The others occupying the house are not prepared to move and they have nowhere to go. Prabha is certain that she will never be fortunate to live in peace in this family life. She cannot even dream about it.

Prabha has made a decision to start working in the estate and intends leaving her child at the CDC. She had just had a discussion with the Officer in charge at the CDC about leaving her child there while she worked.

Her father-in-law has been sick for some time and after her arrival in this house after marriage, she was entrusted with looking after the father-in-law, apply oil on his palms as his fingers are not functioning, bathe him with hot water, wash his clothes etc. This is in addition to cooking for the whole household.

#### **4. Causal analysis**

Prabha mentioned more than 10 times that husband beats her only after consuming alcohol

She gives two reasons for this suffering

1. alcohol
2. Not bringing any dowry to the house

#### **5. Consequences**

She cries most of the time remembering her life at home. She wants to go to her parents with the child or she wants to live in her own house.

As Prabha worked as a domestic helper, she doesn't have the skills to pluck tea which is the only available work opportunity in the estate.

## Case Study No 5: Vasanthini (Nuwara Eliya)

### 1. Description

Vasanthini is 45 years old and has two sons and a daughter. Her sons are 14 and 13 years old and the daughter is 11. She studied up to grade 5. Vasanthini eloped with the man who is her husband, He was from Badulla. They did not register their marriage but are living together after a ritualistic ‘thaali wedding’ which is accepted by the community as a legal marriage. He is a daily labourer working in vegetable gardens.

Observation: She seemed somewhat psychologically derailed, continuously smiling, talking about her well to do relations, a sister who returned from overseas with lots of goods, her love and kindness to her parents etc. She did not respond to the questions at once and the question had to be repeated several times.

### 2. Nature of violence

When she was young, her husband gave her a lot of trouble. He pawned all her gold, which she never was able to redeem. After some years she experienced fainting spells and until this happened, her husband used to beat her even for very insignificant reasons, pull her hair, bang her head on the wall and once cut her hair. He once poured kerosene oil on her hair and tried to set it on fire but she managed to run away and escape.

Her fainting spells have become frequent that she faints in the field while at work and had once fainted on the road. It can happen at any time without a warning. There is also inflammation in her body from time to time. She doesn't take medicine for her illnesses as she does not prioritize her health to spend her meagre earnings on. Her husband never asks her or talks with anyone about her illness.

Vasanthini's husband works in vegetable plot and earns Rs 2000/ per day. Vasanthini works in the plantation and earns around Rs. 7,000 per month which she spends on daily household needs. It is very difficult to get money from her husband to spend on household needs.

She hates to have sex but there is no escape from her husband. She has to engage in sex although she resists. She doesn't want have sex as there is a girl of 11 years at home. *“I don't accept that we should continue sexual relationships after the children are grown but he doesn't listen and forces himself on me. He is more and more violent when having sex now”.*

One change that happened is that after the fainting spells he stopped hitting her but verbally insults and degrades her. He blames her saying that she destroyed his life. Vasanthini says “the truth is that he destroyed my life”

Other evidence: The Field Officer confirmed that her husband is a wicked man and treated her badly.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- Emotional abuse: Belittling her, blaming her for ruining his life, controlling what she does, making her feel guilty
- Physical abuse: Beating her, pulling her hair, cutting her hair and trying to set her hair on fire
- Sexual abuse: Forced and violent sex
- Economic abuse: Not letting her know about or have access to his income. Depriving her of basic necessities, pawning her assets and not redeeming

- Denying and blaming: limiting her outside involvement making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns seriously, saying she caused the violence

### **3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors**

She is expecting her Employees Provident Fund. She says she will divide it among the three children, planning to give a bigger share to the daughter as daughter needs a dowry to get married.

Also, Vasanthini wants to build a room for herself and start poultry rearing to earn income when retired. Previously her idea was to go somewhere and earn money by working as a domestic helper. It is now not possible as she is not in good health.

There is no community support system.

### **4. Causal analysis**

Lack of control over own body – Lack of knowledge and decision making on sexual and reproductive health rights

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Poor economic situation of women

### **5. Consequences**

She believes she has been inflicted with nerve damage due to being hit on the head and her head banged on the wall.

Negligence, denying medical treatment

If she is not treated timely, she will end up as psychiatric patient.

Psychological derailment, hopelessness,

She says everything is in god's hand.

## Case Study No 6: Pranirsha (Nuwara Eliya)

### 1. Description

Pranirsha, 20 years old, is living with a transplanted kidney. She lost both her parents when she was a small child. She cannot remember when or which year. Her father had donated one of his kidneys to his daughter hoping to give her life. Her mother died from cancer but she doesn't know the cause of her father's death. Pranirsha has two younger siblings, a brother and a sister. The siblings are living in the parent's line room.

She has one year old child as a result of sexual abuse. She has no husband and at present she and the child live with an Aunt.

### 2. Nature of violence

Her life and her future was decided when she visited a relative of her mother – a cousin - for a wedding in Avissawella. When she went there the cousin's husband treated Pranirsha very lovingly. He bought her a dress for Rs. 4,000 to wear for the wedding. He treated her like a father. She continued to stay at the cousin's house willingly even after the wedding. From time to time, the cousin's husband had approached Pranirsha sexually telling that as she is a kidney patient she will not get pregnant. He continued the relationship and after about 6 months she got to know that she is pregnant.

Her cousin then chased her away. The family health midwife (she is not sure) informed the Kandapola police. The criminal was arrested but denied that the child is his responsibility. Pranirsha was kept under the Department of Probation. One of her Aunts agreed to take care of Pranirsha and her child. When she was under the Department of Probation there was an agreement that if she gives birth to a girl child, she will give the child for adoption. In her words "I was going to sell the child". She gave a birth to a boy child and she wanted to keep the child hoping that the son will one day look after her.

Pranirsha was sexually exploited, cheated and raped, raped because in the cousin's house all of them sleep in one bed. When the others are sleeping this man quietly comes to her. Pranirsha says "*I was helpless, I could not shout, if my cousin heard she would have chased me away*". This man used her multiple vulnerabilities to exploit her sexually.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- Male privilege: A young teenage girl who has lost both parents when she was very young, sexually abused continuously by a cousin's husband.
- Coercion and threats: carrying out threats, using her total helplessness, finally after the pregnancy was chased from the residence.
- Denying and blaming: The perpetrator denies that the child is his responsibility, the perpetrator's wife chased the victim blaming her, the community including the responsible service providers blaming her that she is a prostitute. She asked for trouble.
- Isolation: Her Aunt who took responsibility for her in the presence of the Department of Probation controls her whole life. She doesn't let her go out of the house, makes her do a lot of work, instructs what to wear and not wear. The younger brother and sister living in the parent's line room, don't let her come there.
- Emotional: humiliating when walking on the road, name calling, community makes her believe that she is the cause for all her pains, she feels bad about herself and thinks what will happen when she goes to work with others.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

She is living in a line room with the aunt. Her brother and younger sister are living separately in their father's line room. The brother earns a living by performing rituals to ward off evil spirits. Her sister is also at a high risk of being sexually abused and may get into the same situation as Pranirsha).

Pranirsha's child does not have a birth certificate.

There has not been any follow up on the police complaint. If the child's biological father is this man he has to pay compensation to the child and mother. If a strong community system is in place it could be done.

"My whole life is my son. I do not trust men" she says.

As she is a kidney patient, she is entitled to a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000 from the State. However, no action has been taken to get this allowance which is her right.

Pranirsha doesn't have any support at all. The Aunt agreed to take her from the Department of Probation to get maximum advantage of her situation. She is only 20 years old now.

Other evidence: An Officer's view is that *"the police will give up these kind of cases because she is not a 'good woman' going with other men. I myself saw her walking with an old man"*.

#### **4. Causal analysis**

Lack of control over own body – Lack of knowledge and decision making on sexual and reproductive health rights

Care and service gaps - Lack of coordination among stakeholders and lack of active role playing by the stakeholders is affected in protection of survivors and prevention on DV

No psychosocial, child care, health, reproductive health and livelihood

Poor economic situation of women

#### **5. Consequences**

Throughout the discussion Pranirsha was crying, she feels helpless, angry, sad, no hopes, shame, revenge

Before the birth of the son she contemplated suicide but did not know how to do it. *"Now I want to live, I have to look after my son. He will look after me when I need"* says Pranirsha.

The family put her down not acknowledging that her pregnancy was a sexually abused one but blaming her for her situation and chasing her from her home.

## Case Study No 7: Letchumy (Nuwara Eliya)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Letchumy is 49 years old and married to her maternal uncle's son. She has three adult children, sons 24 and 23 years old and a daughter of 22 and married. She has studied up to grade 2.

### 2. Nature of violence

Her conversation started with *"He did the most severe, cruel things in the world to me for more than 25 years. He hit me, burnt me, poured kerosene oil on me and tried set fire on me, broke my arms twice and more than 100 times chased me away from home at nights"*.

*"He is suspicious of me for nothing. If he saw a man walking on the road and looking at our house, he thinks he is looking for me. He then asks what my relationship with him is. I say that I have no relationship except that the person is known to all of us. He doesn't believe me"*.

*"He took me to a vegetable plot far away from home at night. He was beating me on the way and asked me to swear that I have been faithful...he said he was going to test my sexual faithfulness towards him. He said if I do not have relationships with other men the camphor on my palm will not burn, if not it will burn. I was not afraid as I did not have extra marital relationships. He forced me to give my palm to him and put the camphor packet on my palm and set it on fire. He held both my hands tightly under his feet until it the camphor burned. I was screaming loud but no one heard me. He went to sleep after burning and beating me. I suffered from the burns throughout the night in the hut. The following morning I came home with my burnt palm, no one noticed it. It took months to heal. The deep scar is still visible. I did not go to the hospital. He never inquired about the wound or take me to the hospital. Someone gave me chicken oil to apply which was the only treatment. I had to cook, and do all the work with one hand"*.

*"In another incident he asked me to come to the vegetable plot far from home. In the middle of the night he poured kerosene oil on my hair and tried set it on fire. I ran away and escaped. The following morning he started to beat me saying that I went with men in the night"*.

*"He did not allow me to work in the estate, plucking tea leaves saying when I mix with other women, it will not be easy to control me"*.

*"He sent me to cut grass for cows and sell. He made it compulsory that I cut 50kg grass daily. If I failed, he would say I went in search of men instead of cutting grass. Then he would start to hit me forcing me to tell him who the men are. I had no answers. Every day he weighs my grass. This was a hard task. One is physically I cannot fulfil the 50kg target and secondly I could not bear the punishment. I decided to kill myself and took poison but did not die. I had to stay in hospital for 21 days. After the incident, it was difficult to do hard work. This happened about 15 years back"*.

*"Now he doesn't beat her as her sons are grown and he fears the sons but he uses filthy words on her and insults her calling her a 'whore'. He often uses degrading words, but Letchumy is not afraid of him as she is quite sure he will not beat her"*.

*"My sex life is another hell. I never can say no to him when it comes to sex. He is capable of hurting me and ties my mouth not allowing me to shout. However, I have three children out of this marriage. I did not have choice"*.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- Throughout the relationship man used his masculine performance to use power over the powerless and control her whole life.
- She faced all physical, sexual and emotional violence in her arranged marriage. Physically, she was burned, cut, tried to set on fire, broke leg and arms, forced to carry 50 kg of grass on her head, forced to cut 50 kgs of grass, abusing if she failed to do so. Denied medical treatment in serious situations.
- Emotionally, he threatens to kill her, fear of returning home not knowing whether the load of grass she has cut and carried on her head is 50kg, ashamed to face the community, ashamed when he is performing violent sexual acts not knowing if her sons can hear the threats. Denial of food.
- Sexually: forced – marital rape, sexual cruelty.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

*“His mother proposed to my parents that I marry their son to which my parents agreed” says Letchumy.*

*“We had cows, land (a large plot) that can grow vegetables, and had a good life. His friends were jealous and wanted to ruin us. Then they started to drink together and tried to create a mess which they successfully did. When he consumes alcohol (arrack and ganja together) he gets mad. His behavior is strange. He chases all of us from home like a mad dog.*

*“Now there are no cows and there is no land – nothing”.*

*“So many times, I wanted to take the children and vanish but there was no place to go. I did not want to leave my children to this devil”.*

*“My sons were curious to know what the scar on my palm is. I told them. They also hear the father’s language, how he scolds me and disrespect me. One day while he was fighting with me my sons came home and directly interfered. The elder son clearly said “if you put your hands on my mother hereafter we two will break your arms and legs, keep you in that corner and give you food and water”. That was the end. He stopped hitting me. Now it is only sexual violence”.*

*“Now what I do is cook food thinking that after all this is my children’s father. I am happy with my sons, because of them I am breathing now. My daughter married and is facing the same violence as I did. It is unfortunate”.*

*“People in the line rooms are aware of what is happening inside our home, but they don’t intervene”.*

### 4. Causal analysis

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Lack of skills to analyze situation in the gender perspective on the part of the victim, community, service providers

Lack of control over own body – Lack of knowledge and decision making on sexual and reproductive health rights

Addiction to alcohol by men

Poor economic situation of women

## **5. Consequences:**

Lifeless, guilty, helpless, no hopes, tried to commit suicide.

She seems anemic, physical deterioration due to carrying over weight loads on her head daily.

Keeps herself isolated from the community as she has no confidence to mix with others. She knows she is a topic of conversation in the community.

## Case Study No 8: Vathani (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Vathani, 37, has five school going children, three daughters and two sons. She has studied up to Grade 5. She and her husband live and work on the estate. The mother in law and father in law also live with them. Altogether there are 9 persons living in the house.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

Vathani's husband gets paid on a monthly basis and uses most of the money for alcohol. Her salary is used to buy food and other essentials for the whole family including the mother and father in law. Vathani's husband comes home after consuming alcohol and beats her and his mother and father.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- **Physical abuse:** the main reason for the violence is over usage of alcohol by the husband. She usually experiences physical harassments and she or the rest of the family members do not have a power to stop the person.
- **Emotional abuse:** this woman has to play a dual role in her household as the bread winner of the family as well as the mother of the children performing the domestic tasks, apart from that she is emotionally harassed by the man since she always lives in a fear of fighting. She also should spend all the money she earns on food and survival of the household members. Hence she can't save some money for her future.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

There is no privacy in the house and Vathani says *"There is no proper and safe place for me or my daughters to change our clothes even."*

### 4. Causal Analysis :

Addiction to alcohol by men

Poor economic situation of women

Lack of community-based mechanism to respond to the cases which is directly affecting the continuous existence of the DV cases.

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

### 5. Consequences

Vathani says, "we have adapted to this unlucky life, what to do, nothing to do, we accept this life now and it is our destiny"

She also says "My children can't study well since he is always fighting. The children are also angry with the father".

## Case Study No 9: Niranjani (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Niranjani is 34 years old and has studied up to Grade 10. She has three sons, aged 12, 4 and one month. *"My husband, mother in law and two daughters from my husband's previous marriage live in this house"*.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

"I was married once before. That husband had a mistress. I requested him to leave that girl and live happily with us but he did not listen to me. There were lots of arguments but what I couldn't stand was him coming after consuming alcohol and beating me. My son's first words were foul words that he had been listening to. When he gets angry with me, he stays at that woman's house for months and months. I lived away from him thinking that he will change but he didn't. I came to my home parent's home with my son. I was hopeful that he will come and take me but he didn't. I waited for 7 years and then divorced him".

"I married again. This husband is not like the previous one. He looks after the children and is good to me. Occasionally there are issues but we don't let them drag on.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows:

- **Physical abuse:** the main reason for the violence is over usage of alcohol by the husband (previous).
- **Emotional abuse:** emotionally harassed by the man since she always lives in a fear of fighting. Unable to stop the husband from setting a bad example to the child

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

She received the support of her extended family. They understand each other,

### 4. Causal Analysis

Addiction to alcohol by men

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

### 5. Consequences

Divorced and remarried and is satisfied with her life now.

## Case Study No 10: Vasuki (Kamdy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Vasuki, is the youngest of eight brothers and sisters. She is 30 years old and married with three children, a daughter and two sons. She has attended school till the eighth standard. She lives and works in the tea estate and it was while plucking tea leaves that she met the man who is now her husband. He works in the tea factory. Her parents did not like her getting married to this man.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

Her husband has a mistress and when asked about it, he had said, "Why are you bothering about it". Thereafter he started to beat her and scold her using filthy words. He comes home very drunk, doesn't look at the children and violently beats Vasuki. *"One day he hit me with a pole and broke my hand. I had to have a wire inserted in my finger and the wound had to be closed with eight sutures"* says Vasuki.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Physical abuse:** the main reason for the violence is over usage of alcohol by the husband.
- **Emotional abuse:** emotionally harassed by the man since she always lives in a fear of fighting. Unable to stop the husband from setting a bad example to the child

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

*"This would not have happened if I had listened to my parents and not married him"* Vasuki repents. *"My brothers and sisters don't even look at me because of this man"*.

### 4. Causal Analysis:

Emotional violence and physical violence with bodily harm has been experienced by her. Extra marital affairs of men and women are one of the main reason for violence against women. Men think that they can have extra marital affairs with other women and that it should be accepted by the wives.

### 5. Consequences

Bodily harm with lasting effects is a common result of violence against women. They are compelled to live their entire life with such battered bodies.

## Case Study No 11: Lalitha (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Lalitha is 45 years old and married with three daughters. The eldest daughter is married. The second is working in an apparel factory while the youngest is still schooling. She works as a tea plucker in the tea estate and her husband is a mason. Lalitha is a beautiful lady and looks much younger than her 45 years.

"I am facing some issues.. Community leaders and the Kangani (immediate boss) makes inappropriate advances towards me". Lalitha's husband works outside the estate. Some people have lied to him saying that she has affairs with other men.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*"If someone tells him a story (false) about me on the way home, he gets drunk and comes and hits me. My hair was much longer than this. My husband got drunk one day and took a knife and cut my hair. He burnt my feet with flaming torch I was burnt up to my knees".* Lalitha has burn scars up to her knees. *"I have no such connections or affairs with other people"* says Lalitha.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Physical violence:** beating and burning her body
- **Emotional violence:** she is verbally harassed by the husband saying that she has extra marital affairs. He suspects her and beats her and burns her

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

The people in the community wrongfully judges her and carries false stories to her husband, He believes them

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Addiction to alcohol by men

### 5. Consequences

*"I want to die.. life is weary... I cannot even go to my elder daughter's house. He comes looking for me.. My children are ashamed.."* says Lalitha.

Suicidal thoughts with depression among women who have faced domestic violence is a common occurrence and their way of escape is to escape from living.

## **Case Study No 12: Seetha (Kandy)**

### **1. Description of life story/events**

Seetha has been educated up to her A Levels. She is 30, and has a four year old child. Her husband works in a hotel. Her husband's parents live with them. Her father in law consumes alcohol daily and asks money from Seetha for this.

### **2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control**

My father-in-law accuses me of having multiple extra marital relationships and gossips with my husband. My husband believes these and scolds me in harsh words. In anger he smashes household items on the floor.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Physical violence:** He smashes household items on the floor
- **Emotional violence:** mistrust, verbal harassment by the husband saying that she has extra marital affairs.

### **3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors**

Seetha's father in law lies to her husband and creates disharmony among the couple.

### **4. Causal Analysis**

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

### **5. Consequences :**

Loss of social acceptance

Low self-esteem

## Case Study No 13: Muththu (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Muththu, aged 28 has studied up to her O Levels. She works in the estate and her husband works at the tea factory on the same estate. They have two sons aged 5 and 4.

Muththu's mother in law and father in law lives with them. The father in law is always intoxicated and beats me. There isn't enough space in the house as her husband's sister's two children also live in the same house. Her father in law beats her and asks her to leave the house.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*"I have to work in the estate for income and cook for all and do all the housework. If not my mother in law scolds me; if I don't finish cooking on time my father in law will beat me"* says Muththu.

The sister's two children go to school in the morning, after that they start to fight with me requesting the land from me.

*"We sleep in the same line room and the sister's children come and go. There is no privacy and I cannot find any free time with my husband. My husband also beats me. Due to problems at home, my husband drinks heavily"*.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Physical violence:** Husband and father in law both beat her.
- **Emotional violence: mistrust,** verbal harassment by the in laws, making her feel unwanted but still getting all the work done by her

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Living together with in-laws, she faces abuse from several people in the household including the mother in law and father in law.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Addiction to alcohol by men

### 5. Consequences

*"There is no freedom to sleep even for a while."* This statement shows how much domestic violence affecting the day-to-day life of women. They are totally depressed and their freedom has been threatened by the others. They have to live with fear expecting violence anytime in the house which they cannot predict.

## Case Study No 14: Mariamma (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Mariamma is 32 years old and has studied only till she was I was nine years old. Her marriage was an arranged marriage. Mariamma and her husband both work in the estate.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*“After I went to my husband's house, my mother-in-law and father-in-law often treated me differently and I was discriminated at home. They tell the false stories about me to my husband who then scolds and beats me”* says Mariamma.

*“I somehow managed to get husband to come to our house. My brother in law built a room for us. His brother's wife does not like him helping us and always fights. She accuses me of having a relationship with my brother in law and often tell my husband that I am not a good person. My husband gets drunk and beats me. My husband believes what his brother's wife says”* says Mariamma.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Physical violence:** Husband beats her
- **Emotional abuse:** mistrust, woman is verbally harassed and she is psychologically affected living with suicidal thoughts. Household members use their power to abuse her in various ways, they try to isolate her and do not help her to live happily. There is also mistrust suspecting that there is an extra marital relationship with another man in the household and beat her mentioning this.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Living together with in-laws, she faces discrimination and abuse from several people in the household.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

### 5. Consequences

*“If I stay here, I'm going to die. There is so much trouble. There is no end. I have nowhere to go. There is continuous harassment”* says Mariamma. .

## Case Study No 15: Priya (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

26 year old Priya has been educated only up to grade 5. Her husband works in the tea factory in the estate while she plucks tea leaves in the same estate. They have a 6 year old son and a 3 year old daughter.

*"We live in my husband's house, my two children, my brother-in-law's second wife, and brother in law's son from his previous marriage all live here"* says Priya.

*"My brother-in-law works in a cement factory. My brother-in-law's ex-wife left the country and never came back to Sri Lanka. My brother-in-law married another woman. My brother in law's eldest son is very friendly with us. He is 15 years old"*.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*"My brother in law's wife always fights with us because the eldest son (her step son) is fine with us. She hits me and my children are also beaten and scolded. We are asked to leave the house. My brother-in-law's wife wants to throw us out of the house"*.

Priya's husband comes after consuming alcohol every day due to various problems at home. Then he beats her and fights with her. She has faced many ugly situations.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Emotional violence:** scolding and discriminating her within the household
- **Physical violence:** hitting and physically abusing her by the household members

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Living together with extended family, she faces discrimination and abuse from the other dominant woman in addition to her husband

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks  
Addiction to alcohol by men

### 5. Consequences

The children are mistreated by the relatives which leads to emotional and physical abuse for the children. The children are not safe in the household.

## Case Study No 16: Velamma (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Velamma, 36, has been educated up to her O Levels. She married her brother-in-law. He works in a hotel. Her husband has an elder brother and a younger brother. They are married.

She has two daughters. The eldest daughter is 14 years old and the other daughter is 12 years old. The eldest daughter suffers from a neurological condition. She is an adult child. Velamma does all the work of the child and all work in the household. Her husband always says that she is bit clean. Velamma says *"He does not know how to clean even if he is clean"*. His brothers' wives fight with me. Sometimes one even beats our daughter. *"My child and I are seriously abused in the home. They do not like to treat the child well. I want the child to recover but there is no one to support me. The others try to beat me when I speak about that. They think that I have given birth to an unlucky person"* says Velamma.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

Her husband has no interest in curing his eldest daughter's illness. She doesn't even take any medicine. *"When I told him to take the child to a doctor, he started arguing with me and hit me after consuming alcohol"*

*"My eldest daughter is the biggest burden on my mind"* says Velamma.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Emotional abuse** – Traditionally women are the socially accepted care givers of the families and the woman takes responsibility for it, the men get out of it giving the burden to women for taking care and looking after the older people and disabled people. Then it becomes a big issue and she is emotionally drained when the family members do not help her.
- **Physical violence:** women are beaten for various reasons, delivering a child with a disability is a factor that is beyond her control, but she is beaten and abused for that too.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

*"All three of our families live in the same house. Only the garden is done separately. Having three families in a small space makes living very difficult"* Velamma says.

### 4. Causal Analysis :

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

No psychosocial, child care, health, reproductive health and livelihood

Addiction to alcohol by men

Lack of knowledge on duty bearers and stakeholder who are serving to plantation communities are also directly affect to increase of DV

Poor economic situation of women

### 5. Consequences

*"Need help to get the child treated and the daughter to be sent to a rehabilitation center"*

## Case Study No 17: Luxmidevi (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Luxmidevi is 36 years old. She has studied up to her A Levels. Her husband is a technician. They have an 11 year old daughter, a 5 year old son and a 3 year old daughter. In their home, her parents (her father till his death), a sister who is mentally ill, her husband, three children and Luxmidevi all live in a small space.

Her father died two months ago, but my husband did not come to the funeral. Every day he comes and beats me and the kids. Two complaints have been lodged with the police regarding this problem. A divorce has been contemplated. The children are more tolerant to losing their father.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

Luxmidevi's husband consumes alcohol daily. *"He is very suspicious of me. I am often reminded of the premarital relationship I had during my school days and he sometimes beats me"*.

Her husband does not want the children to study and do not help to send them school. He questions, "What did you learn from your mother? Why do you study? They do not even bring us food or drink". *"My children and I are hungry most of the time. My brother helps us but for that also he scolds and beats me."*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Physical violence:** beating the woman after having alcohol
- **Emotional violence:** she is always scolded by others in the household since she does not have power

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Living together with extended family, she faces discrimination and abuse from the dominant men and women. Help from her family is rejected by the husband

### 4. Causal Analysis

- Lack of trust and respect within the relationship
- Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks
- Addiction to alcohol by men

### 5. Consequences

Woman is totally disappointed and helpless. She is frustrated about life. Children are also mistreated and their education is disturbed due to the violent condition at home.

## Case Study No 18: Bamini (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Bamini, 34 has three daughters aged 10, 8 and 4. She is a tea plucker in the estate and her husband is a bus driver.

They live in the husband's house. The husband's mother and father also live with them.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*"My mother-in-law and father-in-law are treating me differently and discriminating us. My mother-in-law hit me and broke a finger on my hand. Now that finger is no longer functional. My mother-in-law used to fight with me and when my husband came used to fight, beat and lie. My mother-in-law and father-in-law got into a fight with me and I went to my husband's sister's house. Since then my husband has been coming home drunk every day. I am kicked out of the house at night. He fights with me and goes to my sisters' house"* says Bamini.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Physical violence:** husband beating the woman after having alcohol, mother in law beating the woman
- **Emotional violence:** she is always scolded by the husband and in laws. She is kicked out of the house. She does not have power

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Living together with extended family, she faces discrimination and abuse from the dominant men and women.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Addiction to alcohol by men

### 5. Consequences

"I think this is my karma too. He destroyed my life".

"I have nowhere to go with the children. I want to educate my children. But there is no way..."

## Case Study No 19: Anjalidevi (Kandy)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Anjalidevi, 25 studied up to her A Levels in Arts subjects. *“My father consumes alcohol every day and beats all of us. My mother committed suicide 3 years ago”.*

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*“We have to stay out of the house to escape my father’s his beatings. One day my mother was hit and injured in the ear and she lost her hearing ability”.*

*“It was while I was in school that I met my fiancé. I went with him, after losing my mother. I do not like my mother in law. During the time I was pregnant with my child she did not give me food and drinks. My mother-in-law gets drunk and beats me, swearing in filth”.*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Emotional abuse:** women are emotionally abused in households at all times of her life, even during the pregnancy she has been maltreated which affect the child too.
- **Physical abuse:** She is beaten mentioning various reasons, women have to bear all of these up since she does not have a power in the husband’s house and she is treated as an outsider to the house.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Living together with extended family, she faces discrimination and abuse from the dominant men and women.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks  
Addiction to alcohol by men/women

### 5. Consequences

*“I feel like I am lying on the stove. Can't think what to do. Without the child I would die. If I die, my child will suffer because of what happened to me”* are Anjalidevi’s thoughts.

## Case Study No 20: Karuppudevi (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Karuppudevi, 42 years, lives on the estate and has five children – three daughters and two sons. Her husband is a labourer and has been an alcoholic from his young days. His daily work was physically exhausting and therefore he did his job reluctantly. She says that they live with a lot of difficulties these days as their income has dwindled due to corona. Her eldest son did a job in Colombo at a welding factory. He met with a motorcycle accident and lost his memory as a result of the accident. She works hard to treat her child. She works as a hired hand and feeds her children.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

Karuppudevi's husband went to work one day as a hired hand and was stabbed in the ear. Since then he has rarely worked. Whenever he works and earns money he uses it to buy alcohol. He did not spend anything on household expenses. He beats and scolds Karuppudevi.

*"Now I have a decision to make. I don't care about him. I want my sick son to get back to the way he was living. The children's future needs to be arranged. We don't need a husband now. Anyway, my children need a father and because of that, I am not going to talk/argue with like before. I don't have to talk and fight"* says Karuppudevi.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Emotional violence:** Scold and insult /do not support her work /do not spend money on domestic needs /consuming alcohol and beating her
- **Physical Violence:** beating the woman after getting drunk

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

"I leave my son at home and go to work. The youngest son is sitting for the scholarship exam this year. My daughter stopped studying as there were financial issues after my son's accident. I was in a lot of trouble".

Although my husband creates trouble at home he is very good with the neighbours. This is mainly to consume alcohol with them. There is no support from the community for Karuppudevi.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Addiction to alcohol by men

Poor economic situation of women

The only breadwinner of the family met with an accident and became a dependent.

### 5. Consequences

Impact on Karuppudevi

- Hopelessness and disappointment
- Children suffered due to husbands addiction to alcohol: children do not get proper protection and their needs are not fulfilled due to lack of money, the children survive with only her income.

## Case Study No 21: Naguleshwari (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Naguleshwari is 36 years old. She is married and has three children, two daughters and a son. The children go to school. Her husband works in a saw mill. He earns an income but spends it on alcohol and food.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

During the school closure days due to corona the children joined online classes on their sister's phone as they could not afford and provide this facility to the children. The husband consumes alcohol from time to time but Naguleshwari doesn't berate him as she thinks he is one who earns and feeds them. *"Doesn't go to the gym like other people. I do not blame working people for drinking"* is Naguleshwari's opinion.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Emotional abuse** : not providing enough for foods and money for the children's needs

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

Other than not providing sufficiently for the family he doesn't engage physical abuse and also does not get in to trouble with outsiders as a result of his alcoholism.

She cannot find employment because she cannot leave the young children at home.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Addiction to alcohol by the man - he does not properly provide for the wife and children

Women thinks and they have attitude that , we have to bear these things he is feeding us and he is the husband

### 5. Consequences

Effect on children: Children has to face difficulties in accessing education since he spends a lot of money for alcohol.

Lack of self esteem: Woman are powerless and she keeps silent when she is helpless in this kind of situation

## Case Study No 22: Jayalalitha (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Jayalalitha, 37, lives on the estate and works for a living. She has a daughter (12 years old) and a son (10 years old). She lost her mother and father she was little. She then went to work in Colombo. Her hometown is Jaffna where her sister still resides. .

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

“This is my husband's village.. He was an alcoholic. His kidneys were damaged due to over consumption of alcohol and his lungs too were damaged. I told him not to drink too much. He worked in a saw mill in Matale. He never let me know when he was coming home but his friends knew because on the way home he would get together with them and consume alcohol. He did not fight with others when he is drunk but he comes home and fights with me. When I told him not to drink, he beat me more. Eventually my husband died in 2018. My relatives do not help me or care about me.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

**Emotional violence:** Scold and insult /do not spend money on domestic needs /consuming alcohol and beating her

**Physical Violence:** beating the woman after getting drunk

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

*“Even though I lost my husband, I will not get help from anyone. People around are making up stories. My daughter is very good at learning. I work hard and teach my children.”*

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Addiction to alcohol by men

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

### 5. Consequences

Hopelessness: she does not believe anyone and does not have a trust on anyone.

Economic burden: she has to work hard and it's a double burden to her playing the dual role in the household

Fear : she is scared of men and fear about the future of the children

Women have to move to husbands place after the marriage and they are isolated and very hardly get the recognition in new places .its a also a harassment

## Case Study No 23: Abhiramani (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Abhiramani is 43 years old. She has studied up to the ordinary level. She has three daughters. The eldest daughter is 18 years old. She is sitting for her A/L this year. The second is 13 years old and the third is 10 years old. Her husband is a mason.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

"I suffer discrimination at my mother-in-law's hands. The children are beaten and scolded. She says they are ugly. It is very difficult to bring up children because of her. When my mother-in-law comes home, she would gossip about me. My husband accepts them. His sister lives next to our house. They beat me and my children. The children are angry with my husband because of this. I'm always so sad. Tired of life".

Her husband is an alcoholic and she is beaten by him. The mother in law will tell some stories about her to the husband and he starts to beat her.

The sister in law is also interfering in to their lives and is violent.

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- **Emotional violence:** Scold and insult by the husband and dominant men and women in the extended family, discrimination, bullying the children. Mother in law and father in law do not like her children learning well and educating themselves. Hence they fight with her and discriminate her. She faces an emotional crisis with blaming and fear about her children's future
- **Physical Violence:** beating the woman and the children by husband and extended family

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

"My mother-in-law and father-in-law are at home. They do not want my children to learn. Children are discriminated. The eldest daughter went to school from the principal's official residence. However, the new principal later told her daughter go back home. We don't have the money to educate our daughter".

My husband sides up with his family and is cruel towards me. He believes all their lies.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Power of in laws who are the owners of the house is used to discriminate and harass the woman and her children.

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Addiction to alcohol by men

Poor economic situation of women

### 5. Consequences

Disappointment: She is disappointed about her life and very pessimistic.

Physical damages of the body, always lives with negative thoughts and insecure, her children's education is also disturbed and the children hate the father and relatives.

She lives with a fear of children's education and their future and feels hopeless.

"I am sad in every moment since I can't make my life nice and neat due to these issues"

## Case Study No 24: Vijayarani (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Vijayarani, 54 lives in the estate a little beyond the line rooms. She does not have a job due to a leg injury. She has four sons three of which are from her previous marriage. The father of the children died of a heart attack when the children were young. This was 19 years ago and the two eldest children are now married and live separately. Of the other two children, one is 19 years old and the other is studying in 8th year. We live on the money our 19 year old son who works in a hotel in Colombo earns. I contracted covid-19 recently.

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*“My first husband and I had three children. When my husband died, the children were very small. The children are very close in age. The three children were left with their mother so that I could go to work in a home. After my husband died, my parents and sisters encouraged me to marry my sister’s husband. This sister is mentally ill and the illness increased after her marriage. This is because my children were very small and someone was needed to take of the sister too. I also wanted to get married”.*

*“However, my sister's husband's mother and husband lodged a complaint with the police and forcibly took me to their house without the children. I did not want to leave the children. Then I was going to have a child from him (he is that child who is now in Year 8) and that child is disabled from birth. My sister's husband hits me. He had also lodged a complaint with the police. The children of the former husband were also discriminated. I was beaten when I was about to have the baby. He worked in a shop and in those days he used to come every day but did not bring anything to eat or drink. Even if he buys things, he gives them to his parents' house without anything for us. He would say “I don't listen to people who tell me not to drink because I have children”.*

*“After being like this for a while I heard that this man was having an affair with another woman. There was no one to find out about it. At that time all the gold items given by our sister when she was married were sold”.*

*“Even so, I raised the baby I got from him. The baby had a leg injury. I worked as a domestic servant in houses for treatment of the baby's legs. It was really a hard work to treat and I had to spent a lot on it, I spent all the money for that”.*

*“Shortly afterward, our mother died. I am now building a house on a small plot of land of about 6 perches”*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- Male privilege is used for abusing her, the brother in law married to her and beat her and sexually abused her with forced sex . He has an extra marital affair and he has unethical sexual desires too.
- Emotional / Economic abuse: she is blamed always and he does not provide foods and other needs of her, the husband drinks and cannot get home (fallen down on roads) and she is socially ashamed by him. No social recognition for her.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

The dominant members of the immediate and extended family decide and control and abuse. The in laws from the second marriage never treated her well.

#### **4. Causal Analysis**

The attitude of parents, which is conservative and stereotyping – Women cannot live alone you have to marry.

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Lack of control over own body – Lack of knowledge and decision making on sexual and reproductive health rights

No psychosocial, child care, health, reproductive health and livelihood

Addiction to alcohol by men

Poor economic situation of women

#### **5. Consequences**

She is isolated and socially neglected by others due to these issues. No recognition for her and her child.

“At the worst I told the police I could not stay with the man.”

She is disappointed about her life and hatred feelings are come to her mind too. Children are unsecure in this situation.

## Case Study No 25: Manopriya (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Manopriya was working in the estate as a tea plucker when she met with an accident and suffered a major fracture on her leg. She does not go to work after the accident because iron plates have been inserted in her legs. She stays at home with her mother looking after her sister's children without any income.

She has an older sister (married to a person who left her and went with another woman). The sister lives in another country working as a house maid there. She also has a younger sister who is married and has two sons. She is currently living in another country working as a house maid. The younger sister's husband works in Colombo.

*Now my mother and I are at home with my sisters' children.*

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*"Our aunt's daughter has gone abroad and she also has a small child. We help take care of that child. Our aunt's daughter's ex-husband, Manoharan is a cannabis addicted person.*

*One day Manoharan called and said that the child was crying and his mother was not at home. He asked me to come his house. Only my mother was there in my house. The little kids in our house were sleeping. It was raining heavily at the time. I took the torch and started to go there. We have to go a little distance to the aunt's house.*

*As I walked down the street, Manoharan was near the tea estate expecting me. When I get closer to him he kept his hand on my head. Then I remember that he dragged me into the jungle next to the bathing well. I do not remember what happened after that. I had a fever for about a week. Many times I was scared in dreams and screamed that "Don't take me anywhere". The family thought I was scared of something. Then they did some religious rituals for me to recover me.*

*I had a stomach ache for few days and got fever again and again for a certain time period. I went to the hospital and a urine test was done. Then I got to know that I am pregnant and I am going to have a baby.*

*I told the incident that happened that day to my family members. However, no one accepted it and believed it. Manoharan said I was lying. My family members scolded me a lot and my Aunt's daughter said that I'm lying. That her husband was not a bad person and he is a good person. I was also told that I was crazy. Marlon, who was about to get married to me, also left because of this incident. He was in Nawalapitiya. His mother asked him to leave me due to this incident.*

*After few days, my family members took care of me well. Our younger sister's husband came here from Colombo. My sister's husband helped me a lot. After I had the baby my sister and brother all said that we will raise this child and we will help you. The family liked the child because the baby was a girl child and the family does not have a girl child at that time. But Manoharan did not want to give his name to the child. He said that he has got children already. He did not want other children. The police said that after the baby was three months old, a DNA test would be done to confirm the baby's father. After getting the child's birth certificate, I have no contact with them. It doesn't matter if he does something for the child but I do not expect anything for them".*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- Sexual violence: she has been raped by brother in law and got pregnant as a result of that. Male dominance and masculinity has been used to rape her.
- Emotional violence: She has been psychologically affected , she has been scolded and insulted by the family members as well as the perpetrator. She has been denied by the family members too.
- She is a single mother with a child now and she has to raise him anyway

### **3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors**

The family was helping each other and despite the initial rejection when her pregnancy came to light, the close family later accepted her and helped her through.

### **4. Causal Analysis**

Lack of control over own body – Lack of knowledge and decision making on sexual and reproductive health rights

No psychosocial, child care, health, reproductive health and livelihood

### **5. Consequences**

She has got pregnant as a result of the rape and she has to raise the child until she is independent. The woman has been psychologically affected and she does not believe on anyone now. She has been cheated and hatred feelings are in her mind against him. Child has no farther and there is a problem in social recognition for him.

## Case Study No 26: Sharmila (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

*“My name is Sharmila. I am 29 years old. I studied up to GCE ordinary level. My husband used to be a three wheeler driver. The income he earned was not enough to maintain the family. We have a daughter and a son. Our mother-in-law, father-in-law and husband's two brothers are with us in our home. One brother is married and he is also living with us. The other one also is with us in this home”.*

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*“The unmarried brother also lives in this house. He consumes a lot of liquor and is always fighting with us. He scolds us using filthy words. They are **pestering** us to leave the house, beating and scolding us.*

*We all are in the same line room and I'm very much worried that my daughter will experience sexual violence. A complaint has been made with the police. My husband went abroad because he wanted to build a house for us. But the husband's brother beats and scolds my children too. He uses filthy words and insult us. He drinks and comes home and beats my father-in-law too. My husband took a loan and went abroad, I saved some money and started to build a house for us”.*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- Poverty and the economic situation of the household especially of the women leads to domestic violence against her, Not only from the husband but also from the other members of the household which shows the power imbalance and the lack of power for the women within the household.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

She faces lots of violence from the members of the households since she resides in her husband's house after the marriage.

### 4. Causal Analysis

Addiction to alcohol by men  
Poor economic situation of women

### 5. Consequences

The women tend to be isolated and emotionally harassed and as a result of that sometimes they become very strong after bearing all the pains.

*“My only hope and objective to leave this house and reside in a separate house.”*

But they would live with some hatred feelings and automatically they hate the society.

## Case Study No 27: Vinoja (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

*“My name is Vinoja. I am 47. Our family consists of five brothers and sisters. I only studied up to grade two. I went to work in the Middle East because of family problems. During my time overseas I had an affair with a Muslim whom I met over the phone. He is a resident of Kurunegala. After we came to Sri Lanka we got married according to Muslim religious customs. Then he kept me at their parents' house. It was there that my first child was born. Then he brought my baby and me to our home. He went to work in Colombo”.*

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*“He came home once a month, even though he comes he listen to the neighbors gossip and beats me. He believe the neighbors than me.*

*He worked like this for some time and went abroad. When he left the country I was expecting a baby again. I was expecting twins, but one child died and only one child was born. He was told by the neighbors that this child was someone else's child and his child got aborted. It has been five years since I had this baby. He didn't even look at this kid's face. Didn't even come home. His phone has not worked for 3 years. I went to his house. No one was there. I searched all over the city of Kurunegala but could not find him. I worked as a sundry worker and raised these two children”.*

*“About a year ago I went to work in a Muslim house. I told my story to the lady owner of the house. The lady showed the photographs of my husband to the church and searched for the details of him. We were able to find his information. He had cheated on me. He was previously married. She has four children. He has taken me to a different house, not to his house. Everything he told me was a lie. He has another family. My two children and I were alone. We can tell the church when we have a problem. I told the church what happened to me. The church asked what to do. I said I would forgive him since I need a father for my two children. He also promised me to give Rs. 10,000.00 per month to cover the expenses of his children”.*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- Cheating women by giving marriage promises and having sex with them is one of a cause leading to domestic violence. This lady has been cheated by the man and she has given birth to two children. This case shows that the civil society and the religious leaders even do not have a good sensitivity on the issues of women and there is no proper mechanism to support the survivors.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

*“He did not care about the children or me. Generally, the family Problems are discussed only once in the church. I did not go to the police. His ex-wife has big children. If I do something, those children also lose their father. And his ex-wife said he was going to commit suicide. I did not make a complaint to the police because of that”*

### 4. Causal Analysis:

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of community-based mechanism to respond to the cases directly affecting the continuous existence of the DV cases

Lack of coordination among stakeholders and lack of active role playing by the stakeholders is affected in protection of survivors and prevention on DV

## **6. Consequences**

The children and women become more and more vulnerable and they lose the protection due to such issues. Especially children and women are isolated after the violence and they become more and more destitute. Education of children is disturbed and it directly affects their future. Most of the women and children are not getting a good meal and men do not feed them properly and then it leads to child malnutrition and anemia condition of women.

## **Case Study No 28: Manomani (Matale)**

### **1. Description of life story/events**

*"My name is Manomani. I am 35 years old. I only studied upto grade 5. My husband and I work in the estate. We have five children, two sons and three daughters.*

*We have our mother in law, father in law and my husband's niece living in our house. The husband's sister works in a Garment factory. She is divorced from her husband".*

### **2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control**

*"Both Mother-in-law and father-in-law consumes alcohol. After drinking they fight with me. Since they want to give this house to their daughter, they asked us to leave this house. It's hard for me to go to work in the estate often, because I get convulsions. I buy food with the money I earn form working. My husband does not spend on the household needs. He buys alcohol with the money he earns.*

*He comes home after drinking every day and kicks us out of the house".*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- High consumption of alcohol by men in the household and beating women in household
- Most common incidents in domestic violence. Lack of power of women standing against such violence helps in the continuation of the same for a long time. Poor economic condition of women is a root cause for this and empowering women socially and economically will be a good strategy in reduction of DV.

### **3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors**

*"We sleep outside the house or in a nearby house. We can't be bothering the neighbors every day. Frequent beatings happen and he scolds using filthy words".*

### **4. Causal Analysis**

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Addiction to alcohol by men

Poor economic situation of women

### **5. Consequences**

Women do not receive a proper protection and meals for their survival is a violation of a basic human right as well as a women right. The children of the household are exposed and they also get used to the violence cycle.

## Case Study No 29: Nithya (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

Nithya is 35 years old. *"My mother and I live in our house with our 4 year old son. My husband works at another estate. My mother and I pluck tea leaves. My husband comes home twice a week. Even then he would come drunk and beat and harass me. He does not like our son and I do not know why".*

*"My father died in 2005. He was bitten by a snake while he was on his way to work in the estate. At that time my father had taken loans from the nearby shop and neighbors. After he died, debtors repeatedly came to us, bothered us to pay the debts and give their money back. My mother's income from the estate was not enough to pay the debts, since we had to spend on our day today expenses from that money. Then I went to work in a garment factory. We paid the debts from my income and lived in peace.*

*While I was working there, the man who provided food to the garment factory built up a good relationship with me and we were good friends. We were friends for some time. Later he promised me to marry me. We had been friends for about one and a half years. One day, he told me that his mother was seriously ill and requested some money from me. He said that he needs two lakhs for his mother's treatments. I did not have so much money. Then I borrowed some money from the Garment factory, borrowed money from a friend and gave one and a half lakhs to him. He took the money.*

*Then he rang me and told me that mother is in a serious situation. He rang me only one time. I did not disturb him much. I tried to call him in the two three months but could not be contacted and he did not call me. The phone was deactivated. The people at Garment factory said that they left because the food provision contract was over.*

*I tried to talk to him every day. But the phone did not work. One day while I was trying to call him, the phone was working. He spoke with me. I asked him to give my money back. At that time my mother was also a little sick. I could not save money from my salary. My mother did not know that I had given him money and that I was cheated by him.*

*He listened to everything I said. Then he said his mother was in a very difficult situation and he had to take her to Colombo for treatment and that he lost his phone there. This was the time he was able to purchase a new sim card on the same number. At that time he said he was at his sister's house in Kurunegala. He work in a Garment factory there. He also told me that he will earn some money and come with the money to meet my mother.*

*After that we forgot about the previous things and became friends again and started an affair. About a month later he came near our garment factory to meet me. I first asked about the money. Then he showed me his purse and said that he came with my money. I saw that there was money in it.*

*He told me to come on Saturday to give me all the money. I went home afterwards. I went to Matale on Saturday morning as he had told me. He came by a three wheeler. He told that he want to speak with me and I was taken to the Katugasthota area".*

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*“I said I wanted to go home and requested my money. He took me to a hotel. Went and sexually abused me. My money was not given. I was put on a bus to come back to Matale. There was no one to tell, what happened to me. I left the garment factory and went to work in the estate with my mother.*

*Shortly thereafter, my mother arranged a marriage for me. From the day I got married my husband used to harass me saying that I was a bad person since I was not a virgin and virginity was not proven. I told the true story to him, but he did not accept it or believe it. He always suspect me and beat me thinking that I am a bad person”.*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- Negative attitudes of men towards women and treat them as second person and the attitude of men that woman can be used and cheated is an emotional violence against women. Taking money of form women and mortgaging the gold of women is a common issue and kind of a exploitation on her.

### **3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors**

This case shows the social and cultural acceptance for women in Sri Lanka after a rape or such an incident. Even though women are raped by a man another man starts beating and insulting her emphasizing the same. Concept of checking virginity is still play a vital role in marriages and acceptance of a woman. Even though she has told true story to him he does not believe and accept her.

### **4. Causal Analysis**

Lack of trust and respect within the relationship

Lack of control over own body – Lack of knowledge and decision making on sexual and reproductive health rights

Poor economic situation of women

### **5. Consequences**

Social acceptance for women is lost after violence against women and it leads to continuous harassments against them

## Case Study No 30: Sathivadini (Matale)

### 1. Description of life story/events

*“My name is Sathivadini. I am 38 years old. I work as a tea plucker in an estate. My husband and I live with our four children. All four are boys. The eldest son studied till grade 11 and now he works in Kurunegala. The second son is in grade 11 and the third is in grade 9. The youngest is in grade 5”.*

### 2. Nature of violence according to Wheel of Power and Control

*“My husband gets drunk when he has money. Then he scolds me using filthy words and resorts to name calling, then he hits me a lot. He does not fight with people around. He does not provide for me or my children and do not support me in any of the household work. He does not bring anything home”.*

Description of violence according to the wheel is as follows

- Emotional violence: Scolding by men using filthy words and name calling is a common issue. Over consumption of alcohol is a main reason for DV.

### 3. Intra household and community dynamics as related by women survivors

*“We live in a line room. Our only income is what I earn form the tea estate and we use that money for food and day today expenses.”*

### 4. Causal Analysis

Lack of community / neighbourhood support and organization of support networks

Addiction to alcohol by men

Poor economic situation of women

### 5. Consequences

Social acceptance for women is decreased due to the violence and women are disappointed and frustrated.

## Annex 02 – Desk Review

Information pertaining to the research from Desk Review

Chronological Order of reading	Section/Chapter	Aspect 1 of research Eg: Causes	Aspect 2 of research Eg: nature of	Usefulness
		Findings from Literature review		
<p><b>Document 1:</b> Up-country Tamils: Charting a New Future in Sri Lanka Colombo, 2019 © 2019 International Centre for Ethnic Studies 2, Kynsey Terrace Colombo 8 Sri Lanka E-mail: admin@ices.lk URL: <a href="http://www.ices.lk">www.ices.lk</a> Edited by Daniel Bass and B. Skanthakuma</p>	Introduction	<p>- Kurian and Jayawardena (2014) question whether Up-country Tea plantation Tamil women workers are ‘Slaves of Slaves’. They discuss how patriarchal norms and practices were incorporated into the life and labour regime on the Sri Lankan plantations, and their implications for women workers. As they point out, plantation Tamil women workers are under the authority of men and the patriarchal system.</p> <p>- Domestic violence persists in the plantation sector, as with the rest of the country.</p> <p>Prevalence of DV into <u>back ground</u> Shifani and Seelagama (2010) have found the causes for violence within the household to be alcoholism, patriarchal values, reliance on traditional gender roles, and gender-based division of labour. These causes and contributing factors for the domestic violence are similar to those among other communities (Deraniyagala 1992; Jayasundere 2009; Kodikara 2012).</p> <p><u>Causes for DV to the back ground</u></p>		<p>Prevalence of DV into <u>back ground</u></p> <p><u>Causes for DV to the back ground</u></p>
<p><b>Document 2.</b> Intimate partner violence in Sri Lanka: a scoping review S Guruge1 , V Jayasuriya-Illesinghe1 , N Gunawardena2 , J Perera3 1 Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2 Department of Community Medicine, 3 Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Correspondence: VJI, e-mail: . Received 28 April and revised version accepted 23 May 2015’ WHO initiated research</p>	<p>Definition to IPV: Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse by a current or former marital or non-marital partner in the context of coercive control [1]. Most victims of IPV worldwide are women. The World Health Organisation recently reported that South-East Asia had a high prevalence of physical and sexual IPV among ever-partnered women worldwide.</p> <p><u>Introduction to the report</u></p>		<p><b>Document 2. Page 135</b> ;Together, the literature suggests that 20-72% of women in different locations in Sri Lanka have experienced IPV. The highest prevalence rates were reported by women living on tea plantations in the Central Province (72%) and in the urban poor areas of the Western Province (60%)</p> <p><u>Prevalence of DV into back ground</u></p>	<p>Attitude towards IPV. A study involving undergraduate male medical students revealed attitudinal barriers that could potentially affect IPV care provision; 33% of students surveyed believed wife beating was justified, 63% blamed women for instigating the violence, and 23% stated that occasional violence by a husband against his wife could help maintain the marriage [26].</p> <p><u>Case study analysis under no. 7 of the report structure</u></p>
<p><b>Document 3.</b> International Journal of Arts and Commerce Vol. 2 No. 7 July 2013 11 Women’s Rights in Sri Lanka: An inquiry into the Rights of Plantation Women R. Ramesh, BA(Hons)Pera, MRDP (Col), Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Peradeniya Susantha Rasnayake, BA(Hons), MA(Pera), MPhil (reading) Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya &amp; Thushara Kamalrathne, BA(Hons), MPhil (reading) Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya</p>			<p>Based on the empirical information which was collected during the focus group discussion conducted in Dickoya, it could be justly assumed that, Sexual violence is extremely prevalent in the plantation areas. Women are battered, raped, harassed and abused to a greater degree in these areas. In addition to that, there are a growing number of cases of suicides, incest, alleged accidental household deaths and sexual violence. Domestic violence or wife battery is relatively high in the plantation communities. Young girls who serve as domestics are not only physically exploited but also they are often sexually abused and forced to return home, having become a subject of unwanted pregnancy.</p> <p>- It was reported in the focus group discussion that even pregnant women are reported to be engaged in applying these chemical fertilizers. Some researches reveal that most of the existing forms of violence against women in the plantation sector are physical violence, including beating and assault, pushing, dragging by hair and attacking with objects, and sexual violence (Kiribamune, 1994, Sakunthala, 1991, Shifani &amp; Seelagama, 2010</p> <p><b>Types. Nature, prevalence of DV – introduction to the report or more importantly when analysis is doing</b></p>	<p><b>Types. Nature, prevalence of DV – introduction to the report or more importantly when analysis is doing</b></p>

## Annex 03 – Legal Provisions

### Legal provision – Domestic violence

Both International and national level legal provisions are available to prevent domestic violence.

(International)

#### (1) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

#### (2) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. Described as an international bill of rights for women, it was instituted on 3 September 1981

#### (3) Penal Code

- Clause 342: Whoever makes any gesture or any preparation, intending or knowing it to be likely that such gesture or preparation will cause any person present to apprehend that he who makes that gesture or preparation is about to use criminal force to that person is said to commit an 'assault'. Clauses 343, 346, 347, 348, 349 explains this. Punishment for such offence has been stipulated.
- Clause 310: whoever causes bodily pain, disease or infirmity to any person is said to 'cause hurt'. Clauses 314, 315, 316, 317, 319, 325, 326 explains this. Punishment for such offence has been stipulated.
- Clause 330: Whoever voluntarily obstructs any person so as to prevent that person from proceeding in any direction in which that person has a right to proceed, is said 'wrongfully to restrain' that person.
- Clause 364 A: (1) Whoever has sexual intercourse with another, who stands towards him in any following enumerated degrees of relationship, that is to say-
  - (a) either party is directly descended from the other or is the adoptive parent, adoptive grand parent, adoptive child or adopted grand child or the other ; or
  - (b) the female, is the sister of the male, either by the full or the half blood or by adoption, or is the daughter of his brother, or of his sister, by the full or the half blood or by adoption, or is a descendant from either of them, or is the daughter of his wife by another father, or is his sons or grandsons or fathers or grandfathers widow; or
  - (c) the male, is the brother of the female either by the full or the half blood or by adoption, or is the son of her brother or sister by the full or half blood or by adoption or is a descendant from either of them, or is the son of her husband by another mother, or is her deceased daughters or grand daughters or mothers or grand mothers husband,

commits the offence of incest

Punishment for such offence is imprisonment for a period of not less than 7 years and not more than 20 years and a fine.

- Clause 365 A: Any person who, in public or private, commits, or is a party to the commission of, or procures or attempts procure the commission by any person of, any act of gross indecency with another person, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description, for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both and where the offence is committed by a person over eighteen years of age in respect of any person under sixteen years of age shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and with fine and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person.
- Clause 365: Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman, or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be punished with fine and where the offence is committed by a person over eighteen years of age in respect of any person under sixteen years of age shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and with fine and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount- determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for injuries caused to such person

#### (4) Prevention of Domestic Violence Act No. 34 of 2005

According to this act, an aggrieved person to make an application.

1. A person, in respect of whom an act of domestic violence has been, is or is likely to be, committed (hereinafter referred to as "an aggrieved person") may make an application to the Magistrate's Court for a Protection Order, for the prevention of such act of domestic violence.
2. An application under subsection (1) may be made
  - (a) by an aggrieved person;
  - (b) where the aggrieved person is a child, on behalf of such child by—
    - (i) a parent or guardian of the child;
    - (ii) a person with whom the child resides;
    - (iii) a person authorized in writing by the National Child Protection Authority established under the National Child Protection Authority Act, No. 50 of 1998; or
  - (c) by a police officer on behalf of an aggrieved person.
3. An application under subsection (1) shall be made in duplicate and shall be substantially in the form set out in Schedule II hereto and shall be made to the Magistrate's Court within whose jurisdiction the aggrieved person or the relevant person temporarily or permanently resides, or the act of domestic violence has been or is likely to be committed.
4. Affidavits of any person who has knowledge of the aforesaid acts of domestic violence may be attached affidavits to the application, in support thereof.

Under this act the court can issue an interim protection order