

# **Webinar Report: Laws Against Domestic Violence And Services In India And The U.S.A**

**Date:** 21st March 2025

**Platform:** Zoom Meeting

**Organizers:** Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM) in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department and Rutgers University, School of Social Work.

**Coordinator:** Mr. Arindam Mukherjee (Placement Officer, IISWBM)

**Subject:** Laws Against Domestic Violence and Services in India and the USA.

## **Introduction:**

This report documents the proceedings of an international collaborative webinar held on March 21st, 2025. The session, facilitated via Zoom, focused on the critical issue of domestic violence, examining legal frameworks and support services in India and the United States. The event brought together experts from IISWBM, Rutgers University, and the field of social work to provide a comprehensive analysis of the complexities surrounding this issue.

## **Speakers and Presentations:**

The webinar featured a panel of distinguished speakers who shared their expertise and insights:

- **Dr. Rupa Khetarpal (Associate, Rutgers University):** Contributed to the discussion on the legal landscape and service provisions in the United States.
- **Dr. Sudeepa Banerjee (HOD, MSW Department, IISWBM):** Provided valuable perspectives on the prevalence and impact of violence against women in India.
- **Dr. Gita Khawas (Assistant Professor, MSW, IISWBM):** Delivered an informative online presentation focusing on:
  - The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (India)
  - Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (India)
- **Dr. Sohini Banerjee (Associate Professor, MBA, IISWBM):** Addressed contemporary marital disputes leading to severe violence.
- **Mr. Pratim Roy (Project Coordinator, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Samiti & Guest Faculty, IISWBM):** Shared practical insights and opinions from his field work.

The Rutgers University students presented slides covering key aspects of domestic violence, including:

- New Jersey Domestic Violence Law
- Socio-cultural and Structural Factors of Violence
- Power and Control Patterns of Violence
- Health Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence

**Key Discussion Points:**

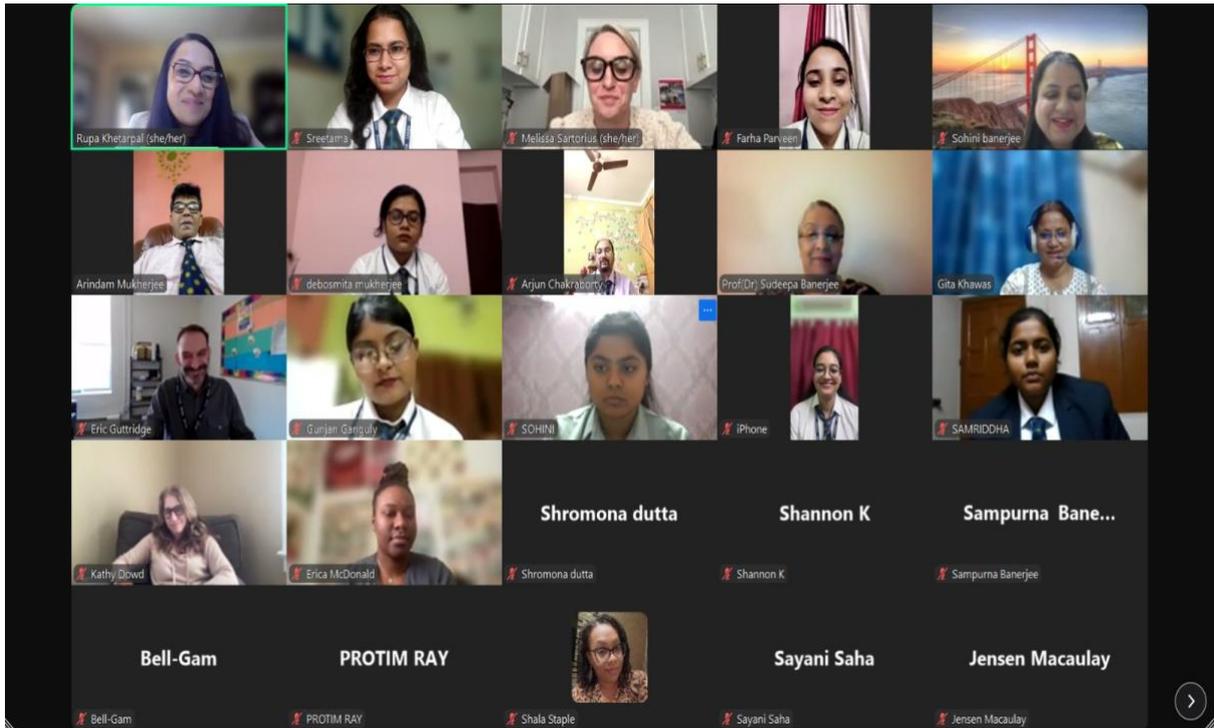
The webinar extended beyond the traditional focus on violence against women, encompassing a broader understanding of violence across diverse populations, including transgender individuals, men, and children. The speakers emphasized the profound internal and external suffering experienced by victims.

A significant portion of the session was dedicated to a comparative analysis of domestic violence laws and legislation in India and the USA, highlighting both the strengths and weaknesses of each system. Speakers provided real-world examples and case studies to illustrate their points.

The session was highly interactive, with social work students from both IISWBM and Rutgers University actively participating. They shared their professional and personal experiences, contributing to a rich and nuanced discussion. IISWBM students, in particular, shared their knowledge and experiences regarding violence against women, children and men.

**Impact and Conclusion:**

The webinar proved to be highly informative and impactful, providing attendees with a deeper understanding of the complexities of domestic violence and the legal and support systems in place to address it. The exchange of knowledge and experiences between participants from India and the USA fostered a valuable cross-cultural dialogue. The discussions pertaining to the various forms of violence and how they affect all members of society were very important. The information provided regarding Indian law and American law was exceptionally valuable and greatly appreciated.



**The interactive audience of the webinar**



# Prevalence



Unit Name  
Center for Disease Control (CDC), 2024

**Dr. Rupa Khetarpal's presentation featured detailed slides.**

SOHINI Rupa Khetarpal (she/h... Gita Khawas Arindam Mukherjee Sohini banerjee Prof(Dr) Sudeep... Prof(Dr) Sudeepa Bane...

royalty That is physical cruelty, mental cruelty, threats leading to suicide Great physical or mental injury except a dowry or other valuables okay So these are

**WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? (SECTION 498A OF THE I.P.C.)**

- A married woman is the victim of domestic violence if:
  - She is subjected to cruelty:
    - a.) Physical cruelty
    - b.) Mental cruelty
    - c.) Likely to cause her to commit suicide, or
    - d.) likely to cause grave injury to her whether physical or mental
    - e.) With a view to forcing her or any of her relatives to meet any demand for property or valuable security.



**Dr. Gita Khawas presented her findings.**

RUTGERS Optional Presentation T

**New Jersey Domestic Violence Law**

- Established in 1981
- Comprehensive
- Two ways to seek legal recourse:
  - Criminal
  - Civil



**An informative presentation.**