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The Intersectionality of Socio-Economic Status and Domestic Violence among Tribal Women in Manipur

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Abstract

This study investigates the intersectionality of socio-economic status and domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur, India. The study points out how domestic violence intensifies due to specific cultural and financial elements that characterize this area. Research data collected from 150 tribal women undergoes mixed-methods analysis because it combines qualitative and quantitative measures to study the multidimensional link between household incomes and domestic abuse occurrences. The research reveals that domestic violence primarily targets uneducated and economically unstable groups of people whose cultural traditions heighten their exposure to violence. The study emphasizes the requirement for interventions that focus on tribal cultural environments, together with educational programs, economic growth, and violence prevention education, to prevent domestic abuse. This study analyzes current government initiatives and approving legislation to detect limitations in service provision for tribal women. The study helps expand knowledge about domestic violence's social and economic factors while promoting specific solutions that benefit tribal women's well-being in Manipur.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Socio-Economic Status, Tribal Women, Manipur, Intersectionality

1. Introduction

Domestic violence exists as an extensive social problem that surpasses cultural backgrounds, yet develops distinctive expressions because of each socio-economic and cultural setting. The northeastern state of Manipur in India faces an urgent concern about domestic violence experienced by tribal women who exist at different socio-economic levels (Haobijam et al., 2022). Developing specific interventions and policies for this population requires fully comprehending the intersection between ethnic background and economic factors (Iips, I. C. F. 2021). The various tribal communities across Manipur have separate cultural traditions and traditional social patterns. The traditional cultural roots that enrich Manipur do not protect tribal women from crucial socio-economic difficulties that prevent them from acquiring the necessary education or health services or sustaining economic stability. The combination of poverty and gender inequality makes domestic violence more likely to victimize tribal women in Manipur (Dalal et al., 2012).

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The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) data demonstrate that northeastern India, particularly Manipur, maintains a very high rate of domestic violence. According to research, the study discovered that domestic violence depends on multiple social and economic characteristics, which include educational achievement level and wealth ranking, as well as the occupational position of women alongside religious background and child count, together with alcohol consumption among husbands (Chowdhury et al., 2018). Women who obtained higher levels of education and who belonged to more affluent families showed lower probabilities of domestic violence in their lives. Husbands who consumed alcohol showed a clear connection between their alcohol use and higher probabilities of domestic violence (Gerstein, L. 2000).

The intersectionality framework provides essential knowledge about the combined impact of social identities and socio-economic elements on the life experiences of tribal women in Manipur (Hindin et al., 2002). The approach examines different entities in combination, like ethnicity alongside gender and economic class, which interact within power structures, thus generating exclusive marginalization effects or privileges. The combination of ethnic heritage and disadvantaged socio-economic position makes tribal women in Manipur more susceptible to domestic violence, so they face obstacles in obtaining the necessary help and resources (Zakar et al., 2016). A comprehensive approach to fighting domestic violence in tribal women of Manipur needs to analyze how various factors overlap with one another. The interventions require cultural awareness and recognition of the economic and social circumstances affecting these communities (Semahegn et al, 2015). The battle against domestic violence among tribal women requires implementing three main strategies, which combine enhanced educational benefits with economic improvement opportunities while delivering specialized services for tribal groups. Alcohol abuse among men must become a priority in the efforts to decrease domestic violence rates within these communities (Agumasie Semahegn, et al. 2015).

A complete understanding of socio-economic status and domestic violence against tribal women in Manipur demands multidimensional solutions based on cultural considerations. The establishment of safe and equitable environments for tribal women in Manipur becomes possible through recognizing and handling the intricate relationship among domestic violence contributors. This research investigates how domestic violence affects tribal women in Manipur when combined with their socio-economic status by examining both material factors and cultural elements. The research investigation focuses on discovering the essential socio-economic elements that influence domestic violence rates while investigating how poverty and gender biases affect tribal women, alongside evaluating their legal protection provisions (Atewologun, D., 2018). His study uses an intersectional framework to examine how tribal women uniquely face vulnerabilities while developing solutions that protect their social standing and access to justice and boost their economic abilities.

The paper is divided into six parts. The paper's introduction is presented in section 1; in section 2, a review of the literature on "The Intersectionality of Socio-Economic Status and Domestic Violence among Tribal Women in Manipur" is presented. Section 3 examines the methodology, including objectives, data collection, tools, and techniques. The findings have been detailed in section 4. A discussion of the results in Section 5 follows it. Conclusions, implications, limitations, and directions for further studies have been included in Section 6. At last, references have been represented.

2. Review of literature

Mashangva, B. (2024), in his study titled "Household Economy and its Relation to Household Head and Women: A Study among the Tangkhuls in Kangpokpi District, Manipur", examined the correlation between household income and the contributions of household heads and women to income generation among the Tangkhul in Kangpokpi District, Manipur. The study employs a mixed methods approach, incorporating surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, to analyze the economic activities of households involved in shifting cultivation and the contributions of household heads and women to income creation. The discovery highlights the substantial importance of women in home economic operations and the interaction between gender roles and household leadership within the Tangkhul tribe. The Tangkhul society is patriarchal; however, women possess considerable autonomy and significantly contribute to familial and communal affairs. The study emphasizes the necessity for a more comprehensive understanding of economic practices and the influence of gender on household income in rural communities. The findings from this research can guide policies and actions focused on enhancing livelihoods and alleviating poverty in rural regions.

Zimik, A. S. (2023), in the study titled "Assessment on the socio-economic status of Manipur: A study based on economic perspectives," examined the socio-economic status of the population of Manipur by employing diverse sources, including official papers and departmental data. The study seeks to uncover trends in socio-economic status through a comprehensive analytical evaluation of data and information gathered from various departmental activities—pre-British, British, and contemporary times. The study aims to propose sustainable approaches for enhancing socioeconomic status. To obtain thorough and dependable data, multiple departments were visited and engaged with to perform a meticulous and professional investigation. The study's findings indicate that public and private sectors must adopt more effective methods and economic models to enhance socio-economic circumstances. The research underscores the necessity for effective governance, investment, and entrepreneurship to enhance the socio-economic conditions of the populace in Manipur, which constitutes the central theme of the study.

Guite, L. (2021), in his study titled "A Study on the Socio-economic Status Assessment of Kuki Tribal Women in Moreh: A Study from the Tengnoupal District, Manipur," evaluated the socio-economic status of Kuki tribal women in Moreh Town, Tengnoupal District, Manipur, and found significant influencing factors. Hypotheses indicate that education, health, economic activities, and social conduct may diminish their socioeconomic level. Data were gathered from ten units in Moreh Town via standardized questionnaires, comprising a sample size of 100 women. A Likert scale quantified response, and data analysis was conducted using SPSS, incorporating T-tests and Cronbach's Alpha for reliability assessment. Research reveals that the socio-economic status of Kuki women is predominantly low, with numerous women reliant on family members for money management and exhibiting restricted involvement in decision-making processes. Critical determinants affecting their socioeconomic status encompass education, health, economic activities, and social conduct. The study indicated that improved education, health, and economic prospects may elevate their socioeconomic standing and familial responsibilities.

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Lungbila et al. (2021) in their study titled "Self-Help Groups Scaling up Economic Empowerment of Maram Tribal Women in Manipur" noted that the Maram Tribal Community is among the most susceptible populations in Manipur. Contemporary technological developments and economic progress are inaccessible to most members of the Maram group since their human development significantly lags behind the national average. The socio-cultural and traditional practices of the community contribute to its diminished socio-economic status, resulting in women facing numerous problems in their lives. Implementing community-based microfinance and establishing women's self-help organizations through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) led to the empowerment of tribal women. This article examines the economic empowerment status of Maram tribal women in Manipur. A field study of women's self-help groups indicates that female participants experience incremental economic empowerment due to microfinance initiatives. The expansion of SHG-based micro-enterprises will promote the long-term growth of the Maram tribal community.

Gogoi et al. (2017) in their study "A study on the status of family planning practices and their association with socio-economic and demographic factors in Manipur, India" discovered that every living thing reproduces to ensure that its type will continue to exist on earth.
On the other hand, food webs and chains regulate the unchecked expansion of the population of living species. On the other hand, the unchecked expansion of the human population. One cannot rely solely on nature to maintain population control. Couples take steps to plan their families in order to accomplish this. It is common for couples to implement these strategies and procedures to regulate the number of children they wish to have and the time that passes (in years) between the births of two children. This study aimed to investigate how the practices of family planning in Manipur are influenced by various socio-economic and demographic factors, as well as the desire for future births. The findings of this investigation indicate that couples in Manipur choose to use family planning methods regardless of the socio-economic and demographic factors they are interested in.

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Maity et al. (2014) in their study **'Socioeconomic status of Kuki tribal women: A case study Churachandpur District, Manipur'** stated that the socio-economic condition of women significantly influences both individual and communal life. It is a multifaceted term that the aggregation of many elements can quantify. The study examined the socioeconomic position of Kuki women. The Kuki are one of the principal tribal communities in Manipur. The study utilized primary data to emphasize key elements that illustrate the socio-economic status of Kuki women. To ascertain the socioeconomic level of Kuki women, the current study employed a self-constructed composite socioeconomic index, comprising three indices: the Health Index, Educational Index, and Income Index. A logit regression model is ultimately employed to identify the primary determinants affecting the socioeconomic position of women.

3. Research gap

Research studies have thoroughly investigated how socio-economic status influences tribal women in Manipur, but still need to explore the connection between their economic position and domestic abuse. Research on this topic mainly investigates economic contributions (Mashangva, 2024), conducts socio-economic assessments (Zimik, 2023; Maity et al., 2014), and examines self-help groups' function for economic empowerment (Lungbila et al., 2021). Research conducted to date fails to address the specific relationships between socioeconomic disadvantages and gender-based violence that affect tribal communities.

The research conducted by Guite (2021) recognizes education and health alongside economic activity as socio-economic status determinants of women. However, it neglects to investigate how these elements affect their domestic violence vulnerability. Family planning research by Gogoi et al. (2017) shows the importance of socio-economic conditions, yet it does not establish their connection to household violence patterns. The national data available through NFHS-4, along with Dalal et al. (2012) research, shows that income and education directly correlate with domestic violence. However, there is no focused investigation of Manipur tribal women dealing with their exclusive socio-cultural obstacles.

Research voids get filled by this investigation because it demonstrates how tribal women from Manipur face domestic abuse based on their household resources and living conditions. The research implements an intersectional approach that explores how financial struggles, together with educational hurdles and cultural elements, influence abuse susceptibility for tribal women. This study presents a complete picture of tribal women's challenges by uniting socio-economic research with gender violence research and develops culturally specific solutions.

4. Objective
- To examine the impact of socio-economic status on the prevalence of domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of government policies and legal frameworks in addressing domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur.
- To assess the influence of education level on awareness and reporting of domestic violence among tribal women.

5. Methodology

A mixed-methods approach employs research with qualitative and quantitative methods to explore socio-economic status, along with the impact of domestic violence on tribal women within Manipur. The study selects 150 women from the target population through a stratified random sampling method for the research. A descriptive and exploratory research design uses questionnaires as the primary research instrument in the study. The study examines domestic violence by analyzing dependent variables alongside three separate independent variables: socio-economic standing, government policy frameworks, and education levels. The data collection includes both primary and secondary sources. The research analysis is performed through MS Excel and SPSS, and statistical insights are created by applying mean, standard deviation, correlation, paired samples t-test, and regression methods. The study gathers empirical evidence that will support policy recommendations for better intervention strategies against domestic violence affecting tribal women.

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6. Result and Interpretation

Table 1: Demographics of respondents

Sr. No.	Demographic Variables	Characteristics	N	%
1	Age	18-25 years	31	20.7
		26-35 years	26	17.3
		36-45 years	36	24.0
		46-55 years	27	18.0
		56 years and above	30	20.0
2	Education Qualification	Graduation and above	31	20.7
		Higher Secondary	30	20.0

		No formal education	26	17.3
		Primary level	31	20.7
		Secondary level	32	21.3
3	**Employment status**	Daily Wage Laborer	38	25.3
		Farmer	35	23.3
		Self-Employed	49	32.7
		Unemployed	28	18.7
4	**Monthly Household Income**	10,000 - 20,000	27	18.0
		20,000 - 50,000	30	20.0
		5,000 - 10,000	30	20.0
		Above 50,000	33	22.0
		Below 5,000	30	20.0
5	**Experienced Domestic Violence**	No	102	68.0
		Yes	48	32.0
6	**Type of Violence Experienced**	Economic Abuse	31	20.7
		Physical Violence	27	18.0
		Psychological Abuse	26	17.3
		Sexual Violence	66	44.0
7	**Reported Domestic Violence**	No	86	57.3
		Yes	64	42.7
8	**Reasons for Not Reporting**	Dependence on the perpetrator	49	32.7
		Fear of family	65	43.3
		Lack of awareness about legal rights	36	24.0

The statistical breakdown shows how numerous people are spread among different socio-economic characteristics. The age group from 36 to 45 holds the most excellent representation among the surveyed population at 24.0% while the 18-25 years segment matches closely at

20.7% and those 56 years and above at 20.0%. The study participants show a balanced educational distribution with secondary-level graduates at 21.3% and 20.7% having primary-level and graduation-level education. The industrial employment type shows that 32.7% of respondents own businesses. Behind them, daily wage laborers (25.3%) and farmers (23.3%) share the second and third place, while unemployed people comprise 18.7% of the study sample. The financial data shows that 22.0% of participants earn more than ₹50,000 per month, yet 20.0% earn within the ₹5,000-10,000 and ₹20,000-50,000 ranges, implying stable and vulnerable economic conditions exist.

Sexual violence stood as the most common type of domestic abuse in which 32.0% of respondents engaged, though economic abuse (20.7%), physical violence (18.0%), and psychological abuse (17.3%) followed behind sexual violence (44.0%). The majority of 57.3% of respondents failed to report their abuse experiences mainly because of three factors: societal and family-based stigma (43.3%), dependence on abusers (32.7%), and insufficient legal awareness (24.0%). Results demonstrate how financial dependency, together with social pressure, affects both domestic violence reporting and victim awareness because such factors reduce awareness and create barriers for victims to report abuse experiences. The research results prove that tribal women in Manipur require custom-designed legislative awareness training combined with economic growth programs and community-based support services to overcome their present challenges.

Objective 1: To examine the impact of socio-economic status on the prevalence of domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur.

Table 2: Model Summary of the impact of socio-economic status on domestic violence of tribal women in Manipur

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.992[a]	.985	.985	.48640
a. Predictors: (Constant), Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur				

The model summary reveals that the relationship between Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur and the dependent variable is strong. A value of 0.992 in R demonstrates a powerful connection between the variables, while R Square measures at 0.985, which indicates the predictor variable accounts for 98.5% of the dependent variable variation. The model reliability appears verified through the Adjusted R Square value of 0.985, which provides an estimate beyond simple statistical errors. Model performance and prediction deviation levels are good because the Standard Error of the Estimate measures 0.48640.

Table 3: ANOVA of the impact of socio-economic status on domestic violence of tribal women in Manipur

	Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2280.079	1	2280.079	9637.451	.000[b]
	Residual	35.015	148	.237		
	Total	2315.093	149			
a. Dependent Variable: Socio-Economic Variables						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur						

The ANOVA table quantifies the entire importance of the regression model. The Total Variability in the model amounts to the Regression Sum of Squares (2280.079), while the Residual Sum of Squares (35.015) shows the unexplained variation. The regression Mean Square value reaches 2280.079, but the residuals Mean Square stands at 0.237. The F-value (9637.451) demonstrates decisive importance, while the p-value (0.000) shows extreme significance in explaining socio-economic factors related to domestic violence in tribal women of Manipur. The model proves effective for explaining dependency variables according to these findings.

Table 4: **Coefficients of the impact of socio-economic status on domestic violence of tribal women in Manipur**

	Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.459	.239		-1.918	.057
	Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur	1.018	.010	.992	98.171	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Socio-Economic Variables						

The coefficients table presents vital associations between Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur and Socio-Economic Variables. When domestic violence is absent, the predicted value of socio-economic variables amounts to -0.459. Socio-economic variables are projected to rise 1.018 units whenever domestic violence increases by one unit, based on the unstandardized coefficient value of 1.018. The strong positive relationship between domestic violence and socio-economic conditions becomes evident when examining the standardized

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coefficient (Beta), which reaches 0.992. The research demonstrates that domestic violence strongly affects socio-economic results for tribal women in Manipur through a statistical t-value of 98.171 that holds a p-value of 0.000.

Objective 2: To evaluate the effectiveness of government policies and legal frameworks in addressing domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur.

Table 5: **Model Summary of the effectiveness of government policies and legal frameworks on domestic violence against tribal women in Manipur**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.551ᵃ	.304	.299	2.71707
a. Predictors: (Constant), Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur				

The model summary demonstrates an intermediate connection between Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur and the dependent variable. The variables exhibit a moderate relation based on the R value (0.551), indicating a minimal yet substantial connection between them. The R Square value (0.304) establishes domestic violence as the variable responsible for explaining 30.4% of the dependent variable variance while maintaining modest explanatory abilities. The Adjusted R Square (0.299) maintains its proximity to R Square while accounting for all the predictor variables. The Standard Error of the Estimate (2.71707) evaluates how far observed values typically deviate from the regression line, thus indicating substantial unpredictable variations in prediction values.

Table 6: **ANOVA of the effectiveness of government policies and legal frameworks on domestic violence against tribal women in Manipur**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	476.730	1	476.730	64.576	.000ᵇ
	Residual	1092.604	148	7.382		
	Total	1569.333	149			
a. Dependent Variable: Government Policies and Legal Frameworks						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur						

The ANOVA table determines how well the regression model fits the dependent variable (Government Policies and Legal Frameworks) data—the Regression Sum of Squares totals 476.730, along with the Residual Sum of Squares amounting to 1092.604. The regression Mean Square value amounts to 476.730 while the residuals Mean Square stands at 7.382. Statistically significant findings exist for the regression model because the F-value reaches 64.576 and the

p-value falls to 0.000. The research indicates that domestic violence targeting tribal women in Manipur significantly influences the development of legal policies that affect their community.

Table 7: **Coefficients of the effectiveness of government policies and legal frameworks on domestic violence against tribal women in Manipur**

	Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	11.874	1.337		8.883	.000
	Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur	.466	.058	.551	8.036	.000
	a. Dependent Variable: Government Policies and Legal Frameworks					

The coefficients table reveals the connections between domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur and the dependent variable, which consists of government policies and legal frameworks.

When domestic violence does not exist, the predicted value for government policies and legal frameworks amounts to 11.874 according to the unstandardized coefficient for the constant. The coefficient for domestic violence shows an increase of 0.466 units when domestic violence rates go up by one unit.

The strength of the relationship between domestic violence and government policies is 0.551 according to standardized coefficients known as Beta. Statistics confirm the substantial impact of domestic violence on government policies and legal frameworks through a t-value of 8.036 and a p-value of 0.000.

Objective 3: To assess the influence of education level on awareness and reporting of domestic violence among tribal women.

Table 8: Model Summary of the influence of education level on domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.601[a]	.361	.357	3.07974
a. Predictors: (Constant), Education Level				

Analysis results demonstrate an average-level connection between Education Level as the predictor variable and the dependent variable. The 0.601 R-value indicates that the dependent variable's education level has relatively strong predictive power. According to the R Square value, education level as a predictor accounts for 36.1% of the dependent variable variability, demonstrating a moderately effective explanatory power. The Adjusted R Square (0.357) has a value very similar to R Square, which indicates that the predictive strength of the model remains constant after factoring in additional variables. The Standard Error of the Estimate at 3.07974 displays an average deviation of 3.07974 units surrounding predicted values.

Table 9: ANOVA of the influence of education level on domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	794.626	1	794.626	83.779	.000[b]
	Residual	1403.747	148	9.485		
	Total	2198.373	149			
a. Dependent Variable: Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Education Level						

The ANOVA table determines the model's effectiveness as an explanatory factor for mixed variables in the dependent measure (Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur). The total explained variance from the model measures 794.626, while the unexplained variance amounts to 1403.747. The Mean Square values show 794.626 for regression analysis and 9.485 for residuals. The F-value reaches 83.779 while the corresponding p-value equals 0.000 to show that the model delivers adequate explanations of domestic violence behavior among tribal women in Manipur. The educational level of the population demonstrates a significant role in how this population understands and responds to domestic violence incidents.

Table 10: Coefficients of the influence of education level on domestic violence among tribal women in Manipur

Coefficients[a]						
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	8.901	1.533		5.805	.000
	Education Level	.901	.098	.601	9.153	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Domestic Violence Among Tribal Women in Manipur						

Statistical data from the coefficients table demonstrates fundamental knowledge about the connection between education levels and domestic violence incidents, which impact tribal women in Manipur. A constant value of 8.901 indicates what domestic violence would be when the education level stands at zero. The measure of the unstandardized coefficient for education level shows that domestic violence increases by 0.901 units when education level improves by one unit. Education level exhibits a significant moderate positive relationship with domestic violence, according to the standardized coefficient, which stands at 0.601. The t-value for education level at 9.153, along with the p-value of 0.000, demonstrates that education level has a powerful, statistically significant relationship with domestic violence.

7. Discussion

The scholarly paper "The Intersectionality of Socio-Economic Status and Domestic Violence among Tribal Women in Manipur" investigates the simultaneous impact of socioeconomic factors alongside domestic violence victimization of tribal women in Manipur. The paper demonstrates that educational attainment, as well as individual earnings levels and work status, play decisive roles in domestic abuse risks. The research analyzes how ethnic background, financial struggles, and cultural traditions form the experiences of tribal women by using intersectional analysis.

A combined research design includes statistical data testing from 150 subjects through regression analysis and correlation tests. Research shows that monetary challenges create a powerful connection to domestic abuse because victims face multiple obstacles when attempting to report their situations to the authorities. The study analyzes government policy effectiveness for addressing domestic violence, legal framework capability, and educational methods for raising awareness.

The research finds flaws in contemporary studies that the authors use to support their advocacy for culturally relevant interventions, economic empowerment programs, and increased legal understanding to support tribal women in Manipur.

8. Conclusion

Research establishes how tribal women in Manipur face domestic violence because their financial dependence, combined with educational deficiencies and cultural restrictions, creates their vulnerable status. The research reveals an effective relationship that exists between economic distress and household violence, where sexual abuse represents the leading form of such abuse. Litigation obstacles arising from social discrimination and fear, together with insufficient knowledge about the law, create additional challenges for victims who want to report. The current government policies demonstrate limited success rates in addressing violence against tribal women in Manipur, yet further improvements are necessary to achieve better results. The primary determinant for women's self-advocacy and awareness development is educational opportunities. The solution for domestic violence in these communities must combine economic empowerment initiatives with legal education programs and culturally appropriate intervention services. Studies must evaluate the effects of long-lasting policies and study sustainable indigenous community approaches that will protect and support tribal women in Manipur.

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