Role of Artificial Intelligence in Strengthening the Implementation of The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a term that refers to the unsafe condition of women at home. It is present in almost every society in the world. It is not only a problem of developing countries but very prevalent in the developed countries also. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDV Act) was enacted in India to provide effective legal protection to women who are facing domestic violence and to ensure their right to live in a violence-free environment. The implementation of the Act continues to face numerous challenges, including a lack of awareness, underreporting of cases, delays in relief and inadequate coordination among implementing agencies. Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a powerful tool in governance and public policy implementation. This research paper examines the role of Artificial Intelligence in strengthening the implementation of the PWDV Act, 2005.

Keywords: Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 Artificial Intelligence, Policy Implementation

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence remains one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violations against women in India. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was introduced to provide civil remedies such as protection orders, residence orders, monetary relief, and custody orders to aggrieved women. However, the practical enforcement of the Act has been inconsistent across regions due to socio-cultural barriers, lack of institutional capacity, and procedural delays.

With the advancement of digital governance, Artificial Intelligence has the potential to address several implementation challenges under the PWDV Act. AI can assist law enforcement agencies, courts, protection officers, and support services in improving efficiency, accessibility, and accountability. The integration of AI into the domestic violence response system can help transform the Act from a reactive legal mechanism into a proactive and survivor-centric framework.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the existing challenges in the implementation of the Protection of Women from PWDV Act, 2005.
- To analyse the role of Artificial Intelligence in strengthening reporting, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms under the PWDV Act, 2005.

CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWDV ACT, 2005

Despite its comprehensive provisions, the PWDV Act faces multiple implementation challenges. Many women hesitate to report domestic violence due to fear of social stigma, economic dependence, and lack of awareness. The shortage of trained protection officers, delays in court proceedings, and poor coordination between police, judiciary, and service providers further weaken enforcement. In rural areas, informal dispute resolution mechanisms often discourage formal legal action, limiting the Act's effectiveness.

- Lack of Awareness

A major challenge to the effective implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is the lack of awareness among women about their legal rights and available remedies. Many women, especially those in rural areas and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, are not fully aware of the types of domestic violence covered by the Act, such as physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, and economic abuse. They often do not

know that they can seek protection orders, residence rights, monetary relief, custody orders, and free legal aid without filing for divorce. Illiteracy, limited access to legal information, social restrictions on women's mobility, and the lack of effective awareness campaigns further exacerbate this problem. As a result, victims either remain silent or rely on informal community agreements instead of contacting legal authorities. Therefore, this lack of legal awareness significantly weakens the practical impact of the Act and prevents many women from accessing timely protection and justice.

- Underreporting of Cases

One of the biggest challenges to the effective implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is underreporting. Many cases of domestic violence go unreported due to social stigma, fear of family breakdown, economic dependence on the abuser, and concerns about the future of children. Women often hesitate to approach the police or court due to fear of retaliation, emotional pressure from family members, or a lack of trust in the legal system. In rural areas, community bodies or informal settlements can reduce formal complaints and pressure settlements. Furthermore, lack of awareness about legal rights and the complexities of the process further deter women from filing cases. Consequently, official data under represents the true extent of domestic violence, making it difficult for authorities to formulate effective policies and intervene.

- Lack of Coordination

Lack of coordination among various stakeholders is a major challenge in effectively implementing the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The Act requires collaboration between police officers, protection officers, magistrates, medical officers, shelter homes, legal aid services, and NGOs. However, poor communication, the lack of a centralized data system, and a lack of clear delineation of roles often lead to delays and gaps in service delivery. In many cases, information regarding complaints, relief orders, or follow-up actions is not properly shared between departments, leading to delayed responses and inadequate implementation of protective measures. This fragmented approach reduces accountability and impacts timely assistance for victims. Therefore, strong inter-departmental coordination and integrated monitoring systems are essential to ensure adequate protection and justice for women

- Social Pressure for Conciliation

Social pressure for conciliation is a major obstacle to the effective implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. In many cases, family members, relatives, and social leaders pressure women to resolve disputes privately rather than pursue legal recourse. Cultural norms often priorities protecting marriage and family honour over personal safety and justice. Consequently, victims are encouraged to endure abuse or withdraw complaints to avoid social stigma, financial hardship, or family breakdown. In rural areas, informal dispute resolution methods can pressure women to seek reconciliation without addressing the root causes of violence. This social pressure prevents women from seeking protection orders and other legal recourse, weakening the effectiveness of the Act and denying victims the protection they deserve.

- Data Collection and Monitoring Gaps

Data collection and monitoring gaps are significant challenges in the effective implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. In many states, there is no centralized and updated digital system to record complaints, relief orders, case progress, and final outcomes. Data is often maintained manually or separately by police, courts, and Protection Officers, leading to inconsistency and lack of transparency. Due to incomplete or delayed reporting, it becomes difficult to track whether protection orders, monetary relief, or residence orders are properly enforced. The absence of reliable district-level data also makes it challenging for policymakers to assess the actual impact of the Act, identify high-risk areas,

and allocate resources effectively. Therefore, weak data management and monitoring mechanisms reduce accountability and hinder evidence-based policy decisions.

- **Delays in Implementation of Relief Orders**

Delays in implementing relief orders remain a major challenge to the effective implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Although magistrates can grant protection orders, accommodation orders, and monetary relief to victims, these orders are not always implemented promptly. Processing delays, slow service of notices, lack of follow-up by officials, and lack of cooperation from respondents often delay actual relief. In some cases, victims face harassment or financial hardship despite court orders in their favour. Weak monitoring systems and a lack of coordination between the police, protection officers, and courts further exacerbate the problem. Consequently, delayed implementation diminishes the effectiveness of the Act and undermines its objective of providing prompt and effective protection to women.

ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWDV ACT, 2005

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in his speech at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 that India views AI not as a threat, but as an opportunity for destiny. The PM said that after centuries, a major turning point has arrived in human history, but we are still unaware of its impact. India is home to the world's leading AI leaders. Representation from over 100 countries is taking its success to new heights. The presence of the young generation instills new confidence. While some initially harbour scepticism about new technologies, the speed with which the world's younger generation is embracing and using AI is unprecedented. The AI Summit exhibition has also generated tremendous enthusiasm, with a particularly large number of young talent attending. The solutions showcased here address agriculture, security, assistance to the disabled, and the needs of multilingual populations, all of which are powerful examples of the power of Made in India.

- **Data analysis for policy making and its implementation**

Data analysis using artificial intelligence can significantly strengthen policymaking under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. AI systems can analyze court case data, helpline calls, hospital records, and shelter home usage. Machine learning techniques like predictive analytics and clustering help policymakers understand which groups of women are most vulnerable, where reporting is low, and where protection orders are most frequently violated. Therefore, AI-supported data analysis helps develop evidence-based policies, allocate resources effectively, monitor, and make timely improvements.

- **Monitoring the implementation of the relief orders**

Artificial intelligence (AI) can strengthen the enforcement of relief orders under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and ensure that court-provided protection actually reaches victims. Under the Act, magistrates can grant protection orders, stay orders, monetary relief, custody orders, and compensation; however, delays and non-compliance often diminish the effectiveness of these orders. AI-based case management systems can digitally track each relief order from its issuance until final compliance, facilitating faster legal action.

- **Helpful for awareness among women about PWDV Act 2005**

Artificial intelligence (AI) can play a vital role in raising awareness among women about their rights under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Many women who are unaware of the Act, especially in rural and marginalized communities, are unaware of legal protections, relief orders, and available support services. AI-powered chat bots and mobile applications can provide simple information on how to file a complaint, contact a protection officer, or seek shelter and monetary relief. AI can also analyze regional data to identify areas with low awareness and help authorities design targeted digital campaigns through SMS, social media, and community platforms. Voice-based AI systems can help illiterate women by

providing audio guidance on their legal rights and emergency helpline numbers.

- Strengthening NGOs, Social Activists and Govt. coordination

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can significantly strengthen coordination between NGOs, social activists, and government officials in implementing the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Often, communication gaps and delays in information sharing hamper victim support services. AI-based centralized digital platforms can integrate data from police departments, protection officers, legal aid authorities, shelter homes, and NGOs to share information in real time and work collaboratively. For example, if a woman files a complaint, the system can automatically notify the relevant NGO, protection officer, and legal aid cell, enabling a faster response.

- Helpful for protection officers

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be extremely helpful for protection officers to effectively enforce the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. AI tools can also analyze case histories to highlight high-risk situations, allowing protection officers to prioritize urgent cases. Chat bots and automated communication systems can help officers respond quickly to victim questions, especially during emergencies like the COVID-19 lockdown. In this way, AI serves as a supportive tool that reduces workload, saves time, and strengthens coordination, while human judgment and supervision remain essential.

FINDINGS

- Many challenges that affect PWDV Act 2005 like lack of awareness, under-reporting of cases, lack of coordination, delay in implementation of relief orders etc.
- Social and cultural factors affect the women, family pressure and traditional norms influence women's decisions.
- AI based tools can improve early identification of cases, monitoring of relief orders, policy planning through better data analysis.
- Effective digital data collection and centralized tracking systems are essential for transparency and effective implementation of the PWD Act 2005.

SUGGESTIONS

- The government should conduct regular awareness campaigns in both rural and urban areas using artificial intelligence.
- Provide AI-based tools that help protection officers and other government machinery.
- Establish digital systems that automatically track complaints, relief, orders and compliance systems.
- Collaboration between government, NGOs, and technology experts for survivor-centric AI solutions.

CONCLUSION

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a major step towards ensuring gender justice in India. However, its impact largely depends on proper implementation. Artificial intelligence, if used correctly, can play a transformative role in law enforcement, increasing access to justice, and improving policy outcomes. The inclusion of AI within the framework of the PWDV Act must be guided by ethical principles, legal safeguards, and a victim-centered approach to truly empower women and uphold their rights.

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