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‘Taking Matters in My Own Hands’: A Feminist Understanding of Domestic Violence in India

India is seeing the emergence of a new brand of woman who is willing to take matters into her own hand. After listening to the stories of several urban Indian women, I argue that while this Indian woman has limited resources she is reflective and conscious of her choices. Conventionally women in urban India have lived in fear of abuse and violence and have been victims of domestic violence. However, in recent times, the urban women are challenging the status quo and readdressing this culture of violence surrounding them. In this paper, I propose that the urban Indian women are resisting the dominant discourse of domestic violence and are emerging as subaltern counterpublics. To do so, I will privilege the stories of urban Indian women who have been labeled as victims lacking any agency to fight back. In order to discuss the changing trends of violence against women in India, I will use a postcolonial feminist framework for my analysis.