

## **The Wife Beater- Gayle Rosenwald Smith (Summary)**

An attorney by profession, the writer in the essay has discussed the term 'wife-beater' and why everyone should stop using this term.

The word 'wife-beater' is a slang word for the kind of sleeveless undershirt that has in recent years become fashionable. World class brands like Gap and world class fashion designers Dolce and Gabbana sell it.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the term wife-beater as- 1) A man who physically abuses his wife and 2) Tank-style underwear shirt: based on the stereotypes that physically abusive husbands were that particular type of shirt.

Similarly, the World Book Dictionary locates the origin of the term wife-beater in 1970s from the stereotype of Midwestern male wearing an undershirt while beating his wife.

The writer, by giving the dictionary meaning of the word says that the word 'wife-beater' is not the right word for these kinds of clothes. First, this word hurts the sentiments of those people who are the victim do domestic violence.

Second, more than four million women are the victim of domestic violence each year, domestic violence occurs in two million families each year in US and average age of the men who do violence is 31. If we use the word 'wife-beater' to these fashionable clothes, then people, especially the boys under twenty-five, begin to think that domestic violence is a joke.

Third, some women even believe that the men in wife-beater look "manly". The writer questions 'Is manly equals violent?'