



**INTERNATIONAL
JOURNAL OF
MULTIDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH
(IJMR)**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Dr. Smt. Anagha V. Pathak
Associate Prof Kamala College
Kolhapur.

Mrs. Desai. M. B
R.C. Shahu College,
Kolhapur.

Abstract

Domestic violence is socio-economic and cultural problem which demand multi-dimensional approach. Domestic violence against women is a result of gender relations where men are superior to women and where women are given subordinate status. Manifestations of violence include physical aggression, such as sexual abuse, burns, attempted hanging and rape. Psychological violence through insult, humiliation, coercion, blackmail, economic or emotional threats and control over speech and action. Thus the violence takes place in a man-women relationship within the family, state and society. Cultural and social factors are interlinked with the development and propagation of violent behavior. With different process of socialization that men and women undergo, men take up stereotyped gender roles of domination and control, whereas women takes up that of submission, dependence and respect for authority. This helplessness has led to her exploitation at almost every stage of life. Men must rise to accept and recognized that women are equal partner in life, are human beings primarily. Global community should respect and maintain the dignity of women. For this, change in attitude of society towards women is a must, without which nothing is possible.

Keywords: Manifestations of violence, propagation of violent behavior, Global community

There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing."

Swami Vivekananda

Introduction

"Violence against women in India is not just a present issue but it has rather deep seated traditional roots in the culture, so large majority of women in India suffers from the burden of gender discrimination. In India where almost half of the population is women, they have always been ill-treated and deprived of their right to life and personal liberty as provided under the constitution of India. Women are always considered as a physically and emotionally weaker than the males, where at present women have proved themselves in almost every field of life affirming that they are no less than men due to their hard work whether at home or working places. But offences against woman which reflects the pathetic reality that woman are just not safe and secure anywhere.

Objectives of the paper

The Present paper mainly focuses on the following objectives

- To know the concept of violence.
- To know the present scenario of domestic violence against women in India.
- To study the types and consequences of domestic violence.
- To suggest remedial measures for domestic violence.

Division of the paper

The present paper is divided into four parts. The first part introduces the topic under study, second part examines the present scenario of domestic violence, types, causes and consequences and remedial measures are explained in the third part and conclusions are drawn in the fourth part.

Methodology:

The information for the present paper is obtained through secondary sources. The secondary data is collected from books related to women and violence.

Review of literature

Catherine Mackinnon in her article 'Difference and Dominance' 1984 in 'Feminism Unmodified' has argued how sex has become a parameter of distinction between man and woman hindering equality. It is the concept of treating likes, alike and unlikes, thus the definition of sex has been restricted to the narrow idea of their mutual unlikeness.

Leonard, 1992; Mckenry et al, 1995, Rao, 1997 and Bhatt, 1998. "Alcohol and Marital Aggression in a National Sample of Young Men, Journal of Interpersonal Violence" is of the view that numbers of family members, type of marriage and husband's education besides menstrual problems have significant influence on domestic violence.

Simone De Beauvoir in "The Second Sex" says that 'it has been said that marriage diminishes man, which often true but almost always it annihilates women'.

Concept of violence

The term 'domestic' denotes within the realm or territory of home. Violence that is committed on a woman by her married partner or his relatives is the major cause of domestic violence. This notion arose with it, the demolition of the assumption that home is a secured place for the protection of an individual.

The World Human Rights Conference in Vienna, first recognized gender-based violence as a human rights violation in 1993. In the same year, United Nations declaration, 1993, defined violence against women as "any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to a woman, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life".

The Fourth Conference of Women, 1995 has defined violence against women as a physical act of aggression of one individual or group against another or others. Violence against women is any act of gender based violence which results in, physical, sexual or arbitrary deprivation of liberty in public or private life and violation of human rights of women in situations of armed conflicts. (Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995 Country Report)

According to Dr. Charlotte Watts "violence is highly stigmatized issue as society often blames women for the violence that they experience".

Studies have shown that violence is not always perpetrated as a form of physical violence but can also be psychological and verbal.

Present scenario of domestic violence against women in india:

Domestic violence against women in India is a big problem. According to National Crime Records Bureau report, gender discrimination, humiliation and rape of women in India are the fastest growing crimes. A paper published in International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory shows that in 2007 there were 20,737 reported cases of rape, 8093 cases of death due to dowry and 10950 cases of sexual harassment. One of the reasons for it being so prevalent is the orthodox and idiotic mindset of the society that women are physically and emotionally weaker than the males. Though women today have proved themselves in almost every field of life affirming that they are no less than men, the reports of violence against them are much larger in number than against men.

According to United Nations Population Fund Report, around two-third of married Indian women are victims of domestic violence and as many as 70 percent of married women in India between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or forced sex.

Type of violence against women

1. Verbal abuse - like name calling, threatening, intimidating.
2. Emotional abuse – criticizing constantly, displaying extreme jealousy, publicly humiliating, isolating the partner, domination.
3. Financial abuse - controlling the money, concealing joint assets, keeping the other impoverished using partner's money without consent.
4. Physical abuse- pushing, slapping, hitting, kicking, choking, pulling hair, biting, using weapons, tying the partner up, locking the partner in a room with denial of food.
5. Sexual abuse - raping, physically attacking sexual parts, forcing the partners to perform sexual acts.

Causes of domestic violence against women

1. There is difference of gender and power. Woman is treated as commodity. When a man feels that his power of dominance is threatened by the women, adopt way of violence.
2. Domestic violence is a complex mixture of social, economical, cultural, psychological factors.
3. Dowry demand is a major cause.
4. Women in India are subject to all forms of violence like female infanticide, discrimination within the household, lack of opportunity to work, honour killings, women as property, rape, molestation etc.
5. When women protest against their exploitation, many try to silence them.
6. Person who is affecting violence can have a psychological strain.
7. Many times the psychological factors trigger the violence act. This can be due to chemical imbalance or general circumstances like sudden mood change.
8. Men under depression, stress, sustaining loss, suffered with inferiority complex are disturbed, these men generally fire over the girl or women with lust and anger.
9. Some boys and men have abnormal behavior, personality disorder and are psychopaths, they are lunatic or have emotional disorder and such men in the state of abnormality and emotional disorder do sexual or physical violence on the soft target nobody but girls and women.
10. Men who are sociopathic, have less talent or ability in them, they are good for nothing, these men are not welcomed or find no place in the society and family, this situation cultivate revengeful attitude in them, so generally attack on the innocent submissive girls and women.
11. Some men are adamant, dominant, possessive nature or are proud of their manliness. They look at girls and women as made for them, commodity of use, they feel to possess authority in family, bosses at place of work, owner of the factory over women are try to dominate, suppress, abuse and assault the women.
12. Interpersonal relationship in family is if not harmonious, unemployment in men, poverty, property disputes etc. create disturbance in family relations. Women are victimizing in this situation.
13. The unemployed women think themselves as burden on family, dependency on men silently and innocently subordinate her to men and she never put forward her desires of expectation, deprivation of rights is also violence against women.

Consequences of domestic violence

The ill effects of abuse can be discussed as

1. **Physical effects:** Apart from the direct effects of violence like physical trauma, fractures and blunt trauma, studies have also linked violence to multiple somatic syndromes, pelvic pain, increase number of surgeries and irritable bowel syndrome.
2. **Psychological effects:** Studies have indicated that women experiencing violence have more chances of suffering from anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide, somatic pain syndromes, phobias, panic disorder, low self-esteem, lack of trust in others, feeling to abandonment, anger, sensitivity to rejection, diminished physical or mental health, inability to work or even poor relations with their relatives. Such victimized women are more likely to report miscarriages and abortions, suicidal thoughts and attempts. The physical and mental health effects may last long after the violence has ended.

Another study indicates that women who are unemployed and experience domestic violence resort to practices like smoking and chewing tobacco.

The children, who grown up in such environment are rather confused, agitated from inside and later in life; they have a strong inclination to turn aggressive. Moreover the sons loose respects for womenfolk if they are used to seeing them in subversive position. The negative ideas are carried forth in the next generation.

1. **Violence in pregnant women:** According to a population based study in Uttar Pradesh, both perinatal and neonatal mortality rates were almost twice as high among women who experienced domestic violence than among women who do not.

Remedial measures for domestic violence:

1. Women should be given higher education and also employment to make confident and to fight against evil forces.

2. Moral support to the victim and her rehabilitation is a challenging job; therefore women's organization should take up all the issues intra-familial and exogenous familial violence.
3. Creating awareness among women about their rights and constitutional measures adopted by the government to protect their interests.
4. Police plays a measure role in tackling the domestic violence cases. They need to be sensitized to treat domestic violence cases as seriously as any other crime.
5. Authorities should take steps to recognize Domestic Violence as a public health issue.
6. A nodal agency should also be set up for the annual consolidation of the documented work and publish the same for wider publicity among the masses for increasing awareness.
7. Change in attitude of society towards women is must without which nothing is possible in women empowerment.

Conclusions:

Domestic violence is socio-economic and cultural problem which demand multi-dimensional approach. It is only through the human rights perspective one can safeguard human dignity. Crime against women is an outcome of their long history of deprivation of socio-economic rights. All too often, Universal Human Rights are wrongly perceived as confined to civil and political rights and not extending to economic and social rights, which may be of more importance to women. This fight is against traditional attitude that chained women, it is not against men. Therefore men must rise to accept and recognized that women are equal partner in life, are human beings primarily. Woman plays a vital role in the society but she has not received that level of love, affection, respect which she gives to others. Global community should respect and maintain the dignity of women and then only we can celebrate International Women's Day in the real sense.

References

Books

1. Ahuja Ram, "Crime against Women" (1987), Rawat Publications, Jaipur.
2. Ahuja Ram, "Violence against Women," (1998), Rawat Publications, Jaipur and New Delhi.
3. Madhu Kishwar, Ruth Vanita (ed) " In Search of Answers- Indian women's Voice from Manushi, A Selection from The First Year of Manushi" (1999) Manohar Publisher and Distributors.
4. Simone De Beauvoir, "The Second Sex"(1988) London Pan Books.

Magazines

1. Saa.br idpall – iSt/ya.vrll kaE3U.ibk ih.sacar v kayda - muiKtve2 St/I ivxe8a.k pu`e Ü iDse.br ÊDÒÏŸ
2. Sapka; dTta5y- mihla s9mlkr`asa#l ix9` - ix9` s.k/m`,A.k ÉD Ü macR ÊDÉÉŸ
