

Domestic Violence in Indian Society

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Abstract

In the present era many issues regarding the upliftment of mankind are in swing. But the one issue which emerged as a very vibrant issue is "Human Rights". It was undoubtedly accepted as an ideology. The process of human rights took a definite shape gradually in the past and some important resolutions and decisions such as Magna Carta in England, Petition of rights and US declaration of independence in 1776, followed by the bill of rights embodied in the US constitution in 1791, and the French declaration of rights of man was also the remarkable achievement.

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Introduction

Nowadays, there is a deep relation between women and violence. We have developed in many fields as human life but with that women violence has increased. Man-made society has changed the mentality of men. They think that women work is only inside the home. Their main work is to prepare food, caring children and serving the family members. Besides this, in our society, violence is busting. It is present almost everywhere and nowhere is eruption more intense than right behind the doors of our homes. Behind closed doors of homes all across our country, people are being tortured, beaten and killed, is happening in rural areas, towns, cities and in metropolitans as well. It is crossing all racial classes, genders, social lines and age groups.

The term used to describe this exploding problem of violence within our homes is domestic violence. This violence is towards someone who are in a relationship with, be a wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, father, grandparent or any other family member. It can be a male's or female's atrocities toward another male or female. Anyone can be a victim and a victimizer. This violence has a tendency to explode in various forms such as physical, sexual or emotional.

Since times immemorial, domestic violence has been an intrinsic part of the society we live in. The contributing factor could be the desire to gain control over another family member, the desire to exploit someone for personal benefits, the desire to be in a commanding position all the time showcasing one's supremacy so on and so forth. On various occasions, psychological problems and social influence also add to the vehemence. The present era deals with the various forms of domestic violence prevalent in India.

Women domestic violence and their causes

The form of women domestic violence is most common of all. 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 male. 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. The possible reasons are many and are diversified over the length and breadth of the country. According to the United Nations Population Fund report, around two-thirds of married Indian women are victims of domestic violence and as many as 70% of married women in India between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape, forced sex. In India, more than 55% of the women suffer from domestic violence.

The most common causes for women stalking and battering include dissatisfaction with dowry and exploiting women. Infanticide continues to be a rising concern.

Other forms of physical abuse against women include slapping, punching, grabbing, burdening them with drudgery, public humiliation and the neglect of their health problems. Some of the other forms of psychological torment against them could be curtailment of their right to self-expression and curbing the freedom to associate with the natal family and friends.

Types of violence against women

Women have become a prominent topic of discussion in India in recent years. Politicians and media have placed great focus on the issue due to increasing trends in the last few years. According to the national crime records bureau of India, reported incidents of crime against women increased 6.4% during 2014 and a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes. 65% of Indian men believe women should tolerate violence in order to keep the family together and women sometimes deserve to be beaten.

(1) Dowry deaths

A dowry death is a murder or suicide of a married woman caused by a dispute over her dowry. In some cases, husbands and in-laws will attempt to extract a greater dowry through continuous harassment and torture, which sometimes results in the wife committing suicide. The majority of these suicides are done through hanging, poisoning or self-immolation. When a dowry death is done by setting the woman on fire, it is called bride-burning. Bride-burning murder is often set up to appear to be a suicide or an accident. Dowry is illegal in India, but it is still a common practice to give expensive gifts to the groom and his relatives at a wedding, which are hosted by the family of the bride. Women are not always the only primary victims of dowry death. In some cases, children are also killed along with their mothers.

(2) Honour Killings

An honour killing is a murder of a family member, one of the most common crimes against women in India. Victims of rape are increasingly reporting their rapes and confronting the perpetrators. Women are becoming more independent and educated, which is increasing their likelihood to report their rape.

Although rape is becoming more frequently reported, many go unreported or have the complaint files withdrawn due to the perception of family honour being compromised. Women frequently do not receive justice for their rapes, as police often do not give a fair hearing and medical evidence is often unrecorded, which

maker it easy for offenders to get away with their crimes under the current laws. Increased attention in the media and awareness among both Indians and the outside world is both bringing attention to the issue of rape in India and helping empower women to report the crime. Battering rape includes both physical sexual violence. The majority of marital rape victims experience battering rape. Gange rape is defined as the rape of an individual by two more perpetrators. Modesty related violence against women includes assaults on women with intent to outrage has modesty and insults to the modesty of women. Member who has been considered to have brought dishonor and shame upon the family. Honour killing include the refusal to enter an arranged marriage, committing adultery choosing a partner that the family disapproves of, and becoming a victim of rape. Honour killings are rooted to tradition and cannot be justified by any major world religion because none of the major world religion condone honour related crimes. The most prominent areas where honour killing occur in India are northern regions honor killing are especially seen in Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh.

(3) Female infanticide

Female infanticide in the elected killing of a newborn female child or termination of a female fetus through sex selective abortion. In India, there is incentive to have a son, because they offer security to the family in old age and are able to conduct rituals for deceased parents and ancestors. In contrast, daughters are considered to be a social and economic burden. Female feticide is the elected abortion of a fetus, because it is female. Female feticide occurs when a family has a strong preference for sons over daughters, which is a common culture theme in India. Modern medical technology has allowed for the gender of a child to be determined while the child is still a fetus. One of these modern prenatal diagnostic techniques determine the gender of the fetus, families then are able to decide if they would like to abort based on gender, if they decide to abort the fetus after discovering it is female, they are committing female feticide. The foetal sex determination and sex selective abortion by medical professionals is an industry.

(4) Sexual Crime

In this crime, rape, sexual assault, insult to modesty, kidnapping, abduction, cruelty by intimate partner or relatives, trafficking, persecution for dowry, dowry death indecency and all other crimes listed in Indian penal code. Rape is one of the most common crimes against women in India. Victims of rape are increasingly reporting their rapes and confronting the perpetrators. Women are becoming more independent and educated, which is increasing their likelihood to report their rape.

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Forced Prostitution

This is the way to get income through teenagers. Sometimes, girls are imported and kidnapped for the prostitute. It happens through brokers and mediators.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is abused by male partner against another in an intimate relationship such as dating, marriage, familial relationship. Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse and intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, emotional, verbal, economical sexual abuse.

Forced Child Marriage

Girls are vulnerable to being forced into marriage at young ages, suffering from a double vulnerability, both for being a child and for being female. Child brides often do not receive dowry and thus the country loses a productive asset. Therefore, the nation's production altogether gets affected because of domestic violence in homes. The cumulative effect of the domestic violence at all levels and across all regions is the country's hindered development and slow economic growth. It is important to understand the meaning and responsibilities of marriage. Causes of such marriages include the view that girls are a burden for their parents, and the fear of a girl losing her chastity before marriage.

Acid Throwing

Acid throwing also called an acid attack, is a form of violent assault used against women in India. Acid is the act of throwing acid or an alternative Corrosive substance on a person's body with the intention to disfigure, torture, maim or kill. Acid attacks are usually directed at a victim's face which burns the skin causing damage

and often exposing or dissecting bone. Sulfuric acid and nitric acid most commonly used for acid attacks. Compared to women throughout the world women in India are at a higher risk of being victims of acid attacks. 72% of reported acid attacks in India have involved women. India has been experiencing an increasing trend of acid attacks over the past decade.

Effect of Domestic Violence on the society

Violence against women may keep them locked in homes succumbing to the torture they face. If they come out in open and reveal the wrong done to them for help and rescue, it influences the society both positively and negatively. At one hand where it acts as an inspiration and ray of hope for other suffering women, on the other hand it also spoils the atmosphere of the society. When something of this kind happens in the society, few families may witness the evil of domestic violence knocking their door steps. Some families try to imitate what other indulge in irrespective of it being bad for the family. Women lose interest to household activities. If they are employed they fail to work with full capabilities in workplace children are found to concentrate less on studies. Sometimes, they drop out of school and do not get the education which otherwise they might have got if they

Remedies for Domestic Violence

(2) A Recent study has concluded that violence against women is the fastest growing crime in India. According to a latest report prepared by India's national crime report Bureau (NCRB), a crime has been recorded against women in every three minutes in India. Every 60 minutes, two women are raped in this country. Every six hours, a young married woman is found beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide. The response to the phenomenon of domestic violence is a typical combination of efforts between law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, the court and probation agencies. The role of all these have progressed over last few decades and brought their activities in public view. Domestic violence is now being viewed as a public health problem of epidemic proportion all over this world and many public private and government and non government actively working to fight the problem generated by domestic violence to the human community . In 1983, domestic violence was recognized as a specific criminal offence by the introduction of section 498-A into the Indian penal code. This section deals with cruelty by a husband or his family towards a married women. The main legislative measures at the national levels for the children who become a victim of child labour include. The child labour prohibition and regulation Act-1986 and the factories Act-1948. The first act was categorical in prohibiting the employment of children below fourteen years of age. The government

of India passed a Domestic violence Bill, 2001, “To protect the right of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring with the family and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

An act called protection of women for domestic to violence act 2005 also has been passed. This act ensures the reporting of cases of domestic violence against women to a “Protection officer” who then prepares a Domestic incident report to the magistrate and forward copies thereof to the police officer in charge of the police station within the local limit of jurisdiction.

The NGOS continue to spread awareness amongst people regarding the legal rights they have in hand for fighting against the atrocities they are subjected to. They are encouraging more and more people to report any case of domestic violence so that proper action may be taken against the culprits.

The police play a major role in tracking the domestic violence cases. They need to be sensitized to treat domestic violence cases as seriously as any other crime. Special training to handle domestic violence cases should be imparted to police force. They should be provided with information regarding support network of judiciary, government agencies and department gender training should be made mandatory in the trainings of the police officers. There should be a separate wings of police dealing with women’s issues, attached to all police stations and should be excluded from any other duty.

Having looked at a sensitive topic “Domestic Violence of women in India”, varying causes which can spark, the violence with the four walls of homes need to be analyzed carefully and good study of the factors causing the violence may prevent a family to suffer from the menace of domestic violence. The domestic violence may have a wider and deeper impact in real life.

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