

THE GROWING MENACE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a global problem that transcends country borders and religious, cultural, socioeconomic, and social divisions. This issue is not only geographically widespread, but it also occurs frequently, making it a common and acceptable behavior. Domestic abuse is pervasive, deeply ingrained, and seriously detrimental to the health and well-being of women. Its prolonged existence cannot be justified morally. It has a tremendous financial impact on people, health systems, and society as a whole. No other significant public health issue has, however, received such a lack of attention and comprehension. Depending on the victim's age, gender, level of violence, and frequency of abuse, domestic violence can have a variety of negative effects. Some of the sentiments that victims of an horrendous violence have come to experience are living in continual fear, menace, and shame. The effects of domestic violence on the victim, the victim's family, society, and the nation's growth and production are the major categories under which they can be generically categorized. There are additional categories under "Effect on the victim" for women, men, children, and elders.

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Statement of Problem

This study focuses on domestic violence, a problem that affects both married and unmarried couples and is becoming increasingly prevalent in society. The causes, consequences, treatments, significant rulings, and how this issue is spreading to all facets of society have all been examined.

Another goal is to educate those who are unaware of domestic violence and the procedures that must be followed in order for them to receive a free and fair trial. The goal of this study is to understand the tiniest particulars, technicalities in the ongoing investigation and the cases that are in court, how they are decided, and how mediation and arbitration might help solve this issue more quickly.

Research Objectives

This research focuses on the epicenter of the problem arising out in the society between men and women.

1. The objective is to awaken the citizens who don't know what domestic violence is, and what are the procedure followed by the law.
2. The technicalities during the ongoing probe and the cases which are under trial, how they are being adjudged, and role of judiciary or arbitration and meditation to eradicate this problem within lesser time.
3. To conclude the grey areas in the existing domestic violence laws for men and women.

Research Questions

The questions are given as follows:

1. In this time where modernity is augmenting day by day, is this problem seriously a threat to the structural foundation of the society?
2. Is it difficult to differentiate between men and women that who is more vulnerable and at the edge of problem?

Hypothesis

The following hypotheses are derived from the above-mentioned broad objective:

1. "The main causes of domestic violence are women's ignorance on the domestic front."
2. "The crime goes undiscovered because there is a lack of knowledge about the current legal measures and because those laws are ineffective."
3. "The current domestic violence treatment facilities are inadequate in terms of quality and institutional support."
4. "Socio-economic, cultural, legal, and familial hurdles are important in the victims' failure to report domestic abuse."

Research Methodology

The study is based on secondary data, and it also uses several analytical approaches, such as pattern evaluation and correlation and ratio assessment techniques, to evaluate the data. The research is explanatory in nature, which denotes that it is doctrinal or library-based. Secondary sources, such as published articles, websites, research papers, committee reports, etc., were employed to complete this research project. The researcher encountered numerous obstacles when doing their investigation, including variations in the data published on websites and various case laws with opposing viewpoints.

Review Literature Madhu, Kishwar (2013) in her research, to either ensure her happiness or toe her “believes that punishing spouses for failing to make a settlement is just another excuse for using violence against them. However, evidence from other countries shows that domestic violence against spouses is widespread even without additional laws prohibiting it. She has also drawn attention to the fact that share payments by themselves do not lead young women to become troubled; rather, endowment causes some girl trouble since young girls are not desirable companions “Elise Bonding (2007) She makes it clear in her work on women and social viciousness that social violence against women is mostly based on (a) institutional or social structures that are male-centric, which encourage a variety of discrimination and abuses against women and (b) conduct brutality. She claims that generally speaking, women encounter a lot of direct behavior brutality in every general public since they are seen to be “simple” fatalities. One of the most well-known manifestations of social violence against women is found in assault, domestic violence, and prostitution, which occur all around the world.

Gubermar and Laskin Fall (2010) They established in their research that women’s experiences, perspectives, and convictions are the genuine voice while also educating the research methodologies. To the greatest extent possible, the getting, sentiments, encounters, and activities of particular women were examined in their own structures—their words, images, and signals. In the report on addressing the need, a description of the task and study findings is given. A summary and synthesis of this report are provided below.

David Levinson (2009) depicts three different factors—a male expert in the family, a separation restriction for women, and an example of using physical violence for compromise—that collectively help prevent violence against women. Only three women out of the entire Gujarati sample showed share-related brutality. This low figure could be attributed to the higher prevalence of share provocation in urban, higher-class families who aren’t addressed in a rural case. The findings from Gujarat

support Levinson's markers of viciousness. Significant levels of amusement were in fact associated with ladies incapacity in the house as well as obstructive social and economic factors that offer few alternatives outside of marriage.

Introduction

Physical abuse alone does not constitute domestic violence. Any action carried out with the intention of exerting authority and control over a spouse, partner, girlfriend/boyfriend, or close family member is considered domestic violence. Abuse is a learned behavior; it cannot be justified by common factors like rage, mental illness, drug usage, or alcohol consumption.

When the general public thinks about domestic abuse, they typically picture physical assaults that leave the victim with obvious wounds. One sort of abuse is this. Abusive behavior falls into a number of categories, each with severe repercussions. The chance of death associated with physical abuse may increase the risk for the victim, but the long-term disintegration of identity that comes with the other types of abuse is significant and cannot be underestimated.¹In India, reports of domestic violence between spouses are more common. Survey results revealed that married women were the major targets of their husbands' behavior. Additionally, unmarried victims had experienced abuse while being abandoned by their mothers, stepmothers, and teachers in schools.

However, this is not commonly reported or seen as domestic violence, according to the majority. According to the report, 83% of all married women who have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 15 have identified their husbands as the primary offender. More concerning, according to the statistics available, it has been noted that among women who have encountered domestic violence, 8% percent have suffered mauling, severe eye injuries, sprains, and dislocation, and 6% have had deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or other catastrophic injuries.

Factors Responsible behind the Violence

Alcohol or alcoholism: Even after statistically correcting for sociodemographic factors, hostility, and marital satisfaction, the link between men's drinking and intimate partner violence persists. This suggests that the association between alcohol and aggression towards intimate partners may be spurious and vexatious². Additionally, because every man has a varied pattern of alcohol consumption and not all men who drink are abusers or batterers, consumption patterns also play a role in the frequency of violence.

Attitude, gender roles and culture: Sometimes, personality characteristics have a tendency to be the cause of violence against women. In some environments and circumstances, an individual's attitude might not seem appropriate; instead, certain

hormonal or neurological elements may be at play. One of the troubling causes of the high frequency of Domestic Violence incidents is gender roles.³ Because society assigns certain set responsibilities based on a person's gender, this does not necessarily mean the person is entirely capable of filling those tasks. And when a person is not in the proper frame of mind to carry out those responsibilities, disagreement over those specific tasks may develop, which may result in Domestic Violence.

Poor financial support: Economic issues and a lack of income in the family can make already strained relationships even worse. Money is obviously always needed for anything we need to do, and this is what we really need in life. Nobody can contest the fact that money is the driving force behind one's labor. Therefore, if there are no wages or if the woman's spouse is interested in luxury while ignoring the demands and requirements of the family, there must be arguments, which often escalate into acts of domestic violence.

Sexual Needs and Infidelity: One of a person's primary desires is to experience sexual pleasure, whether they are male or female. There is an irresistible force at work, and no one can live a fulfilled life without engaging in sexual contact with someone of the other gender. Marriage is the legally recognized rite that bestows upon both parties the right to engage in sexual relations with one another.⁴

But occasionally, needs aren't addressed, especially in men, and they engage in secret, unlawful relationships with other women to satisfy their demands. Women are likewise affected by this issue, but they are constrained by societal norms and cultural biases.

Effects of violence on men: The management of everything from official work to accepting responsibility for everything from pin to car of house establishment may make men weaker from the inside out if violent situations are not reported and accepted. Being a wage earner, working as an office official, receiving criticism from superiors, and thereafter returning to a hostile environment can seriously worsen one's health.⁵ Denial of these experiences, according to the WHO in 2002, may cause more males to turn to drugs, smoking, drinking, increased sex cravings, and high blood pressure. Additionally, it has been noticed that married men have higher suicide rates than married women, who only contemplate suicide whereas more women actually attempt suicide.

Legal Issues The saddest and most depressing aspect of the Indian judicial system is that, despite incidences of DV and other acts of violence against men being documented, nothing is being done to protect the rights and interests of men. Instead of defending men from this crime, we can observe alternative concepts like the legal bias that only protects women. Men are the only predators and are built of iron, which

cannot be harmed by the family or society, as evidenced by legislation like the Dowry Prohibition Act and the Supreme Court's adoption of Section 498A⁶ in recent years.

Impact of Domestic Violence on the Society

Feticide Killing a baby while it is still inside its mother owing to social gender bias in favor of men, without first getting her permission. The patriarchal structure of our culture prevents a mother from having a child even if she wants to. Out of 8000 abortions performed, it was and that 7999 cases were female fetuses, indicating that there was a girl infant in the womb.⁷

Infanticide

In the rural areas, people are unable to identify the gender of an unborn child that is growing and developing in the womb. If the baby is a girl or woman, she is being dined to live in this world as soon as she gives birth, and so she is killed by intoxicating heavy quantities of opium, or she is left alone on a roadside corner where she is being eaten by wild animals. Official reports indicate that the death rate for newborn girls is 10% higher.⁸

Physical rapes/ molestation/ gang rapes:

Violence, like that committed in the aforementioned acts, is a severe and pervasive problem in Indian society. Every time a woman leaves her home, she feels unsafe, and even the people's barbaric views encourage the conduct of these kinds of crimes against women. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, a woman is raped every ten minutes somewhere in the world.⁹ This is a very degrading and shameful act.

Dowry Death

This is one of the main problems that the Indian subculture faces. In terms of value, marriage in ruled India and even in metropolitan regions is equivalent to trading the daughter. In order to make a point about how large their community is and how much dignity they hold there, the groom's side is asking for a large sum of money.¹⁰

Conclusion

Indian society is currently going through a very challenging time when human values have fallen to an appallingly low level. It is imperative to instill in individuals a sense of self-confidence, safety, and security from an early age, as well as the dignity of work and self-discipline, and to stop treating women like inanimate objects. The law and order situation, which is always getting worse, has made women's lives even more unpleasant. To stop the rising violence against women and girls, the common man demands that the government take effective action, apply the laws honestly, and administer justice quickly. In order to achieve justice, safety, security,

equality, and freedom for women, India must transform the perception and mentality of its citizens. Never, ever forget that women are a source of great power. Men's world would collapse without women. The woman is responsible for creating new life, maintaining it, and educating the next generation. It is also the woman who brings color and joy into the world of the man as a caring and devoted mother, devoted sister, adorable daughter, and compatible partner. It is time to reflect on India's ancient, rich cultural legacy and ideals, which emphasized how highly women were regarded in society.

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