



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE SOCIETY

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Abstract:

Domestic Violence is a pervasive issue that transcends geographical, socio-economic, cultural, racial, and class distinctions. It is deeply ingrained and widely accepted, with serious impacts on women's health and well-being. Despite its prevalence and significant consequences, domestic violence often gets ignored and remains poorly misunderstood. In this research my main aim is to put focus on the social issue on the victims, their families, friends and in many cases to the place where victims work and even to the co-workers. Domestic Violence is perpetrated by both men and women but it is mostly females in our country because women is considered weak and vulnerable and so according to men they can be abused and exploited. Domestic Violence is not just physical abuse, there are way more aspects where the victims face abuse in the married life such as emotional abuse, and most of time it is psychological abuse which is frequent and common way of abuse which is considered very normal. The in-laws or husband says ill to the girl(wife) which she tolerates but internally that hurts her or psychologically drains her.

Index Terms : Domestic violence, sexual abuse, Depression, Alcohol.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Domestic violence is defined by the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 as 'physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse against women by a partner or family member residing in a joint family, plagues the lives of many women in India'. Data from a systematic review by the World Health Organization (WHO) provides similar regional estimates and suggests that women in *South-East Asia (defined as India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh and Timor-Leste)* are at a higher likelihood for experiencing partner abuse during their lifetime than women from Europe, the Western Pacific and the Americans.

Domestic Violence is a violent or abusive practice in any intimate relationship mainly in married couples. It is a practice done by one partner in order to control the other one because of some ego-issues or some type of self-obsession and it is done within the family. Mainly the victims are the females.

Till this point we are just discussing about the domestic violence that is prevalent or the victims suffer this after their married life by the spouses but this all starts from a certain point in main of the female lives. Beginning from the time of the birth when a clear preference is given to the male child even before birth (this is something very prevalent in India till date), female infanticide, abandonment of girl child, sex-selective abortions, etc. are some ways in which females experience violence. Further, less importance is given to the female children education and early marriage is also quite prevalent. According to the National Family Health Survey (2005-06) early marriage occurs in 45% young women. In reproductive years, mothers pregnant with female child or gives birth to female child are more susceptible to abuse and financial, medical and nutritional neglect.

Unfortunately , domestic violence is very much prevalent in our society. It is probable that in every 18 second someone is a victim of domestic violence. The main characteristics given for males doing domestic violence is :

1. Frustration or stress
2. Gender Roles
3. Consumption of Alcohol

The excessive consumption of alcohol is a major contributor to domestic violence.

2. Types of Domestic Violence:

1. **Physical Abuse:** This is exercised through physical aggressive acts such as beating, strangling, biting and slapping. At many times women are seriously injured and this can also lead to their death.
2. **Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse includes marital rape or forceful sex through the physical force, threats and intimidation, forced participation in degrading sexual acts such as denial in the use of contraceptives or to adopt methods to prevent sexually transmitted disease.
3. **Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse includes undermining the self-esteem of one partner in front of other family members, cursing her for small mistakes and even her family members even harassment and defamation.
4. **Financial Abuse:** Financial Abuse involves having control over victims financial resources to maintain power and control. It means withholding the money or preventing access over the partner.

3. CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- **Personal traits:** This is for sure the most important reason for Domestic violence. Males from childhood is given an upper-hand in their houses than the daughters. This becomes a habit of theirs to be treated like the main character and get importance everytime and once that is not given to them they become violent.
- **Early Marriages:** Early marriage is itself a curse to the female involved in a marriage. This is again a big factor as males are not ready for a new liability but they are subjected to it and for females to adjust in a new household in a complete new family at a small age is a curse. As husbands treat wives as a liability they never respect their wife and treat them like a servant. This is prevalent in Rajasthan.
- **Dowry:** Marriages means dowry. Many a times it is seen that marriages are done only for the dowry. Less dowry is again a big reason for domestic violence. If the dowry is not appropriate according to the in-laws, the woman has to face a lot of violent activities like physical violence and forceful threat to bring more money from her parent's house. Even the victims are humiliated in front of other family members.
- **Patriarchy:** This is one of the socio-demographic factors. If women have a higher economic status than their husbands and are seen as having sufficient power to change traditional gender roles, risk for violence is high.
- **Education:** The most essential cause of domestic violence is lack of education and awareness. Women who are less educated are not aware of their rights and when they are abused they consider it as their fate or destiny. It is important to give proper education to girls especially in rural regions.
- **Alcoholism:** The use of alcohol and drugs can also lead to the occurrence and can be one of the causes of violence against women. Excessive drinking and drugs can be significant contributors to and causes of spousal abuse. This can lead to an ongoing pattern of abusive behavior by one partner.
- **Suspicion of infidelity:** The spousal relationship is meant to be based on trust and faith. However, at times, when the trust is put on question, it can act as one of the causes of domestic violence in marriage. **If a partner feels that another is not preserving the sanctity of marriage and is cheating on them, they might think of violence as the solution. The suspicion of infidelity can make the partner bitter and lead to opportunity-based crime and violence.**

3.1. According to general domestic violence statistics:

- An average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States—more than 12 million women and men over the course of a single year².
- According to the latest report by **The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**, a large scale, and multi round survey conducted in Indian households: “29.3% married Indian women between the ages of 18-49 years **have faced domestic violence/or sexual violence. 3.1% of pregnant women between the ages of 18-49 have experienced physical violence during any pregnancy.**”
- Estimate published by **WHO** indicate that globally about **1 in 3 (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.**³

² <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics>

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

4. IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON WOMEN:

- **Social Isolation:** Domestic Violence leads to isolation from social network or any other social gathering making them feel alone and isolated. **According to 2020 research social isolation and lack of support can lead to poorer health outcomes of survivors. On the other hand social support can lead to overcome mental health problems.**
- **Community Ostracism:** In some communities, domestic violence survivors may face ostracism, blame, or harsh judgment, deepening their isolation and feelings of shame. This can occur in settings with strong traditional beliefs about gender roles or family honour, or where seeking help is stigmatized. [Stigma theory Trusted Source](#), as proposed by Goffman in 1963 and elaborated by Link and Phelan in 2001, suggests that survivors may be seen as “tainted” by their experience. This can lead to social rejection and isolation.
- **Employment and professional relationships:** Domestic Violence can hinder a survivor’s work or career, leading to absenteeism, decreased productivity, or job loss. **According to a large 2015 survey, survivors of domestic violence often face difficulties with work performance due to symptoms of depression or anxiety, scars of injury which reminds them of what they experienced.**

5. Another important factor we need to discuss over when we are talking on Domestic violence is ***Sexual Harassment at Workplace.***

Sexual Harassment is any type of unwanted sexual or gender oriented behaviour that has adverse job-related effects. Sexual harassment in the workplace is perpetrated mainly by male supervisors against women.

In terms of workplace, sexual harassment occurs when a person who is in position to control, influence or affect another person’s job, career or grades uses the position’s authority to coerce the other person into sexual acts/ relations or punishes the person if he or she refuses to comply. Such harassment encompasses a wide range of behaviours, from the blatantly physical acts of rape, assault or fondling to the more subtle and work related like unjustifiable downgrading of a job’s responsibilities or of a personal evaluation. Verbalizations such as telling sexual jokes or making sexual propositions are especially difficult to establish as expressions of sexual harassment.

Some studies show that of the women who reported having been victims of sexual harassment, 51% were trainees, 67% were between the age of 16-19 years and 47% were earning an annual income which is quite less comparatively.

Until 1976, it is hardly surprising that no common name for this problem ever existed. In the 1980s, 7 out of every 10 women faced harassment at workplace. A report of the International Labour Organisation(ILO) has estimated that one-third of the women in the industrialized societies are sexually harassed at workplace. In India, between 1955-2000 there has been a steep and continuous in the number of cases reported on sexual harassment. As per the report of the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, during this period cases increased from 4756 to 11024 cases.

5.1. Some statistics showing the recent studies on sexual harassment at workplace:

1. Nearly two-third of corporate executives 63% says that domestic violence is a major problem in society; 55% cite its harmful impact on productivity in their companies.

2. 91% of employees say that domestic violence has negative impact on their company's bottom line; just 43% of corporate executives agree to that while 71% of corporate executives do not perceive domestic violence as a major issue of their company.

6. IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON THE SOCIETY:

Domestic violence has wide-ranging consequences that extend beyond the immediate victims:

- **Long-term physical and mental health issues** for survivors, including injuries, unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, depression, and PTSD.
- **Negative impacts on children who witness the abuse**, including behavioural and emotional problems, and a higher risk of perpetuating or experiencing violence later in life.
- **Increased healthcare costs, lost productivity, and higher crime rates, costing the U.S. government an estimated \$55 billion annually.**

6.1. Sexual harassment also has significant societal impacts:

- It can **create a climate of fear and violence** that endangers critical societal structures.
- **The federal government alone loses an estimated \$327 million annually due to job turnover, absenteeism, and reduced productivity from sexual harassment.**
- Sexual violence **can disrupt survivors'** employment in various ways, including **time off, diminished performance, job loss, and inability to work.**

LITERATURE REVIEW:

In our society, violence is prevalent everywhere, be it outside or inside the four walls of the home. Domestic Violence includes physical abuse, emotional, economic, verbal, and sexual abuse. The social stigma of public dishonour is the greatest cause for a woman to become trapped in this frightful environment. General observation reveals that a woman who is dependent financially on her partner or her family is more prone for violence, but it is not always true. Working women, who is equally contributing for her family as other counterpart, is also equally prone for domestic violence either from her spouse or family members. Several studies have shown that working women in India is also caught up under the vicious circle of domestic violence. Many scholarly articles are available on these issues. In this paper an attempt is made to study on domestic violence and also examined its different forms and factors of the consequence. This article is based on critical analysis of literature review and secondary data.

CONCLUSION:

Women and men for an inseparable whole whether it is a family, a society or a nation as a whole. Both need to work together to have a healthy family, healthy society and healthy nation. Men in the society should have respect for the women for letting the

society to function properly. Men should support female not get jealous or bring their ego in between the success of the women. Hence efforts must be made to enhance the quality of life of the individuals which will in turn bring changes in many ways.

REFERENCES:

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