



AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE STATUS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH REFERENCE TO NUAPADA DISTRICT, ODISHA

Author Khushbu Parwin

Mahamaya institute of Legal Sc. Nuapada

Abstract

Introduction:

Nuapada district is one of the western located district in Odisha having a population of 6,10,382 as per 2011 census. The literacy rate is 53.5% whereas the rate of women with 10 or more year of schooling is 27.3% according to The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5). Literacy rate and education are both indicators and instruments of socio economic development.

Method:

A two stage survey was developed between the rural and urban area people of Nuapada district (Odisha). The response rate was 54 percent. Additional data were researched by means of follow up interviews and analysis of previous data programs generally served both males and females in approximately equal numbers. The present status of women and children are analysed in terms of sex ratio literacy rate, work participation rate marriage history, current husband/partner's classification, power/control and emotional abuse by current spouse/partner etc.

Results:

The research finding shows that the roots of violence against women are located in various points like unequal balance of powers between man and women, child marriage, lack of support from family, non-availability of alternatives in terms of physical, economic and social rehabilitation. The result demonstrated that there are still 45.5% women are facing emotional abuse by their partners. The total number of child marriage is 24 in terms of numbers as per the reports received from district (Point 8 Form I under rule 3[2] of the Odisha rule). Though prevalence data on violence against women remain a challenge in Nuapada District. There is a significant evidence of intimate partner violence commonly experienced by women.

To prevent this issue in present scenario, the cause, consequences, law enforcement, respect of women and children for their rights, frequent legal awareness programme related to violence and its consequences to be conducted in such areas, legal counseling facilities for violence affected women and children to be provided by the government and other information and solutions are analyzed in the paper.

Key words:

Violence against women, Child Marriage, Emotional abuse, Gender Discrimination.

Introduction:

Violence against women is global public health problem. Generally, women are more prone to violence and being in certain situation, such as workplace, educational settings, and private life, could incur negative psychological and physical consequences for them. Violence against women and children is largely unreported. Fear and stigma often prevent them from reporting incidents of violence or seeking assistance.

Violence is horrifying in that it enables the strong to establish profitable relations with those who are weak, without expending any energy on persuasion, discussion, and negotiation. According to Strauss, “violence is an act where there is the high potentials of causing injury.”

Centuries have come, and centuries have gone, but the plight of women and children is not likely to change. Time has helplessly watched them suffering in the form of discrimination, oppression, exploitation, degradation, aggression, humiliation. In Indian society, woman occupies a vital position and venerable place. The Vedas glorified women as the mother, the creator, one who gives life and worshipped her as ‘Devi’ or Goddess. But their glorification was rather mythical at the same time, in India women found her totally suppressed and subjugated in a patriarchal society. In Indian society, position of women is always perceived in relation to man.

The Universal Phenomenon of violence against women and children is the result of “historical unequal power relation between men and women which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men to the prevention of women’s full advancement.”

The present paper has the following objectives;

- (I) To study different types of violence against women and children.
- (II) To explore different causes of violence against women and children
- (II) To understand the existing laws to combat such types of violence

The paper is based on information and data obtained from two types of survey and different secondary sources. The data on violence against women and children have been collected from various published source on internet.

Sex Ratio:

As per the Population Census 2011 data, the sex ratio of Urban areas in Nuapada district is 1,021 while the urban area is 983. The population of children of age 0-6 years in Nuapada district is 88344 which is 14% of the total population. There are 44600 male children and 43744 female children between the age 0-6 years. Thus as per census 2011 the Child Sex Ratio of Nuapada is 981 which is less than Average Sex Ratio (1,021) of Nuapada district. If we look towards the data of whole state Odisha from the period 1951 to 1991 we can see that there has been decline in sex ratio. Fortunately marginal improvement in sex ratio is observed in the census 2001 and 2011. Indifferent attitude towards child and female feticide and preference for son are the possible reasons contributing to adverse sex ratio.

Literacy Rate:

Literacy rate and Education are both indicators and instruments of socio-economic development.

The literacy in Odisha has increased more than 4 times from 15.08% in 1951 to 73.45% in 2011 (Table.2). There has been considerable gender gap in literacy even though the male and female literacy has increased considerably from 1951 to 2011. This is due to substantial social, regional and gender disparities in literacy. There is still a larger gap of 18.4 percentage points between the male and female literacy in Odisha in 2011 as compared to 16.68 at the national level. Girls' education has not attracted due importance as compared to boys. Girls are more often engaged in household chores attending small children, tending livestock resulting dropout from the formal school system. The parents of lower economic strata have equally unfavorable attitude towards girl's education.

Gender	Nuapada district	Odisha
Female	44.76%	64.01%
Male	70.29%	81.59%
Total	57.35%	72.87%

Discrimination faced by women throughout their lives Pre-birth stage of women:

If a cyclic concept of women exploitation is assumed for convenience of research, one can identify the stages at which they are being victimized. For example, at the stage pre- birth, despite illegal, sex selective abortion has been taking place, because in many developing countries like India, it is still thought that baby girl would be a burden of a family in future and in rural areas, the same is considered along with the concept that they would not be economically and socially productive as they have not physically strong like men. Hence, despite employing enough labor force for economic development, women are not paid properly and thus they are economically deprived section of Indian society.

Infancy stage of women:

At the infancy stage, she is looked after with ignorance particularly in case of education, health care and nutrition. Consequently, from the initial stages of development, they remain weak and isolated. This is because of the same reason as stated earlier. Thus, there is a tendency in rural India in particular to over-emphasize on baby boy considering their future probability of application.

Childhood stage of women:

At the time of childhood, due to constant ignorance, women are victimized in the form of child abuse and trafficking for lucrative business spread all over the world both for labor and sex. Therefore, it cannot be denied that the child labor act of 1986 does not bring remarkable positive impact as the majority of child labor in rural India is female.

The adolescence stage of women:

At the stage of adolescence, pitiable form of violence or exploitation is noticed in the form of prostitution, trafficking, early marriage, crime committed against women etc. This is a stage when they become matured, can understand the social and economic bondage and being realized this

tyranny, they are either compelled to choose prostitution or unintentionally abused for sex. In addition, being considered as burden, they have to face early marriage very often as decided by their family. Sometimes, this results psychologically disorder among them. Moreover, the young women or teenagers are victimized to satisfy a few gangsters by providing sex and beauty.

Reproductive stage of women:

At reproductive age, they have to face domestic violence, if get married. Moreover, at this time, they are sexually, psychological and physically tortured by intimate partner or non-partner also. Consequently, homicide is very common as read out in common newspapers in all parts of the country. At the time of elderly, she becomes helpless due to absence of workability or sexual beauty. Consequently, they are again ignored and exploited. Thus, the history of women life is a garland of stigma or misery. There is no stage at which she gets honor due to their traditional oppressed life lead without protest.

Protective laws to prevent violence against women:

There are various legislation has been incorporated regarding the safeguarding of the women. Various Legislation for safeguarding crime against women, classified under two categories:

The Crime under Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Crimes under the Special and local Laws (SLL):

The crimes under Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Crimes under Special Laws (SLL) are

- I. Rape (Section 376 IPC)
- II. Kidnapping and abduction for different purposes (section 363-373 IPC)
- III. Homicide for dowry, dowry death and their attempts 9Section 302/304-B IPC)
- IV. Torture both mental and physical (section 498-A, IPC)
- V. Molestation (Section 354 IPC)
- VI. Sexual harassment (section 509 IPC)
- VII. Importation of Girls (upto 21 years of age) (Section 366-B IPC)
- VIII Immoral Traffic (Prevention Act, 1956)
- IX. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- X. The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment act, 1979)
- XI. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
- XII. Commission of state (Prevention) Act, 1987.
- XIII. Hindu marriage Act, 1929
- XIV. Special marriage Act, 1954
- XV. The family courts Act, 1954 etc.

Strategies to prevent violence against women:

Legal strategies-

The criminal justice system response has clearly played a role in educating the public on what is not acceptable in the society and prevented in law. Legal representative of women and children seeking remedies in the courts and support for women victims in the judicial process is the focus.

Awareness, mobilization and protesting violence-

Awareness and mobilization are means to build consensus on the part of the level society that violence against women and children cannot be tolerated. Protesting has been a criminal factor which can enhance positive effects to empower women and to prevent the violence (CRPF vs. Tribal women) Protest movement through network of women collectives has its potential to the society to prevent the violence against women.

Media and communication, training and education, research and documentation would expose the cases the violence against women to public scrutiny and demands for preventive and remedial action can be supported.

In the Indian modern country is fast emerging as a global power but for half of its population, the women and children across the country, struggle to live life with dignity continues. Women, irrespective of their class, caste and educational status, are not safe in the modern society women have been the victims of exploitations since long time in different fields in their life both physically, socially, mentally and economically.

Conclusion:

In the present Paper, it has been tried to put forth before the criminal justice system of Odisha that women are now no safe and always a kind of threat feelings generated among the women that in the present scenario they can be easily victimized from any nook and corner of the society. These figures show a hazardous situation in the country across the states with respect safety and security of women.



Table- 2: Head-wise Incidents of Crime Against Women during 2007 - 2011 and Percentage variation in 2011 over 2010 (in India)

Sl. no	Crime Head	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Percentage variation in 2011 over 2010
1.	Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	20,737	21,467	21,397	22,172	24,206	9.2
2.	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363 to 373 IPC)	20,416	22,939	25,741	29,795	35,565	19.4
3.	Dowry Death (Sec. 302/304 IPC)	8,093	8,172	8,383	8,391	8,618	2.7
4.	Cruelty By Husband and Relatives (Sec. 498-A IPC)	75,930	81,344	89,546	94,041	99,135	5.4
5.	Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)	38,734	40,413	38,711	40,613	42,968	5.8
6.	Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC)	10,950	12,214	11,009	9,961	8,570	-14.0
7.	Importation of Girls (Sec. 366-b IPC)	61	67	48	36	80	122.2
8.	Sati Prevention Act, 1987	0	1	0	0	1	100.0
9.	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	3,568	2,659	2,474	2,499	2,435	-2.6
10.	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986	1,200	1,025	845	895	453	-49.4
11.	Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	5,623	5,555	5,650	5,182	6,619	27.7
	Total	1,85,312	1,95,856	2,03,804	2,13,585	2,28,650	7.1

Source: Crime in India Report

Table -6: Incidence & Rate Of Crime Committed Against Women In States During 2011

Sl. No.	State/UT	Incidence	Percentage Contribution to Total	* Population (In Lakhs)#	Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes	Rank as per Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank as per percentage share
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	28246	12.4	846.7	33.4	4	2
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	171	0.1	13.8	12.4	20	25
3	ASSAM	11503	5.0	311.7	36.9	2	7
4	BIHAR	10231	4.5	1038.0	9.9	22	9
5	CHHATTISGARH	4219	1.8	255.4	16.5	12	16
6	GOA	127	0.1	14.6	8.7	30	28
7	GUJARAT	8815	3.9	603.8	14.6	16	12
8	HARYANA	5491	2.4	253.5	21.7	11	14
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	997	0.4	68.6	14.5	17	21
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	3146	1.4	125.5	25.1	8	17
11	JHARKHAND	3132	1.4	329.7	9.5	26	18
12	KARNATAKA	9594	4.2	611.3	15.7	13	10
13	KERALA	11288	4.9	333.9	33.8	3	8
14	MADHYA PRADESH	16599	7.3	726.0	22.9	9	5
15	MAHARASHTRA	15728	6.9	1123.7	14.0	18	6
16	MANIPUR	247	0.1	27.2	9.1	28	24
17	MEGHALAYA	269	0.1	29.6	9.1	27	23
18	MIZORAM	167	0.1	10.9	15.3	14	26
19	NAGALAND	38	0.0	19.8	1.9	34	32
20	ODISHA	9433	4.1	419.5	22.5	10	11
21	PUNJAB	2641	1.2	277.0	9.5	25	19
22	RAJASTHAN	19888	8.7	686.2	29.0	7	4
23	SIKKIM	55	0.0	6.1	9.0	29	30
24	TAMIL NADU	6940	3.0	721.4	9.6	24	13
25	TRIPURA	1358	0.6	36.7	37.0	1	20
26	UTTAR PRADESH	22639	9.9	1995.8	11.3	21	3
27	UTTARAKHAND	996	0.4	101.2	9.8	23	22
28	WEST BENGAL	29133	12.7	913.5	31.9	5	1
	TOTAL STATES	223091	97.6	11901.11	18.7		

Total population including women

* Actual Census-2011 Population (Provisional)

Table-10: Dowry Suicide

Sl.No	District Name		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	% Increase
1	Angul	N	2	-	2	1	-	-	2	3	2	3	1	1	17	-50.00
		%	4.88	0.00	4.17	3.85	0.00	0.00	5.88	8.33	5.26	6.52	0.79	1.22	2.91	
2	Balasore	N	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	3	2	3	14	5	34	400.00
		%	2.44	4.76	2.08	3.85	0.00	2.56	2.94	8.33	5.26	6.52	11.02	6.10	5.81	
3	Baragarh	N	5	5	3	2	-	2	1	-	3	2	2	1	26	-80.00
		%	12.20	11.90	6.25	7.69	0.00	5.13	2.94	0.00	7.89	4.35	1.57	1.22	4.44	
4	Bhadrak	N	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	27	68	800.00
		%	7.32	0.00	2.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.13	32.93	11.62	
5	Balangir	N	1	2	1	-	-	1	2	1	3	8	-	1	20	0.00
		%	2.44	4.76	2.08	0.00	0.00	2.56	5.88	2.78	7.89	17.39	0.00	1.22	3.42	
6	Boudh	N	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	5	#DIV/0!
		%	-	-	-	-	-	2.56	2.94	2.78	-	4.35	-	-	0.85	
7	Cuttack	N	3	1	5	2	2	-	2	3	-	1	12	13	44	333.33
		%	7.32	2.38	10.42	7.69	7.69	0.00	5.88	8.33	0.00	2.17	9.45	15.85	7.52	
8	Deogarh	N	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	7	-50.00
		%	4.88	0.00	2.08	0.00	0.00	5.13	0.00	2.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.22	1.20	
9	Dhenkanal	N	2	6	5	2	-	3	1	-	1	3	5	2	30	0.00
		%	4.88	14.29	10.42	7.69	0.00	7.69	2.94	0.00	2.63	6.52	3.94	2.44	5.13	
10	Gajapati	N	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	#DIV/0!
		%	-	-	-	11.54	7.69	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.03	
11	Ganjam	N	3	3	6	1	4	2	-	3	2	1	10	4	39	33.33
		%	7.32	7.14	12.50	3.85	15.38	5.13	0.00	8.33	5.26	2.17	7.87	4.88	6.67	
12	Jagatsinghpur	N	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	6	#DIV/0!
		%	-	2.38	2.08	-	-	2.56	-	-	2.63	-	0.79	1.22	1.03	
13	Jajpur	N	3	1	2	-	1	1	1	4	1	-	3	2	19	-33.33
		%	7.32	2.38	4.17	0.00	3.85	2.56	2.94	11.11	2.63	0.00	2.36	2.44	3.25	
14	Jharsuguda	N	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	7	-100.00
		%	2.44	2.38	2.08	0.00	0.00	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.35	0.79	0.00	1.20	
15	Kalahandi	N	2	-	1	1	-	3	1	-	1	4	2	2	17	0.00
		%	4.88	0.00	2.08	3.85	0.00	7.69	2.94	0.00	2.63	8.70	1.57	2.44	2.91	
16	Kandhamal	N	2	-	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	-	-	17	-100.00
		%	4.88	0.00	6.25	3.85	3.85	5.13	8.82	5.56	2.63	4.35	0.00	0.00	2.91	
17	Kendrapara	N	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	4	-	12	-100.00
		%	2.44	2.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.56	0.00	2.78	5.26	4.35	3.15	0.00	2.05	
18	Keonjhar	N	-	-	2	-	1	7	7	-	-	3	8	5	33	#DIV/0!
		%	-	-	4.17	-	3.85	17.95	20.59	-	-	6.52	6.30	6.10	5.64	
19	Khurda	N	2	3	-	4	1	1	-	2	3	1	13	6	36	200.00
		%	4.88	7.14	0.00	15.38	3.85	2.56	0.00	5.56	7.89	2.17	10.24	7.32	6.15	
20	Koraput	N	-	2	2	-	4	1	2	-	1	-	1	1	14	#DIV/0!
		%	-	4.76	4.17	-	15.38	2.56	5.88	-	2.63	-	0.79	1.22	2.39	
21	Malkangiri	N	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	-	-	-	13	#DIV/0!
		%	-	2.38	2.08	3.85	7.69	5.13	2.94	8.33	5.26	-	-	-	2.22	
22	Mayurbhanj	N	1	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	20	100.00
		%	2.44	4.76	2.08	7.69	15.38	2.56	2.94	2.78	5.26	2.17	1.57	2.44	3.42	
23	Nabarangp	N	1	2	1	1	-	3	2	3	1	-	3	2	19	100.00
		%	2.44	4.76	2.08	3.85	0.00	7.69	5.88	8.33	2.63	0.00	2.36	2.44	3.25	
24	Nayagarh	N	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	5	100.00
		%	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.63	0.00	0.79	2.44	0.85	
25	Nuapada	N	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	9	-100.00
		%	4.88	4.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.63	0.00	3.15	0.00	1.54	
26	Puri	N	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	6	0.00
		%	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.56	2.94	2.78	2.63	0.00	0.00	1.22	1.03	
27	Rayagada	N	-	-	3	1	3	-	2	1	1	-	1	1	13	#DIV/0!
		%	-	-	6.25	3.85	11.54	-	5.88	2.78	2.63	-	0.79	1.22	2.22	
28	Sambalpur	N	-	-	3	1	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	1	11	#DIV/0!
		%	-	-	6.25	3.85	-	5.13	5.88	2.78	2.63	-	-	1.22	1.88	
29	Sonepur	N	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	11	#DIV/0!
		%	-	14.29	-	7.69	-	-	-	-	2.63	4.35	-	-	1.88	
30	Sundargarh	N	2	1	2	-	1	-	1	2	4	6	2	-	21	-100.00
		%	4.88	2.38	4.17	0.00	3.85	0.00	2.94	5.56	10.53	13.04	1.57	0.00	3.59	
	Total	N	41	42	48	26	26	39	34	36	38	46	127	82	585	100.00
		%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		

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