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Research Paper

Violence Against Women in Gulbarga District: A Sociological Analysis

Social Science

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

Violence against women are of different types such as domestic violence, wife battering, rape, abduction, trafficking, forced prostitution, dowry related torture, sexual harassment at work places, etc. The present study was interviewed women victims of gender based violence in these aspects in Gulbarga district. Total 500 women victims were interviewed and in many cases, the women victims were rejected to give information and under such circumstances, the information was collected from relatives and friends of respondents. It is suggested to increase education of women to prevent violence. Specialized women police wings should be set up at each police station to deal with the violence against women.

Introduction:

Violence against women is a serious problem concerning human rights violation. In last two decades violence against women has emerged as the most burning issue throughout the globe. Day to day violence is taking a lift in spite of all the necessary actions taken by the government agencies. There were incidents of rape in New Delhi in 2012 followed by many of such cases in Uttar Pradesh and recently, there were series of rape incidents against women of different ages in Karnataka state.

Studies revealed that at least one woman are raped in every 35 minutes in India. Due to threats from the culprits, many of the cases will not be reported. Female feticide is also higher in India and as a result, there is gender gap between male and females as revealed by the Census of India over the decades. It is noted that about 60% of the working women have complained about sexual harassment at their workplaces. It is clear that violence against women is endemic in India. The reason is that the women in India are highly vulnerable groups due to secondary status given in the male dominated society since centuries. The violence is perpetrated on women both inside and outside her family. Following table revealed the incidence of violence against women from 2006 to 2010 and percentage increase in such violence in 2010.

Incidence of Violence against Women during 2006-10 and Percentage Variation in 2010 over 2009

Type of Violence	Cases Registered on Crimes against Women during the Years					Percentage Variation in 2010 over 2009
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Rape	19348	20737	21467	21397	22172	3.6
Kidnapping & Abduction	17414	20416	22939	25741	29795	15.7
Dowry Death	7618	8093	8172	8383	8391	0.1
Torture	63128	75930	81344	89546	94041	5.0
Molestation	36617	38734	40413	38711	40613	4.0
Sexual Harassment	9956	10950	12214	11009	9961	-9.5
Importation of Girls	67	61	67	48	36	-25.0
Sati Prevention Act, 1987	--	--	01	--	--	--
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956	4541	3568	2659	2474	2499	1.0
Indecent Representation of Women Prohibition Act, 1986	1562	1200	1025	845	895	5.9
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	4504	5623	5555	5650	5182	-8.3
Total	164765	185312	195856	203804	213585	4.8

Source: http://www.indiastat.com , 2012.

Violence against women is partly a result of gender relations that assumes men to be superior to women. Given the subordinate status of women, much of gender violence is considered normal and enjoys social sanction. Manifestations of violence include physical aggression, such as blows of varying intensity, burns, attempted hanging, sexual abuse and rape, psychological violence through insults, humiliation, coercion, blackmail, economic or emotional threats, and control over speech and actions. In extreme, but not unknown cases, death is the result. These expressions of violence take place in a man-woman relationship within the family, state and society (Waghamode, et al, 2013).

The basic reason for violence against women as stated by Dhir (2005) in their inferior status in a male dominated society-educationally, economically, politically and socially. But there are also reasons too.

i. More Awareness in Women of their Rights: Access to Mahila Courts, legal cells and crime cells for women has helped indirectly to encourage women to resister their complaints.
ii. Role of Media: Indian society in quick is being influenced by the west. The condition of cinema is deteriorating day-by-day. It is common to have scene of sexual harassment or rape in Indian movies. It has become very embarrassing to watch T.V. with the family as the heroes and heroines are doing vulgar dances with that type of songs. Most

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of the movies portray heroines as sex objects.

iii. Low Rate of Punishment of Guilty: Lack of evidence and lack of guidance, loop holes in existing laws are some of the reasons for the rise in crime against women.

The present study is made to assess the social background of the women victims of violence in Gulbarga district.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study is made:

- To know the nature of violence acts against women;
- To look into the age groups of women victims of violence; and
- To study the education level of the women victims of violence.

Scope and Methodology:

The study was begun with literature search and the author searched the relevant literature in books and journals related to violence against women. Based on different violent acts, information was collected on the victims of violence reported with the Police Stations in different towns, villages and city in Gulbarga district. Based on the information collected, the women victims of violence were interviewed. It is emphasized that many of the women victims were not cooperated to provide information. In such cases, their parents, parents-in-law, husband, other relatives and even in a few cases the information was collected from the neighbourers of the respondents. Totally 500 women victims were surveyed. The collected primary data is analyzed and discussed as under.

Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion:

1. Age of the Respondents:

Age is an important factor to determine the extent of violence, which also determines the knowledge and actions of the victims. As such, information on the age of the respondents was collected and presented in the following table.

Table No. 1. Age-wise Distribution of Respondents

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Below 25 Years	56	22.4	63	25.2	119	23.8
26 to 40 Years	127	50.8	124	49.6	251	50.2
41 to 60 Years	55	22.0	47	18.8	102	20.4
More than 60 Years	12	4.8	16	6.4	28	5.6
Total	250	100	250	100	500	100

2. Education of the Respondents:

Education of the women victims plays an important role in assessing the harassment, exploitation, torture, etc and education even increase awareness about the possible actions and remedies such as reporting case with police, types of punishments, legal knowledge, etc. Hence information collected from the respondents on education is analyzed and tabulated as under.

Table No. 2. Education of the Respondents

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Illiterate	39	15.6	31	12.4	70	14.0
Up to 10th Std	102	40.8	111	44.4	213	42.6
PUC-2nd/ Under-Graduate	81	32.4	95	38.0	176	35.2
Graduate/ PG	28	11.2	13	5.2	41	8.2
Any Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	250	100	250	100	500	100

3. Caste of the Respondents:

Caste also plays an important role in violence against women, as there are more reported cases of atrocities on Scheduled Caste or Dalit women or women of lower classes. The information was collected from the respondents on their castes and tabulated as under.

Table No. 3. Caste-wise Distribution of Respondents

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Scheduled Castes	83	33.2	90	36.0	173	34.6
Scheduled Tribes	08	3.2	13	5.2	21	4.2
Other Backward Classes	112	44.8	92	36.8	204	40.8
Others	47	18.8	55	22.0	102	20.4
Total	250	100	250	100	500	100

4. Nature of Violence:

Nature of violence is the prime issue that needs to be discussed. The nature of violence from which the victims are suffering includes the domestic violence, dowry based violence, rape, abduction, kidnap, exploitation at work places, etc. The natures of violence as reported by the respondents are shown as under.

Table No. 4. Nature of Violence

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Family/ Domestic Violence	82	32.8	103	41.2	185	37.0
Rape/ Sexual Violence	07	2.8	05	2.0	12	2.4
Dowry related Torture	123	49.2	95	38.0	218	43.6
Abduction/ Trafficking/ Prostitution, etc.	--	--	03	1.2	03	0.6
Exploitation/ Harassment at Work Place	38	15.2	44	17.6	82	16.4
Any Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	250	100	250	100	500	100

Suggestions from the Study:

Following suggestions were made from the present study.

1. Higher Education should be given to women compulsorily so as to reduce the crimes and violence against women.
2. It is suggested to open women police wing at each police station already functioning.
3. The NGOs and voluntary organizations should increase awareness against social practices such as dowry, Devadasi and must increase awareness on domestic violence, exploitation and sexual harassment at schools, colleges, workplaces, etc along with the legal measures.

Conclusion:

As discussed above, there is diverse of violence acts against women. It is the education level of women that has to be improved to fight against such violence. It is essential on the part of the society to treat women as equal and social reformers must have to organize and agitate against social evils associated to women such as dowry, domestic violence, Devadasi, etc. Further, it is suggested men to accept equality of women in society.

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