Research Paper Social Science

Violence Against Women

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ABSTRACT

Violence against women is not only confined or found in India, but it is a global phenomena. It is not at all a new concept or phenomenon. It is found in many ways and is widely recognized as one of the important and more of a serious health problem that leads to health consequences. The longer a women stays in an abusive relationship, she tries to loose her self esteem and confidence. She becomes depressed, stressed and anxious. Violence against women is not just a matter of concern to the police, and justice system but it is more a matter of a societal concern. Here the public should respond to the injustice happened or made to them, unless and until the people will not understand their power, this serious problem of violence cannot be solved. The present is based on secondary data collection. The main objective of this paper is to deal with the domestic violence against women, its types and consequences. Violence against women includes, physical, emotional, psychological and sexual etc.

KEYWORDS Violence, women and Abuse

Introduction

A woman is a god's gift and she plays many roles, such as daughter, wife and mother as she is blessed with immense power. She tries to overcome all the problems and obstacles, and takes challenges and responsibilities in her life and excels in her career. She plays a very important role in the society. Earlier it was believed that, men were the bread winners of the family and women were only confined to the four walls of the home. She was not allowed to work outside the home and suffered a lot because she was just treated as a slave. But in the contemporary era, women stand on par with men, and compete with men in every field.

Violence against women is not a new occurrence or a phenomenon. This is one of the most important issues that is discussed often and often by many social scientists, social workers, government, and reformers etc. This problem is very evident and cannot be easily ignored. Examples of violence: rape, kidnapping, murder, sexual abuse and dowry deaths. The situation is completely changed, inspite of this fact, she faces lot of problems and in one type or the other she is always considered below men. It is said that she faces lot of atrocities all through her life from womb till her death. She becomes victim of many types of violence and harassment. But however, it is reasonable to expect that empowered (working) women would be in a better position than less empowered women to avoid or reject violence in any form.

Domestic violence against women refers to as a pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship. Violence takes in many forms and occurs across the world in various types and cultures and affects many people of all socio-economic background. Violence or harassment not only harms or hurt the victim but it also hurt many people related to them. Domestic violence is also called as domestic abuse. If violence takes place in the family then it naturally affects everyone at the home such as, children, age old people and the people related to the victim.

Concept of Violence

Violence is a term defined as nothing but an evil to society which harms the human population. It is even defined as violence against a person that is exercised by somebody. It also refers to as violence by an individual against another individual etc. Women's are generally attacked, harmed, harassed and abused by men and become the victims. Due to this, they suffer a lot in their lives.

Types of Violence

Violence (domestic) may occur in many different forms; but here we have taken into consideration only five major forms of domestic violence.

Physical abuse(violence)
Emotional abuse (violence)
Sexual abuse (violence)
Financial abuse (violence)
Identity abuse (violence)

Physical Abuse (violence):

It defines the aggressive behaviour of the person over the victim. And sometimes leads to murder also. It refers to the physical attack on women and causes bodily harm, threat or property destruction.

Examples: hitting or beating, threatening with objects, pushing, pulling hair, kicking, burning, arm twisting, slapping and use of weapons.

Emotional Abuse (violence):

It impacts on the mental health and well being of the victims. Emotionally or psychologically a person will be affected. It is present in almost all relationships. It develops a felling of helplessness and hopelessness in victims.

Examples: Insulting, Abusing, verbal threats, jealousy, angry, irresponsible with money, unfaithfulness, humiliating, putting down in front of others, telling lies, laughing at the partner, and making fun.

Sexual Abuse (violence):

This refers to involving in unwanted sexual activity. Where in here, a women is forced to have sexual intercourse with her partner.

Examples: Unwanted touching, forcing to have sex, physically hurting their partner.

Financial Abuse (violence):
Here we come across power and control over finances. Taking the money of the victim without her consent,

Examples: Taking credit cards, injuries and demanding all the money.

Examples: knowing the victim, harassing the victim at work,

Identity Abuse or violence:
It implies using of personal characteristics to control over the person. This type of violence includes racism, sexism, and ageism.

Examples: Accusing the partner, threatening to the partner by using abusive words, insulting and using negative words, ridiculing the partner, insulting them by their dress pattern and voice quality.

Consequences of Domestic Violence on Women
There are varied effects and consequences that have a long term and significant impact on women depending upon the victim's age group, the intensity of violence and even on the frequency of harassment and torture. Not only the physical but more of psychological effects also could be seen among the victims. We can notice many of the health problems as per mentioned in WHO. (World Health Organisation: 2000). One of the study conducted in Australia among Victorian women aged in between 15-44, have found that intimate partner violence was the leading contributor to death, disability and illness. (Vic Health 2004).

Health impacts of violence on women
Physical injuries - Cuts, scrapes and bruises, fractures, dislocated bones, hearing loss, vision loss, miscarriage or early delivery, sexually transmitted diseases, knife wounds, gunshot wounds, and homicide.

Long term impacts on women's health: Headaches, back pain, fainting, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, sleep disturbances, alcohol, homelessness and suicide.

Inspite of all these health problems women lives in constant fear, depressed state of mind, humiliation and threat. In most of the cases it is found that, violence against women leads to maintain a distance from the partner, leave their homes, to seek divorce and commit suicide that adversely affect their family and children. Many of them file for divorce and seek separation which again affects the life of children and the age old people. The Effect on the victim is so much that it effects on her family, the society and hinders nation's development.

It affects children too. When the mother gets hurt or harmed then indirectly/ directly children will be hurt too. Children who are said to be born and brought up in such violent homes then they are said to become more violent, make use of abusive words and insult others and such children in the future are said become sometimes criminals also. Therefore this is not a good sign for the survival of society. Violence acts like an evil. It should be stopped.

Conclusion
Researcher has decided to discuss only the above mentioned domestic violence. Marriage is an obligatory, mandatory and universal institution of Indian society and a religious sacrament. To mention, rape takes place once in every 25 minutes, eve teasing once in every 44 minutes and kidnapping once in every 44 minutes. However there is uneven sex ratio that has shown regular decline in the proportion of females in the country's total population. Women is been subjected to violence at different stages of lives. The roots of violence can be deeply found in the society by the men folk. Contemporary women are in no way ready to undergo any type of violence, either it is physical or psychological and emotional violence. As today's women is highly educated and working, she raises her voice against the violence taken place with her, which is most needed in this world if she has to survive.

Speaking of the present era, the position and role of a woman has improved and progressed a lot. She is engaged in every field. Women are nowhere considered as poorer and substandard to men folk. Women are not only socially, economically but even politically contributed and are contributing to the growth of the society.

Suggestions
Proper awareness of the human rights and knowledge about the laws of the constitution should be known to the women. Feminist organizations, campaigns and programmes are playing a very important role in fighting against these evil activities. New laws are prevalent in the society, many laws have been passed to fight against the violence on women such as, dowry prohibition act and widow remarriage act etc and most of these laws have helped the society to overcome this crisis to some extent.

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