

Violence Against Women: An Exploration of The Cause

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"It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing".

SWAMI VIVEKANAND

Abstract

Gender based issues or we can say violence against women is not so new phenomena or thing in today's world, it is a very complex widely spread issue throughout the world and one of the most serious forms of violation of human rights issue today, one in a five of the world's female population has been abused by a man or men either physically or mentally or both at any point of time in their life span. This includes pregnant women and young girls and even the old age women.

The United Nation Definition

The declaration on the Elimination of violence Against Women Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women. As "any act of gender based violence that result in, or is likely to harm result in physically, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life" In encompasses but is not limited to "physical, sexual And psychological, violence occurring in the family, including battering sexual abuse of female children in the, household, dowery related violence, marital rape, female genital harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation, physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community including, rape sexual abuse sexual harassment and intimidation at work in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution and, physical sexual and psychological violence, condoned by the state, where ever it occurs"

Women in India

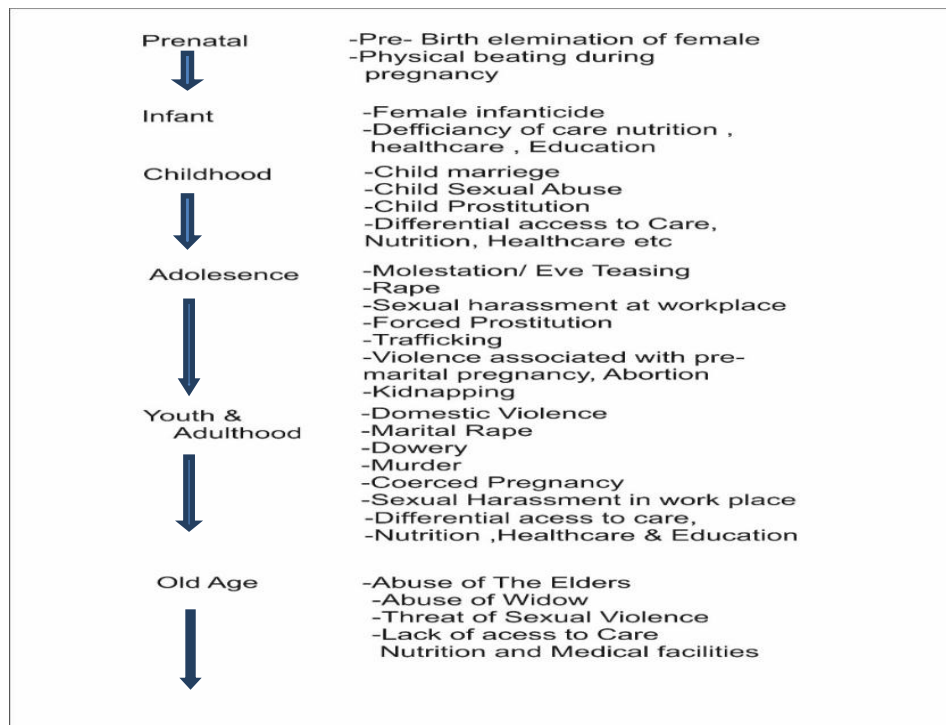
India is a country having a history spanning hundreds of years of inequality, where customs and culture practice had and still having Strong influence on the social and political life of the population. India is also a country with cultural and religious variety with a vast background of caste system. This

Violence Against Women: An Exploration of the Cause

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social mixture though is very wide and broad but to an extent that It covers women freedom under it and making difficult for women to escape discrimination, reach better opportunities and empower them socially. The most outstanding feature, that India has is a strong patriarchal and patrilocal society. That is both the boys and girls take their identity from father or we can say it is a male dominant society. This also influences inheritance and resource distribution inside family.

As the boys are considered superior the land & property are usually inherited by male successors and the girls are left with the duty of a wifehood and motherhood most commonly. It is not wrong if we say women position in patriarchal India is of a good daughter, good wife and mother .It some how makes arousal of a feeling that the women have far lesser access to resources and are less powerful in decision making then the men, thus resulting in an unequal balance of power, Unequal treatment and discrimination in child rearing and caring practices in the family, preferring boys, denial of rights that girls deserves are some common factors that make women vulnerable and susceptible to different form of violence. In India women face a continuous incremental discrimination that renders them to violations in their lives. In more simple words Gender based inequality exists in all stages of women's lives, from the time they are not even born to the old age.



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So the above illustrated table shows the distinct forms of violence against women and girls over the life cycle of them ranging from discrimination at one end to the physical, sexual as well as mental violence at the other. Some forms of violence are visible and noticeable while the others that may be are not visible and more hidden but leave a scar deep down in the soul.

If women are respected and we say we are good, not out of the ones who torture them, we treat them equally, there should have been 512 million women in the present population of one billion, where as the reports show a totally different scene. It estimates only 489 million women so who is answerable for the missing 25 million? Where did they go?

Violence Against Women: Forms:

Women and girls in India are vulnerable to several forms of violence throughout there life. among the main one's are:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One partner out of the couple here tries to show domination and assert power over their partner which can be physical, emotional, financial or sexual abuse most common in household and can affect any women 25% of such crime reported include a man assaulting his wife or partner.

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE:** The most recognizable abuse which can result in physical injury and in some cases becoming life threatening or fatal example include when women are slapped, stabbed, beaten raped, punched or thrown down stairs while pregnant.
- **EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** In this a power imbalance exists within a relationship and can be as harmful as physical violence example includes physical or sexual abuse, being put down criticised constantly for no reason controlled or even monitored.
- **FINANCIAL ABUSE:** A violence which involves money as a means of controlling partner. It almost leaves a woman into a state of complete financial dependency and not allowed to have independent income of their own.
- **SEXUAL VIOLENCE:** Abuse and control in an intimate relationship women experience being repeatedly raped and beaten and forced for sex with there partner and even in front of there children. This kind of degradation also includes the forceful use of graphic even hard core pornography.

Rape and Sexual Assault

When a woman is forced to participate in a sexual act without her consent which may include threats, physical violence these all come in the category of sexual assault effect of which last for a long time on the minds of women and traumatizing her. In addition to psychological harm rape may cause physical injury or having an additional effect on the victim's pregnancy is one out of the lot. The saddest thing that adds up to the scenario is hesitating to report the case.

Rape is a physical violation of the person and the research show that the motivation in rape and these

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sexual assaults is mostly not meeting of sexual needs one in five women have faced this sexual assault in their life and the negative thing is increasing number

Prostitution and Trafficking

Women Choosing Prostitution As A Profession Is Generally Not Freely Entered Choice, Involving Women With Background Of Poverty, Abuse And Lower Self Esteem For Which They Want An Alternative For Income Generation Opportunity. Being A Prostitute Would Make Her Feel Eroded Self Esteem And Self Confidence And Can Even Cause Serious Levels Of Violence Such As Beating Rape And Sexual Assault And Also Face Constant Subjection Of Humiliations. The Sexual Exploitation Of Prostitution Is Harmful To All Women As, If One Women Is Viewed For Sale It Somehow Implies That All Women And Girls Are Potentially For Sale.

Another Form Of Sexual Assault Which Generally Leads To Women In Prostitution Is Trafficking. Trafficking Is Referred To As A Trade Of People As Commodities For Fulfilling Various Purposes Including Forced Labour, Begging, Criminal Activities Or Most Commonly Sex- Slave Or Prostitution. Most Commonly It Victimises The Women And Exploiting Them.

Acid Attack

A Serious Problem Or An Issue Noted In Todays Time "Acid Attack, Or Acid Throwing One Of The Most Common Problems Of Violent Assault Involving The Act Of Throwing Acid On The Body Of Another Which Totally Erodes The Skin Causing Their Skin Burn. Perpetrators Generally Throw The Corrosive Liquid At Their Faces Damaging Skin Tissue, Often Leading To Dissolving The Bones (Depending On The Nature Of Acid).

Today, Acid Attacks Are Reported In Almost Every Part Of The World. Specially In Developing Countries Like Ours. But Bangladesh Stands On The First Position With 3,512 People Attacked In A Span Of 1999 And 2013, While The Number Is All Time High And Increasing In India.

Female Genital Mutilation

It Is A Process That Involves Partial Or Total. Removal Of External Female Genitalia For Cultural Or Other Reasons Is Called Female Genital Mutilation. F.G.M. Is Considered As An Act Of Violence Against Women As It Can Harm Female And Even Causing Irreparable Harm To Female Genitalia And Reproductive Organs, Even Causing Death In Some Cases. The Reports Show 140 Million, Girls And Women Have Faced This Kind Of Trauma Which Has Left Them With Scars Which Take Them To The Same Day Again

To Know Today's Situation On The Issue Related To Women And There Reasons A Questionnaire Was Prepared As The Women Who Are Victims Generally Hesitate To Speak Questions Were To Be Answered In A Way That Would Include Only Yes Or No And Putting A Tick In The Box Which Has Been An Experience In Their Life And Putting A Cross In The One That Has Not Been Faced. This Was Sent To People On Various Social Media Platforms And Was Then Analysed Which Lead To Further Conclusion.

Violence Against Women: An Exploration of the Cause

Dr. Ujjvala M. Tiwari & Bhakti Bakshi

HAVE FACED SOME HARASSMENT AT HOME OR PRIVATE PLACE ?	HAVE EXPERIENCED UNWANTED TOUCH ?	HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF MOVING IN PUBLIC DUE TO SOME EXPERIENCE?
HAVE EXPERIENCED UNWANTED TOUCH IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT?	HAVE BEEN BODY SHAMED LIKE :FAT , COMPLEXTION?	HAVE BEEN SLAPPED ON RAOD?
HAVE BEEN SPITTED AT?	HAVE BEEN TRACKED OR FOLLOWED BY SOMEONE ON STREET?	SPOKE UP WHEN YOU WERE HARASSED?
	WAS TAKEN SERIOUS WHEN COMPLAINED ABOUT HARASSMENT?	

When girls were asked about there experiences of assault or harassment most of the girls hesitated on speaking about it but after the assurance of there identity not being revealed they answered. On asking them that have they gone through an instance where they have faced harassment in some private place like home which is secure 40% of them said yes where as 60% of them refused about the same.

When they were asked about some experience of unwanted touch the answer was as expected 85% of women said yes they had experienced and 15% which is just next to very less number said no they have not. On asking them that have they been afraid of moving in public due to some cause 20% of them said yes where as 80% of women said No they were never afraid of the same.

When they were asked that has there any incident occurred that after which they were not allowed to go outside alone 80% said yes as most of the parents and families get afraid and don't allow their daughters to go out alone but 20% of the girls denied.

On asking them about any experience of inappropriate behaviour in public transport like bus 50% of

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Dr. Ujjvala M. Tiwari & Bhakti Bakshi

women said yes where as 50% said that they had never experienced such behaviour. 30% of the girls on asking about their experience on body shaming said yes and 70% said no they have not. On asking them that have they been ever slapped or tapped on back or any part of body on roads the answer was shocking as 80% said yes they had been hit where as 20% said no never faced such experience and surely never wanted to.

On asking them have they been spitted at there were 30% who said yes where as 70% said no never Have you ever been tracked by someone on streets? the answer was 40% with yes and 60% saying no When they were asked that did they spoke up or complain when they were harassed 20% of women said yes they spoke up where as 80% of women also being the majority said no they did not which had been the same in W. H. O. Reports as women feel shameful and worry about there personal image and there family reputation. On asking them that were they taken serious when they spoke about there harassment or issue the answer was 80% saying yes where as 20% saying no which brings a positive note as our government and officials related to the same are working on it and making the condition better.

Conclusion

It can be seen very clearly that violence against women is more often a hidden crime as much of it goes unreported as most of the women hesitate to on speaking about there experience because of the families or their self-esteem. Obviously, the answer to this question why girls don't speak about the torture? Has to be this tough as our society has raised the daughters like this as today most of the women believe nothing can be done about the problem. But they should always know that India has its laws and reforms for them and they will not be left unheard neglecting the thing would just make the criminal more powerful and fearless they should remember the image that is going to be spoiled is of the culprit and they will always be an inspiration for other women

We can further conclude based on the knowledge that we get through the patriarchal society based part of the study that the society is more gender bias and more power is given to men either economically or position wise more reforms should be made to work in the favour of women to improve their position socially and even in their lives. It is an era of globalization and the technology is so developed we should have more of campaign that are planned on the larger scale that is incorporating women world wide and should be discussing about women related reforms and laws by the government to make the women aware about their power. The culprit or the guilty should be punished, or action should be taken against them immediately as Indian law is famous for it's slow working process. Families and parents should give them values of confidence and treat them equality of gender while raising them

Let us hope that with taking proper measure and with the help of some above stated suggestions the women related issue that is at a high degree today will become a thing we had in past. As we know.

"The future of India is in hands of both men and women equally and success would more easy to be achieved if both work together".

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