



Violence against women in India

Prakash Kumar Prasad

Assistant Professor (Contract) R.S.More College, Govindpur

Abstract

Violence against women is a serious social and health difficulty for women worldwide. It has been investigated the broad physical and mental health consequences of violence against women. Violence against women is a social construction based on a societal consensus about the roles and rights of men and women It describes various crimes, provides data from national statistics, and discusses issues related to Domestic Violence. It also addresses the social norms that propagate or tolerate this form of violence.

Key Word: Women in India, Domestic Violence, Society.

Introduction:

The word violence against women refers to many type of harmful behavior directed at women and girls because of their sex. One of the mostly accepted definition of violence against women has been given by United Nation “Any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in, Sexual, Physical and Mental harm suffering to women ,Including threats of such acts coercion or arbitrary, deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”

Violence against women and girls is rooted in unequal power relations between men and women in society and can be well understand within a gender framework. while sex is a biological category, gender is a social construct and refers to widely shared expectations and norms within society about appropriate male and female behavior, characteristics and role.

The construction of gender roles implies that women have for lesser access to productive resources and decision making compared to means resulting in unequal balance of power.

National level data on crimes against women available largely through National Crime Record Bureau NCRB Indicates that in many part of India ,level of violence against women

are very high. These include Kidnapping, Rape, dowry death, Physical and mental torture. The Female literacy rate in India is 54.16% census data shows that while the sex ratio has risen since the last decade, it is still low at 933. The juvenile sex ratio in India has reached an all time low of 927 (census data). Official statistics from the NCRB reveal a trend of rising crime against women. Other culture practices in India for instance Child marriage, Dowry, Sati, Devadasi and ill treatment of widows, enhance girls and women's vulnerability to the experience of violence. Gender differential treatment in nutrition, health care, education, and other life opportunities places girls and women at a higher risk of violence of all kinds.

Types of violence against women: A life-cycle approach.

Infancy Female infanticide:- Sexual, Emotional, and Physical abuse, Medical care and differential access to food and.

Girlhood Child marriage:- Female genital mutilation, sexual and psychological abuse by relatives or strangers, differential access to food and medical care, pornography and child prostitution.

Adolescence:- economically coerced sex, Dating and courtship violence, incest, sexual abuse in the workplace, marital rape, sexual harassment, rape, forced prostitution and pornography, trafficking, forced pregnancy.

Reproductive age:- Abuse by intimate male partners, marital rape, dowry abuse and murder, psychological abuse, partner homicide, sexual abuse in the workplace, sexual harassment, rape, forced prostitution and pornography, trafficking, abuse of women with disabilities.

Elderly:- Psychological, Sexual, and physical abuse.

Forms of Violence against women:

Domestic violence:-

Domestic violence is violent behavior that takes place at home or inside the family. It presumes a close relationship between the offender and the victim. It includes neglect and emotional abuse, as well as physical violence and sexual. While domestic violence can involve both men and women as victims or perpetrators, the focus here is on violence against women.

There are following types of Domestic Violence:

Sexual violence:-Every sexual act performed on an individual without their consent. Sexual violence can take the form of sexual assault or rape.

Psychological violence:-Every act which causes Mentally harm to an individual. Pyschological violence can take the form of, such as defamation ,coercion,verbal insult or harassment.

Economic violence:-Every activities which causes economic harm to an individual. Economic violence can take the form of, such as, restricting access to financial resources, property damage,education or the labour market, or not complying with economic responsibilities, such as alimony.

Vulnerability in the workplace:-

Violence against women also finds expression in harassment and sexual abuse in the place of work. Women are more likely to work in junior status positions, growing the potential for abuse by male supervisors. In the damaged economy, women are vulnerable to sexual threats related to getting or losing an employment. The data of illegal economy also exposes women to greater risk of abuse, since working conditions are unregulated, unmonitored and therefore potentially unsafe.

Trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation:-

It is essential to emphasize the potential scale of this particular social problem. 2% of employed women were participating in the sex industry. The harmful impact of growing prostitution on the status of women in the transition countries cannot be understated. Prostitution affects perceptions about the function of women in society, places women in positions of physical and economic vulnerability and increases their risk of health problems and violence.

	1992	1995	2000	2005	2010
Rape	11,112	13,754	16,496	18,359	22,172
Kidnapping and abduction	12,077	14,063	15,023	15,750	29,795
Dowry death	4,962	5,092	6,995	6,787	8,391
Torture	19,750	31,127	45,778	58,319	94,041
Molestation	20,385	28,475	32,940	34,175	38,711
Sexual harassment	10,751	4,756	11,024	9,984	9,961
Importation of girls	n.a.	191	64	149	36
Commission of <i>Sati</i> (Prevention) Act, 1987	1	27	0	1	0
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	12,580	8,447	9,515	5,908	2,499
Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986	n.a.	539	6,612	2,917	895
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	2,102	2,814	2,876	3,204	5,182
Feticide	n.a.	38	n.a.	86	111
Infanticide	n.a.	139	n.a.	108	100
Procuration of minor girls	n.a.	107	n.a.	145	679
Selling of girls for prostitution	n.a.	17	n.a.	50	130
Buying of girls for prostitution	n.a.	19	n.a.	28	78

Source: National Crime Records Bureau reports.

- Notes:* (i) Sexual harassment was called eve-teasing in 1992 and previously; the name has been changed in response to suggestions from the National Commission for Women.
- (ii) In 1990 there were 52 reported incidents of *Sati*.
- (iii) Numbers of feticide and infanticide refer to both sexes, since the NCRB does not provide numbers by gender.
- (iv) n.a. = numbers not available from the NCRB.

Violence against women:Consequences

1. Physical consequences:-

Homicide:-Several studies report that the largest part of women who die of homicide are killed by their partner or ex-partner.

Injuries during pregnancy:- Latest study has identified violence during pregnancy as a risk to the physical condition of both mothers and their unborn foetus. Study in this area has shown increased levels of a variety of conditions.

Injuries to children:- Kids in violent families may also be victims of abuse. Commonly, children are injured while trying to defend their mothers.

Vulnerability to disease:- Compared with non-abused women, women who have suffered any type of violence are more likely to experience a number of serious health problems.

2. Psychological consequences:

Suicide:- For women who are sexually assaulted or beaten, the emotional and physical strain can lead to suicide.

Mental health problems :- Many Research suggests that abused women endure enormous psychological suffering because of violence. Many are severely depressed or anxious, while others display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. They may be chronically fatigued, but they may have nightmares or eating disorders, unable to sleep, turn to alcohol and drugs to numb their pain, or become isolated and withdrawn.

3. Impact on society

Added health care costs:- The economic impact of abuse may extend to losses in women's earning potential. This may be partly because girls who are victims of violence are likely to be depressed or anxious, and unable to perform to the best of their ability at school.

Effects on productivity and employment:- Women experiencing violence may have a reduced contribution to society as well as to their individual potential self-realization.



Conclusion:

Violence against women in India refers to sexual or physical violence committed against a woman and girls, typically by a man. General forms of violence against women in India include acts such as sexual assault, domestic abuse and murder. In order to be considered violence against women, the act must be committed only because the victim is female. These behaviors are committed by men as a result of the long-standing gender inequalities present in the country.

References

1. World Health Organization Fact Sheet No 239. Violence against Women, updated. 2013. Oct, [accessed on November 22, 2013].
2. National Crime Record Bureau. [accessed on July 30, 2014].
3. Kumar S, Jeyaseelan L, Suresh S, Ahuja RC. Domestic violence and its mental health correlates in Indian women. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2005;187:62–7
4. Chandra PS, Satyanarayana VA, Carey MP. Women reporting intimate partner violence in India: associations with PTSD and depressive symptoms. *Arch Womens Ment Health*. 2009;12:203–9.
5. Kaur R, Garg S. Addressing domestic violence against women: an unfinished agenda. *Indian J Community Med*. 2008;33:73–6
6. World Health Organization Fact Sheet No 239. Violence against Women, updated. 2013. Oct, [accessed on November 22, 2013].
7. Jeyaseelan L, Kumar S, Neelakantan N, Peedicayil A, Pillai R, Duvvury N. Physical spousal violence against women in India: some risk factors. *J Biosoc Sci*. 2007;39:657–70.