

VIOLENCE AND CRIME AGAINST WOMEN: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

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Abstract

Violence and crime against women is a global human rights issue and has emerged as major problems in our society. Violence and crime is bursting especially amongst women and are not confined to specific culture or geographical region. Despite all efforts or empowerments of women it is present almost in every society. In all the societies women are subjected to inhumanity and other social injustice, are tortured, beaten, and killed not only in rural areas but also multiple crimes or violence are inflicted by the both educated and the illiterate male section and their family members. They are always treated as second to men, never receive equal position with that of males, at the same time status of women is jeered at through sexual harassment, eve teasing, bride burning, witch hunting etc. Being a woman, she has to sacrifice her desires and wishes in every sphere of her life. It is said that the mother is a mother of earth who as a mother plays a role of mother, sister and daughter. They are the part and parcel of the society and nation without whom the development of the society is not possible. But still women have the fear of violence as it is an important factor in the lives of most women. Fear of violence and crime is a serious cause of woman's lack of participation in activities beyond the homes, as well as inside it. Many women are assaulted and are forced to end up their lives without any reason. This article basically deals with the violence and crime against women, how the women are subjected to crime, violence, rape, sexual abuse, torture, dowry death and many more.

Keywords: violence, women, crime, domestic, society

INTRODUCTION

The life of Indian women is still surrounded by violence and crime, neglect and exploitation. The violence and crime against women are increasing day by day in spite of the heavy law imposed by Indian govt., which is evident from the very Acts passed by the legislative and amendments made in the provisions of the existing law from time to time. The growing inhuman act of female feticide is a glaring example of violation of women's right to their life. Many women from rural and urban areas are compelled to undergo tests and seek abortion on acceptable as well as unacceptable grounds under compulsion. The protection of women from Domestic violence Act 2005, recognized different form of physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse. Under this act, rape within the marriage is considered as a crime or Violence.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This paper aim-

- i. To analyze the violence and crime against women.
- ii. To examine the domestic violence in our society.
- iii. To find out the impact of violence and crime against women in our society

METHODOLOGY

This paper is primarily based on secondary data collected from various journals, books, articles, magazines. This data is also collected from internet wherever necessary.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

The violence and crime against women is a universal phenomenon existing in all communities. Violence can be criminal and it includes physical assault like hitting, pushing, sexual abuse and many more. It is also seen that women are more at risk of violence by their husbands and in-laws at the time of marriage due to inadequate and failure of timely payment of dowry demands. Some other violence such as negligence in performing duties which is expected from the women in the family and in the work-place also lead to violence and crime against women in our society. Socialization of women into subordinate position and thinking of man that they are superior to women and have a right to control women are relevant phenomena in male dominated societies. These are the reason why women are suppressed and become powerless which leads to violence and inability of women to define themselves. The United Nations General Assembly defines, violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. The U N Declaration on the elimination of violence against women (1993) states that “ violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over a discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.”

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Several types of domestic violence have been meted out against women in our societies which are totally condemnable and punishable such as economic abuse, physical abuse, bride burning, violence on pregnancy, dowry death, honor killing, the high caste practice of widow burning, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, female fetus murder, neglect of women health, early marriage etc. The Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004(c28) is an Act of the parliament of the United Kingdom. It also expands the provision for trials without a jury, brings in new rules for trials for causing the death of child or vulnerable adult, and permits to use force to enter homes. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 says that any act, conduct, omission or commission that harms or injures or has the potential to harm or injure will be considered as domestic violence by the law. Even a single act of omission or commission may constitute domestic violence. In other words, women do not have to suffer a prolonged period of abuse before taking recourse to law. The law covers children also. Most commonly the victims are women, especially in our country, even in the United States, it has been reported that 85% of all violent crime experienced by women are cases of intimate partner violence, compared to 3% of violent crime experienced by women. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite sex or same sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, dating, or share a child. Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, sex, or gender identity.

Domestic violence not only affect those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers. In the year 2000, the World Health Organization (WHO), declared violence against women to be “a universal health and human rights problem of epidemic proportions, with domestic violence recognized as the most

common form, affecting at least one of every three women across the life- span” There are countless cases of violence and crime against women in our society but most of them are unreported to higher authorities.

IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AND CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

All violence has a lasting impact; these are clearly seen in the history to a large extent which is still getting practiced without any positive change. This can happen to anyone irrespective of caste, creed, religion etc. Violence and crime pose an obstacle to peace and security. Due to this problem many women lose their health, livelihoods, husbands and families. Violence against women affects women everywhere. It affects women's health, hampers their ability to participate fully in society, it affects women's reproductive health and is a source of tremendous physical and psychological suffering for both women and their family. Female feticide is one extreme manifestation of violence and crime we can see in our society. It is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation and most pervasive. It also affects women's mental and emotional state such as depression, suicide attempts etc. It has caused women to feel ashamed and to lose their self-esteem. Violence scares women to participate in any kind of social activities. In our societies domestic abuse is more common due to high desire for male child, women are subjected to violence and torture by the in-laws if they do not produce male child. For most Indian families, male children are the priority, because they think that male child will support their parents when they are helpless during old age, The nature of domestic abuse can lead to significant impacts on an individual's living situation. It weakens women, their families, communities and nations besides that it has a negative influence on the kids. It is the cause of unequal power relationship between men and women.

Violence and crime against women take many forms and calls for a range of measures-curative and preventive, immediate and long term. The pervasive and persistent nature of this violation of women 's human rights require an equally broad response aimed at changing the mindset of individual and influencing the criminal justice system and the development of public policy.

Consequences of victimization:

Victims of violence and crime against women endure a wide range of psychological, physical, financial, and social consequences. Psychologically the victims may experience like - fear, anger, shame, grief, confusion sleep disturbances etc. Physically victims may suffer from physical weaknesses, emotions, bodypain, physical disabilities, brain injuries, old age, fatigue etc. Financially victims may suffer from poor family income, insufficient food, problem in housing and clothing etc. Socially a victim may suffer from family problems, adjustment problem in community, experiencing neglect and isolation.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

From the study it is found that the level of abuse is similar in rural and urban women of our society. The study says that most women suffer utter depression and often tend to commit suicide. The incident of domestic violence is drastically high in women who are socially unsupported. Study also says that several types of domestic violence have been practicing on women such as economic abuse, physical abuse, bride burning, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, female fetus murder, neglect of women's health, early marriage etc. The study says that fear of violence is a major cause of women's participation in social activities. It also says that the feticide, infanticide, dowry deaths murder and abuse of elderly women are pure forms of violence and crime against women. Further from the study it is also found that violence against women begins at home in the early age both in the rural and urban areas by the family members, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

CONCLUSION

Crime against women is a complex and multifaceted consequences. There are many reasons behind the crime and violence against women and no one is trying to do anything about it. Rapes and brutal murder have been

so common nowadays. It has grown to great extent in the free India. Domestic violence is one of the most dangerous kinds of abuse suffered in our society. Crime against women creates a sense of insecurity and fear in the community. In order to eradicate violence against women effective education must be given to our illiterate women of all section of the society, a comprehensive and systematic response by the Centre, States and International community is required. Implementation of certain prevention program should be organized keeping in view on gender sensitization and sex education in all schools and colleges and also making women self-aware about their rights so that they can be courageous enough to fight for justice. Economic freedom to women is a great security to every woman in our society, therefore government should frame policy in this regard also inefficient legal justice system, weak rules of law and male dominated social and political structures should be modified.

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