



Domestic violence against women

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Abstract

Globally, domestic violence against females is common across culture, religion, class and ethnicity. There are various reasons for domestic violence and it might have serious health outcomes. The Dowry Prohibition Act, the first national legislation to deal with the social evil of dowry, was passed in 1961. The object of this act is to prohibit giving and taking of dowry. The act lays down a number of preventive and punitive provisions but, as could be foreshadowing, the objectives have not been achieved. Though the dowry problems as such may not be the appropriate target of criminal law, the violence connected with a dowry, sometimes fatal, is certainly within the functional domain of criminal law. The most prevalent form of violence against females worldwide is domestic violence. Domestic violence against females is a serious public health concern in every community and culture. It has drawn attention from the medical community because it has a negative and harmful impact on the mental, physical and social health of females. In India, the dowry system puts a great financial burden on the bride's family. The law-makers, taking the note of seriousness and consequence of the problem legislative measures to plug the loopholes in the law as well as to enact new provisions so as to make the law rational and effective. Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women. Domestic Violence is physical, sexual or psychological abuse directed towards one's spouse, partner or other family member within the household. Domestic Violence occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate or harm the other. It occurs in all cultures, people of all races ethnicities and religions can be perpetrators of domestic violence.

Keywords: dowry prohibition, criminal, marriage, monogamy, provisions, violence

Introduction

Domestic violence is not only visible but it is a part and parcel of life of women in India. Violence starts with her from the day her mother conceives her existence in the womb and since then in every phase of her life span she has to fight for her survival in this rude society. Most of the women in our country are illiterate and they are not aware of the basic law provision and also about their rights, due to which most of the time they do not register the cases against those persons who violate their rights and commit crimes against them. Lack of awareness about the law and rights guaranteed under that legislation for them but most serious problem is that the women's are not aware about their rights which are due to traditional customs. Victims are unable to get the legal remedies which are guaranteed by the government for the protection of women. In our society which is said to be tradition bound and a male dominated, women are still treated as secondary sex which makes her to suffer the violence silently. The fact in India women is made to suffer human right abuses in a gender specific way. She is often ignored and underestimated. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 is passed by the Parliament in response to worldwide demand for such legislation and also the outcomes of the continuous efforts of Women Organizations working for women. The Act gives right and Protection to the women's. The remedies available to the victim prior to the PWDVA 2005 were in the form of punishment of the offender under IPC, the civil remedy of divorce and maintenance were not giving her ultimate relief, the remedies which were available that were related to matrimonial proceeding and also according with court proceeding. Dowry deaths are deaths

of married women who are murdered or driven to suicide by continuous harassment and torture by their husbands and in-laws over a dispute about their dowry making the women's homes the most dangerous place for them to be. Dowry deaths are found predominantly in India, Pakistan Bangladesh, and Iran. India reports the highest total number of dowry deaths with 8,391 such deaths reported in 2010, meaning there are 1.4 deaths per 100,000 women. Female dowry deaths account for 40 to 50 percent of all female homicides recorded annually in India, representing a stable trend over the period 1999 to 2016. Adjusted for population, Pakistan, with 2,000 reported such deaths per year, has the highest rate of dowry death at 2.45 per 100,000 women.

Meaning of domestic violence

- The term violence refers to any physical force for or any damage or injury to person or property.
- Oxford Dictionary defines: "Violence as behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage or kill someone or something".
- WHO defines Violence: "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation".
- 'Domestic violence is violent victimization of women within the boundaries of family, usually by men. Domestic violence is in a majority of cases violence against women by the members of house where she resides. It can be the husband, his parents, or siblings or any other resident who has the overt or covert latitude

for actions that can cause physical or mental agonies to women. it happens behind closed doors and is most often denied by the very women who has been victim of violence.'

The causes of domestic violence

There are many theories as to the causes of domestic violence. Feminist-inspired theories look to the institution of patriarchy and argue that battering mirrors male power and control over females. Family-based theories examine the level of family conflict and the indirect lessons children learn about the relationship between violence and love. Individual-based theories attribute domestic violence to personality disorders or biomedical factors, such as head injuries or mental illness. Evolutionary theorists have suggested that male violence against females, both in primates and cross-culturally, is a strategy used to control the female's reproduction and, in humans, is often precipitated by male sexual jealousy. Furthermore, domestic violence researchers are exploring how race, class, religion, and culture, as well as psychological variables such as low self-esteem and abusive childhoods, affect one's experiences with violence. As a result, we are beginning to understand how the battering experience is both common and unique among abusers and victims. No single causal model can explain why people hurt those they claim to love. As research becomes more interdisciplinary, and policies are driven as much by empirical data as by politics, theories will have to account for the complicated interplay of biological, social, economic, cultural, and individual factors that lead to domestic violence.

Definition of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse, also called "domestic violence" or "intimate partner violence", can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. It can occur within a range of relationships including couples who are married, living together or dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

Types of domestic violence

Physical Abuse

Hitting, kicking, biting, slapping, shaking, pushing, pulling, punching, choking, beating, scratching, pinching, pulling hair, stabbing, shooting, drowning, burning, hitting with an object, threatening with a weapon, or threatening to physically assault. Withholding of physical needs including interruption of sleep or meals, denying money, food, transportation, or help if sick or injured, locking victim into or out of the house, refusing to give or rationing necessities. Abusing, injuring, or threatening to injure others like children, pets, or special property. Forcible physical restraint against their will, being trapped in a room or having the exit blocked, being held down. The abuser hitting or kicking walls, doors, or other inanimate objects during an argument, throwing things in anger, destruction of property. Holding the victim hostage.

Sexual Abuse

Using force, coercion, guilt, or manipulation or not considering the victim's desire to have sex. This may include making the victim have sex with others, have unwanted sexual experiences, or be involuntarily involved in prostitution. Exploiting a victim who is unable to make an informed decision about involvement in sexual activity because of being asleep, intoxicated, drugged, disabled, too young, too old, or dependent upon or afraid of the perpetrator. Laughing or making fun of another's sexuality or body, making offensive statements, insulting, or name-calling in relation to the victim's sexual preferences /behavior. Making contact with the victim in any nonconsensual way, including unwanted penetration (oral, anal or vaginal) or touching (stroking, kissing, licking, sucking or using objects) on any part of the victim's body. Exhibiting excessive jealousy resulting in false accusations of infidelity and controlling behaviors to limit the victim's contact with the outside world. Having affairs with other people and using that information to taunt the victim. Withholding sex from the victim as a control mechanism.

Psychological abuse

Psychological abuse which includes behaviour that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation.

Economic abuse

Economic abuse includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment, etc. Controlling the family income and either not allowing the victim access to money or rigidly limiting their access to family funds. This may also include keeping financial secrets or hidden accounts, putting the victim on an allowance or allowing the victim no say in how money is spent, or making them turn their paycheck over to the perpetrator. Causing the victim to lose a job or preventing them from taking a job. The abuser can make the victim lose their job by making them late for work, refusing to provide transportation to work, or by calling/harassing/calling them at work. Spending money for necessities (food, rent, utilities) on nonessential items (drugs, alcohol, hobbies.)

Emotional abuse & intimidation

Insulting or criticizing to undermine the victim's self-confidence. This includes public humiliation, as well as actual or threatened rejection. Threatening or accusing, either directly or indirectly, with intention to cause emotional or physical harm or loss. For instance, threatening to kill the victim or themselves, or both. Using reality distorting statements or behaviors that create confusion and insecurity in the victim like saying one thing and doing another, stating untrue facts as truth, and neglecting to follow through on stated intentions. This can include denying the abuse occurred and/or telling the victim they're making up the abuse. It might also include crazy making behaviors like hiding the victim's keys and berating them for losing them. Consistently disregarding, ignoring, or neglecting the victim's requests and needs. Using actions, statements or gestures that attack the victim's self-esteem

and self-worth with the intention to humiliate. Telling the victim they're mentally unstable or incompetent. Forcing the victim to take drugs or alcohol. Not allowing the victim to practice their religious beliefs, isolating them from the religious community, or using religion as an excuse for abuse. Using any form of coercion or manipulation which is disempowering to the victim.

Individual based violence

It is found that aged women and girl child particularly vulnerable to domestic violence. The condition of women in the families is undoubtedly still quite precarious. Unmarried girls, unwanted in their father's homes could also experience violence.

- a. Violence against Girl Child, (Unmarried Women)
- b. Violence Against Married Women
- c. Violence Against Aged Women.

Effects of violence against women

Violence against women can cause long-term physical and mental health problems. Violence and abuse affect not just the women involved but also their children, families, and communities. These effects include harm to an individual's health, possibly long-term harm to children, and harm to communities such as lost work and homelessness.

Recommendations

Domestic violence is on the rise in most countries around the world. It is a pattern of on-going hurtful controlling activities, including physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse. Domestic violence is perpetrated against women in most cases. Domestic violence can be easily distinguished as being a disease which spreads rapidly and occurs in all religious groups, all races, relationships and to people of all ages. These acts will continue, until our society takes steps to prevent it. The findings of this study have demonstrated that women continue to be abused in several diverse forms. This therefore requires concerted efforts to tackle the root cause. The following recommendations are made to address this canker First of all the authorities should be present to prevent these humiliating assaults. The authorities, who consist of the police department, the hospital, and social workers, should work in unity so that they can be efficient and the problems are easier to solve. These authorities must have a good name and should be trusted by the people especially the DOVSU unit, as it will encourage them to inform the authorities in an emergency. If such a crime occurs, the person who committed the violence should be immediately arrested by the authorities, until the truth is being revealed in the court. After the offender has been arrested it is recommended that, the victim, which is usually the offender's wife or girlfriend, should be rescued to a safe place, which the offender doesn't know about and where she could be medically treated if hurt. On the other side, the offender, who is generally in police custody in remand, should also be given medical care if required as the case is being investigated. This is because despite the fact that it is the job of the police department to investigate the case from all angles, putting the wrong person behind bars through a wrong decision can ruin somebody's life as some males victims are found out to be victors at the end. Another remedial tool is for there to be a conscious education, sensitization and campaign by the ministry of women and children affairs about the details of the domestic violence bill. The study showed that a greater number of women are not aware of the bill let alone know what it is all about.

Conclusion

Settlement demise is consuming everyday issue of the Indian culture. It ought to be acknowledged that needed outcome can't be picked up by sanctioning of law alone against share. This social revile must be assaulted by a multipronged and composed approach by police, ladies welfare associations, presumed open workers, and legal and by granting hindrance discipline to all guilty parties. In any case, a change instructive status of the females and giving less demanding openings for work at the entryway step or independent work offices will help to confine the occurrences of share. Likewise, instructive cum mindfulness projects ought to be composed comfortable time of marriage in order to stop the spouse from devouring mixers, drugs or on the other hand betting, confining to monogamy and gaining cash sincerely by sheer diligent work instead of creating desire for income sans work. As we would see it, a sane and commonsense approach on the previously mentioned issue will absolutely be useful. Settlement is paid as money and products, for example, adornments, family unit apparatuses and autos to the husband or his folks by the lady's family. It has been illicit in India since 1961 yet stays ordinary – with awful results. Ladies have submitted suicide since they couldn't confront badgering over endowment instalment. Others have been killed by their significant other or in-laws for not taking care of their settlement requests. Around 8,000 settlement are recorded every year in India, as indicated by the national wrongdoings insights agency. Two ladies in their 20s submitted suicide over endowment badgering around the same time a month ago in Gurgaon, a cutting edge satellite city of Delhi, where the quantity of settlement ascended from 12 of every 2015 to 20 a year ago, as per the Times of India, an expansion of 66.7 for each penny. For another situation detailed a month ago in Hyderabad, a 21-year-old lady kicked the bucket after her better half and guardians in-law poured lamp fuel on her and set fire to her in light of an argument about settlement. On Monday, a product build in Hyderabad was accounted for to have hanged herself in the wake of being hassled for settlement instalments by her better half, even despite the fact that her family had officially given him arrive and generous measures of gold and money at the season of marriage. There is no significant decrease in matrimonial crime of women and provide further justice to the victim of harassment or cruelty by husband and his relatives. Change in education system led to an improvement in the education status of female and door to door employment service will lesser down dowry deaths.

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