

Gender Discrimination and Domestic Violence against Women – A wake up call

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Abstract:-

Gender discrimination is not biologically determined but it is determined rather socially. Denial of equality, rights and opportunity and supplement in any form on the basis of gender is gender discrimination. Women-folk have been suffering in the form of discrimination, oppression, exploitation, degradation, aggression, humiliation since ages. The discrimination against women is not only hampering the growth of women at social, economic and personal level but also significantly lower female-to-male ratios impact the growth in both agriculture and industrial sectors. Thus, gender discrimination, in a way, also impedes the country's growth.

Domestic violence, on the other hand, is one of the crimes against women which are linked to their disadvantageous position in the society. Domestic violence refers to violence against women especially in matrimonial homes. Domestic violence has been recognized as a significant barrier of the empowerment of women, with consequences on women's health, their health-seeking behaviour and their adoption of small family norm. The concept of 'Ardhangini' [half of the body] seems to be restricted only in literatures and have never been implemented in practical life. Women in India constitute nearly half of its population but most of them are grinding under the socio-cultural and religious structures. One gender has been controlling the space of the India's social economic, political and religious fabric since time immemorial. The present study feels that in the era of globalization and modernization the incidences of crime against women are on the rise

A very sweet poem:-

A safety pin,a mirchi spray

And a three-inch knife,

Is that all my purse is for?

Suits and suits and a stole a must!

Is that all my wardrobe is for?

A curfew from 7pm on me,

Is that all my watch is for?

To skip lonely roads,

Avoid empty buses,

Is that all my maps for you?

To note all the help lines,

Is that what my diary is for?

To be waiting,

Patient and obedient,

For the next stupid instruction,

Is that what my life is for?

To read hurtful news,

Is that what all our

Newspapers are for?

I am unanswered Indian,

Is that all I have to feel,

Is that where I have to live,

Between false people,

And false promises!

Is that all I am for.....

To question the questions,

And begging the answer?

Source (outlook chetna krishna)

Gandhiji said:-

“A woman is the companion of man gifted with equal capacities; she has the right to participate in the minutest details of activities of man...

She has the same right of freedom and liberty as he....

By sheer force of a vicious custom even the most ignorant and worthless men have been enjoying superiority over women who they do not deserve and ought not to have”.

“Before we can address ourselves to legal enactment for the prevention of oppression and protection of rights of women, we have to set right these attitudes and atmosphere of prejudice against and atmosphere of prejudice against and neglect towards women. Indian society suffer from the virus of ‘son preferences’

Justice Krishna Iyer,

The Big Reason:-

An age old patriarchal society in india:

***“Property right only for sons,
Son as the status symbol,
Baap Ka Kandha dene wala,
ladki paraye ghar ka dhan ladki ghar key ejjat.”***

Some Question:-

- 1. Why only Sita had to give Agni Pariksha not lord Rama?**
- 2. Why do only the sisters, daughters, mother and the wives have to do fasting for the good of their fellow men and not the other way round?**
- 3. Why does the Dulha walk ahead of Dulhan during marriage phera?**
- 4. Why can't boys bring dowry like the girls do?**
- 5. Why can't a girl inherit the property of her father?**

Think Of the world without women:-

- Sex ratio decline in India.
 - Correlation between development and sex ratio.
 - 78% of labour force in agriculture is women folk.
 - Almost 100% kitchen work, child care and household work is taken care of exclusively by women.
- (i) Historical (ii) Religious (iii) Social (iv) Economic

What is gender discrimination:-

Gender is a common term where as gender discrimination is meant only for women, because females are the only victims of gender discrimination. Females are nearly 50 percent of the total population but their representation in public life is very low. Recognizing women's right And believing their ability is essential for women's empowerment and development.

. Gender discrimination is not biologically determined but it is determined by socially and the discrimination can be changed by the Proper and perpetuate efforts. Denial of equality, rights and opportunity and supplement in any form on the basis of gender is gender discrimination. Half of the world's population is females. They are doing two-third of work of the total work in the world but received only one-tenth of the world's total income. Nearly two-third of the women is illiterates and they have possessed only one percent of the total world's assets. In the world only one-fourth of the families are headed by female. India is a male dominant society and gender discrimination is customized habitually.

Gender discrimination refers to the practice of granting or denying rights or privileges to a person based on their gender. In some societies, this practice is longstanding and acceptable to both genders. Certain religious groups embrace gender discrimination as part of their dogma. However, in most industrialized nations, it is either illegal or generally considered inappropriate. Attitudes toward gender discrimination can normally be traced back to the roots of certain segments of society. Much of the discrimination is attributed to stories such as a woman being made from man's rib and societal practices such as dowries paid to fathers by prospective husbands to purchase their daughters to be wives. Countless literary fiction references are made to females being the fairer, weaker sex and males being the strong, invincible hunters of the world. The combined power of these societal and religious beliefs left little room for equitable thinking for centuries.

Although gender discrimination is traditionally viewed as a problem normally encountered by females, it has significantly affected males as well. Jobs customarily and historically held mainly by women were often denied to men based on social stigmas. Some of the more common jobs that fell into this category were nurses, childcare providers and flight attendants.

In the past few decades, gender discrimination has gained respect as a serious affront. It is frequently given as much credence as racial_discrimination._Some countries and societies mete out relatively harsh punishments to those convicted of gender discrimination.

In countries where it's considered an affront, gender discrimination is also often difficult to prove. It is normally not as overtly evident as racial discrimination since the offender can claim other reasons a person was denied equal consideration. For instance, if male claims he was not hired as a nurse based on his gender, the employer can simply maintain his qualifications were substandard or his personality was not a good fit with the rest of the staff. Such ambiguities frequently make it hard to prove gender discrimination.

Discrimination takes place in this manner as men and women are subject to prejudicial Treatment on the basis of gender alone it occurs when men and women are framed within two dimensions of social cognition.

In cases where the discriminatory act is repeated, legal action is customarily taken. These incidents commonly revolve around persons of a certain gender being summarily passed over for promotions by the same company. Another common scenario involves a gender-defined group being paid less for performing exactly the same job as the other gender.

Should sex really be gender or gender really be sex:-the basic argument is whether 'sex' (our maleness or femaleness the biological basis of sex differentiation) causes 'gender' (culturally ascribed notion about 'femininity and masculinity') or whether and to what extent 'gender' is a social construction. Two polarized positions on this can be described as 'biological essentialism' and 'social constructions line, while most academic feminist have occupied the so -called 'middle group.

Biological essentialisms then argues that the social roles and psychological attributes of females and males in relation to a whole renege of behaviors and personality traits are biological reductionism', for the essential view is that what exists now is a direct product of biological factors still operative, while the reductionist view says they are the indirect product of biological factors no longer operative.

So in this context gender is a sociological term which is related to the social interaction, most everyday behaviors are equivocal and stark and unequivocal instances of gender rand other forms of behavior are rare. The other is that the typicality of gender does not mean its unimportance; indeed rather the reverse.

Sex is a natural order includes more than ideas about our 'biological selves 'and our social behavior and attributes it is strictly a biological sense.

Conceptual framework of gender discrimination:-

Men and women are equal under the constitution but traditionally, sons are preferred as they carry the family lineage forward. The only way to change this is to change traditional mindsets.

But until that happens, women will not be treated with respect and India's skewed sex ratio will have a detrimental impact on society and the country's future.

Women in India are discriminated against, even before they are born -- female foeticide is still widely practiced, resulting in a skewed gender ratio among babies. For infants under a year old, there are almost one million more baby boys than there are baby girls.

Vani Subramaniam, a feminist activist, said: "Any fertility clinic -- you just go and I will say you don't even need to talk to the doctor. Just look at their board of photographs, look at the number of male children as opposed to the number of female children... Isn't it obvious what the trend is?"

The gender ratio gets worse when older children are included. Up to the age of 6 years old, boys outnumber girls by 7 million. The number rises further between the ages of 7 and 15, with 11 million more boys than girls.

These statistics point to a fatal discrimination -- one where girls suffer neglect while sons enjoy preferential treatment.

Efforts by the government and civil society to reverse the trend have not yielded many results, and experts are warning of the consequences of an imbalanced gender ratio.

Gender Inequality: -

It refers to the obvious or hidden disparity between individuals due to gender. Gender is constructed both socially through social interactions as well as biologically through social interactions as well as biologically through chromosomes, brain structure, and hormonal differences

Dr Ash Narain Roy, a sociologist, said: "In terms of productivity, because the experience of other developed countries has been that the pool positive sex ratio has contributed better to the economic growth as well as productivity. Obviously, if we are lagging behind it will show in terms of our productivity.**Flow of Presentation:-**

1. Abortion
2. Female Infanticide
3. Dudhpiti
4. Child Labour
5. Trafficking
6. Early marriage
7. Dowry
8. Domestic violence
9. Purdha System
10. Widow Explanation
11. Sati System

1. Abortion: - *The pregnancy is removed from the womb, either by taking pills (medical abortion) which involves taking medicines to cause a miscarriage or by surgery (surgical abortion) where the pregnancy is removed from the womb. Most abortions can be provided on a day care basis which means you do not need to stay at a clinic overnight. Sometimes it is called termination of pregnancy.*

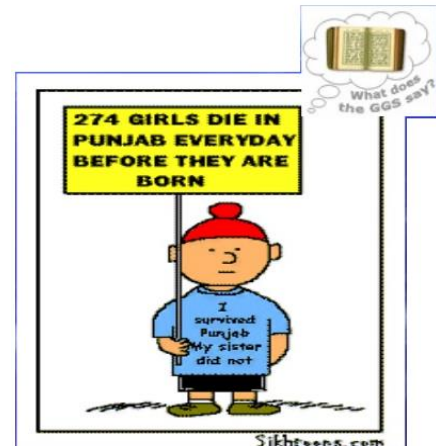
The ultimate exploitation of women

- 49% of pregnancies among American women is unintended; ½ of these are terminated by abortion.
- Each year, two out of every 100 women age 15 – 44 have an abortion; 47% of them have had at least one previous abortion and 55% have had a previous birth.



2. Female feticide and Infanticide:-

- In India, some women choose to terminate their pregnancies when expecting daughters but carry their pregnancies to term when expecting sons. Infanticide is the unlawful killing of very young children
- The data gathered from 1985 to 2005 of live births, the study concluded that over the last two decades 1.8 million girls under the age of six years had been killed in India. 274 Girls die in Punjab every day



3.Dudhpiti System:-

- *A system followed in olden times where a girl child was killed by drowning her in milk...*
- *According to a recent report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) up to 50 million girls are missing/die in India's population as a result of systematic sex discrimination.*



4. Child Labour :-

- *A 9-year old girl toils under the hot sun. Making bricks from morning to night, seven days a week. She was trafficked with her entire family from Bihar, one of the poorest and most underdeveloped states.*



- *Children like this young girl are prized in the carpet industry for their small, fast fingers. Defenseless, they do what they're told, toiling in cramped, dark, and airless village huts from sunrise until well into the night.*



5.Trafficking:-

- *The women and girls used in prostitution may be exploited 10 to 40 times a night, sometimes keeping as little as 20 rupees (less than 50 cents) per encounter.*

The Immoral traffic (prevention) act was passed in 1956[34]. However many cases of trafficking of young girls and women have been reported. These women are either forced into prostitution, domestic work or child labour. Many women are forced into prostitution either by their parents, husbands or boyfriends -- or as a result of the difficult economic and social conditions in which they find themselves. They are also lured into prostitution, sometimes by "mail-order bride" agencies that promise to find them a husband or a job in a foreign country. As a result, they very often find themselves illegally confined in brothels in slavery-like conditions where they are physically abused and their passports withheld. Most women initially victimized by sexual traffickers have little inkling of what awaits them. They generally get a very small percentage of what the customer pays to the pimp or the brothel owner. Once they are caught up in the system there is practically no way out, and they find themselves in a very vulnerable situation.



6. Early marriage

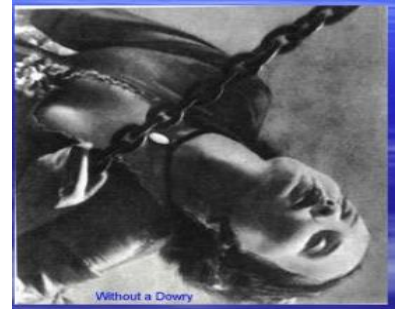
Earlier, child marriages were highly prevalent in India. The young girls would live with their parents till they reached puberty. They were married to the person much elder to them... . In case of any problem in performing religious rites, males between the age of 24 and 30 should marry a female between the age of 8 and 12.



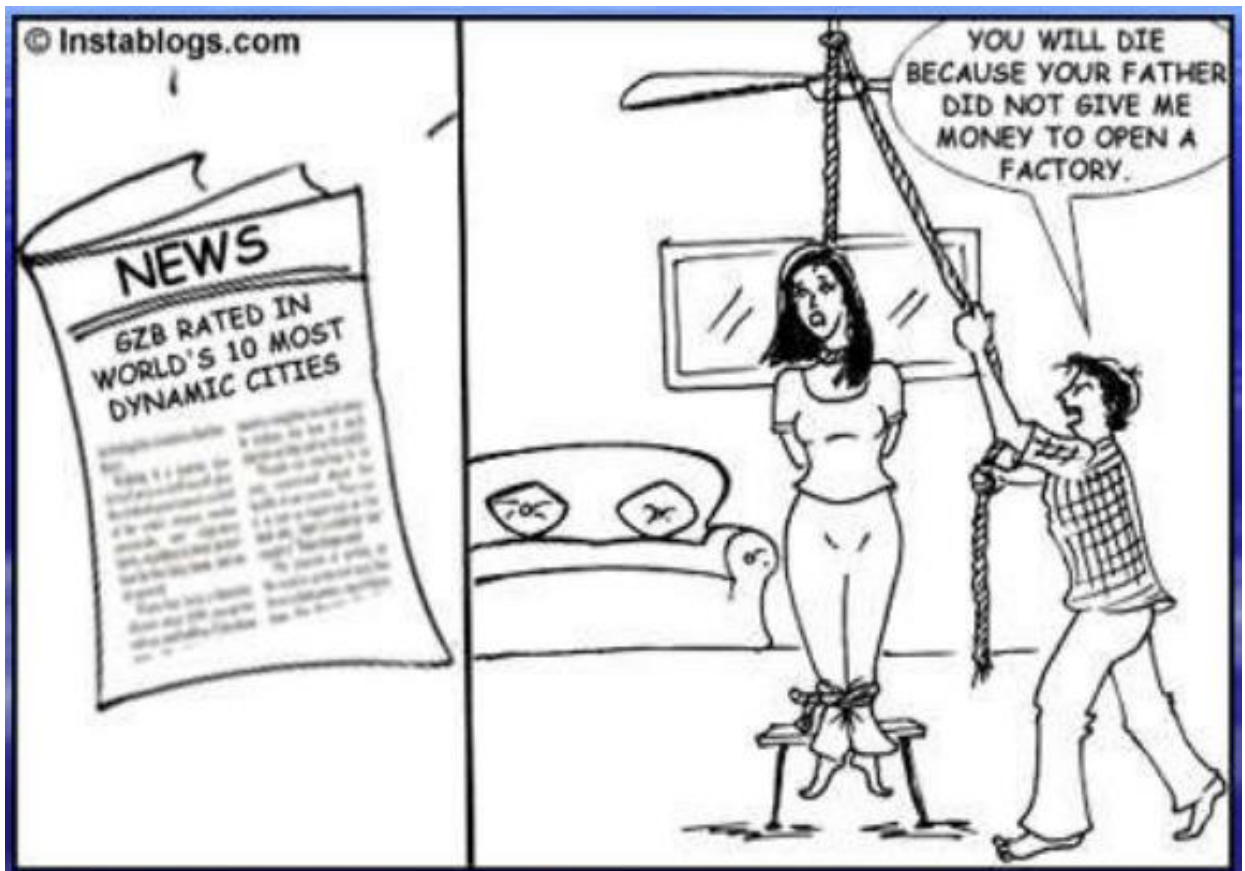
- *In India, nearly half (43%) of women aged 20 to 24 are married before the age of 18. There has been a decline in the incidence of child marriage nationally and in nearly all states (from 54% in 1992-3 to 43% in 2007-8), but the pace of change remains slow. The states with the highest incidence of child marriage in the country are Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Child marriage is a common practice all throughout the country but it affects girls in rural areas (48%) more than in Evidence suggests children of young mothers are less healthy.*

7.Dowry System:-

- Dowry is the money given in the form of shelter to bride at the time of marriage so that she is well maintained by the bride groom...
- The National Crime Records Bureau statistics show that 91,202 dowry deaths were reported in the country from January 1, 2001 to December 31 2012. The number of cases charged was 8,022 and 7,537 of that sent for trial. 21,922 dowry death cases were pending trial from the previous year in 2001 and the figure touched 29,669 in 2012.
- And those who fail to pay dowry either daughter are ill treated and they finally commit suicide.



DOWRY SYSTEM



8.Domestic Violence:-



- Domestic violence, or Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) as it is sometimes called, is a worldwide problem. Cultural and household stress factors contribute to the prevalence of domestic violence.
- Domestic violence in India is endemic and widespread predominantly against women. Around 70% of women in India are victims of domestic violence. A crime against a woman is committed every three minutes, a woman is raped every 29 minutes, a dowry death occurs every 77 minutes, and one case of cruelty committed by either the husband or relative of the victim occurs every nine minutes.

9..Purdah System:-

- Purdah is the practice of requiring women to cover their bodies so as to cover their form. It signifies, apart from wearing a veil, restrictions on mobility of women, curtailment of their right to interact freely and it is a symbol of subordination of women. Now, it is a declining tradition in India, practiced mostly by Muslims.



10. Widow Exploitation:-

- *Widows are still ill treated. They are condemned to a life of great agony shaving their heads, living in isolation they are forced to live pitiful lives in dingy guest houses, ashrams, or a servant quarter of the house. And over that it's a shame that younger widows are sexually exploited, stating that life is just burdening them with the cruelties of the society.*
- *"Widowhood is a state of social death, even among the higher castes," Widows are still accused of being responsible for their husband's death, and they are expected to have a spiritual life with many restrictions which affects both physically and psychologically.*



11. Sati System:-

- *Sati is an old, largely defunct custom, in which the widow was immolated alive on her husband's funeral pyre.*



We see everywhere in each corner of the world girls face discrimination. It is bitter that they often receive less food than boys do have fewer entrees to schooling and in many countries of the world, works long hours when they are only 5-4 years old. It is a growing landmark, eight million girls aged 6 to 11 do not even go to school and why can't we see the helpless agony of the girl child around the world. Their ignorance will certainly beget to forget our cause, which is still fractured in the regions. We see in societies where a male child is regarded as more valuable to the family, girl often are denied the right of life, denied the right to name and nationality, and by being married off early or forced to stay at home and help in domestic works., girls are often denied the right to education and all the advantages that go with it. The right to associate freely, the rights accompanying unjustified deprivation of liberty. These all are the basic humiliation from the family to the girls. when boys are regarded as the pillar of tomorrow. Neither they are allowed go freely nor they able to associate in the society as male boys do liberally. Only a few highly utilized countries don't face such discrimination extremely. There are fractions of gender discrimination in the region which is typically brought by the conflicts and fratricidal wars ethnic wars and irritant communalism, indeed led the way to gender discrimination. It is not only the elite group or ruling government. Which aren't orderly obeys the laws, neither they takes any alternate initiative for the gender crisis nor any other institute or organizations do. Many dissident groups in the contiguous region are also violating such girl rights internally. In our ethnically disputed regions, society itself is the vital anatomy that has shown how girl are less important than boys. The patriarchal society of the region has allowed the boys or man to be emphasized more than girls important. War extreme poverty and other deprivations further endanger girl's lives because they may be raped and forced to work in extremely dangerous situations and environment as sex slaves, highly exploited domestic workers, or bonded workers in factories or on farms. These all make a strong case for the extra protection support from the international community to ensure that girl's rights are acknowledged and protected.

When a boy is born in most developing countries friends and relatives exclaim congratulation. A son means insurance he will inherit his father's property and get a job to help support the family. When girl is born, the reaction is very different. Some woman weep when they find out their baby is a girl because to them, a daughter is just another expense. Her place is in the home not in the world of men. In some parts of India it's traditional to greet a family with a new born girl by saying "the servant of your house hold has been born" a girl can't help but feel inferior when everything around her tell's that she is worth less than a boy..

Different forms of discrimination:-

1. Education: - People believe that a woman's education would be a waste because their important jobs are to cook, clean, look after the children and be a desirable wife.

2. Female Infanticide: - The murder of a female infant. It occurs often as a deliberate murder or abandonment of a young girl or infant.

3. Honor Killing: - The practice of killing girls and women who are perceived to have dishonored a family's reputation by allegedly engaging in sexual activity or other improprieties before or outside of marriage 'Improper' behavior justifies grounds for killing.

4. Domestic Violence: - This form of domestic violence is most common of all. One of the reasons for it being so prevalent in the orthodox and idiotic mindset of the society than women is physically and emotionally weaker than males.

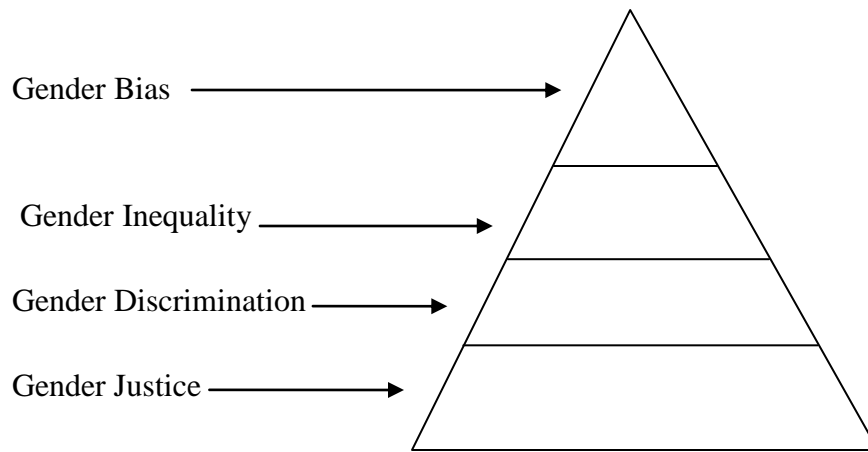


Figure – 1.1

Gender discrimination across the life cycle: -

Discrimination of women based on their gender occurs throughout their lifecycle survival itself is the first challenge.

Sex Ratio:-

- India is one of the few countries worldwide with an adverse child sex ratio in favor of boys.
- Nationwide, 7000 fewer girls than expected are born each day largely due to sex discrimination.
- In 80% of district in India the situation is getting worse for ex., in 14 districts of Harayana & Punjab there are even fewer than 800 girls per 1000 boys.
- While the
- PNDT (Pre-Natal Diagnostic Testing) act is passed in India in 1994, enforcement has been lagging with one conviction to date.

Infant Mortality:-Gender differentials in infant mortality. after birth, son preference continues to persist leading to the neglect of girls and their lack of access to nutrition, health and maternal care in these critical early year.

Maternal Mortality:-

- In the year 2000, India alone accounted for one quarter of maternal deaths worldwide.
- Today one woman dies every seven minutes from a pregnancy related causes.

- *High rate of anemia amongst pregnant women and low perception of birth attended by skilled health personal for ex., In Andhra Pradesh 564% of pregnant women 15-49 are anemic but 74.2% birth are attended by skilled health personnel.*

Early Marriage:-

- *Globally 36% women aged 20-24 were married or in union before they reached their 18th birthday.*
- *An estimated 14 million adolescent between 15 & 19 give birth each year. Girls under 15 are give times more likely to die during pregnancy and child birth than women in their twenties.*
- *If a mother is under 18 her baby's chance of dying in the first year of life is 60% greater than that of a baby born to a mother older than 19.*
- *Even if the child survives he or she is more likely to suffer from low birth weight under nutrition and late physical and cognitive development.*

Education:-

- *If house hold has only one girl child the likelihood of her being sent to school is 56%. The bigger the family and the more boys in it, the less likely the girls are to go school.*
- *Female secondary schooling delays the age of marriage and provides women with the knowledge to secure their children's well being in the form of improved childcare.*
- *In the Indian context gender disadvantage intensifies with other form of social inequality and education provides an important reminder for the stark reliability.*

What is Gender Crime:-

Crime committed against women any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including treats of such act coercion or arbitrary deprivation of hilarity whether occurring in public or in private life.

Gender violence throughout the life cycle:-

Prenatal: - *Sex selective abortion, battering during pregnancy coerced pregnancy for example gang rape.*

Infancy: - *Female infanticide, differential access to good and medical care for girl infants.*

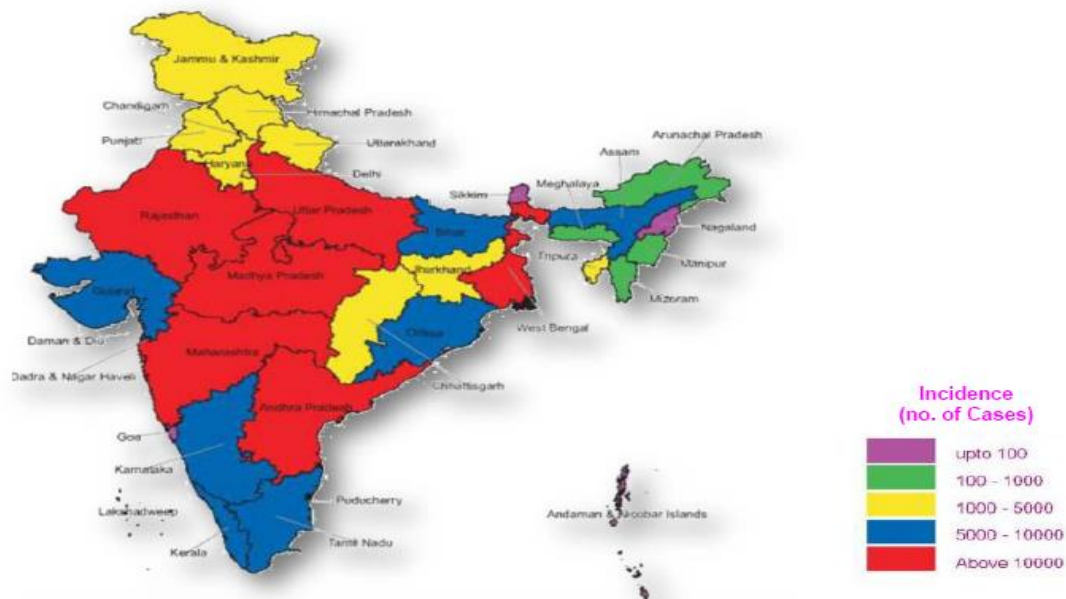
Childhood: - *Child marriage; genital mutilation; sexual abuse by family members and strangers; child prostitution.*

Adolescence: - *Dating and courtship violence sexual abuse in the workplace, rape, sexual harassment, forced prostitution, trafficking in women*

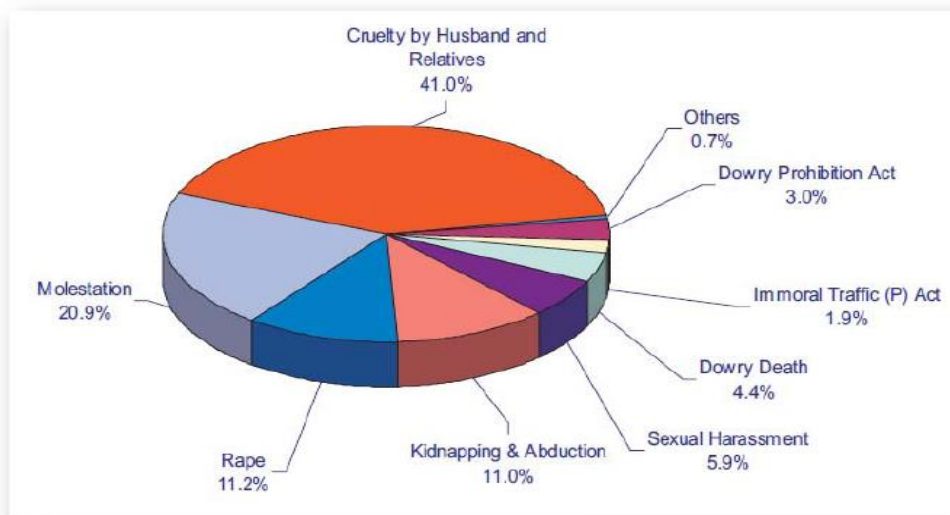
Reproductive: - *Marital rape, dowry abuse and murders, sexual abuse in the workplace sexual harassment, rape, abuse of women with disabilities.*

Old Age: - *Abuse of widows*

Incidence of crime against women during 2011:-

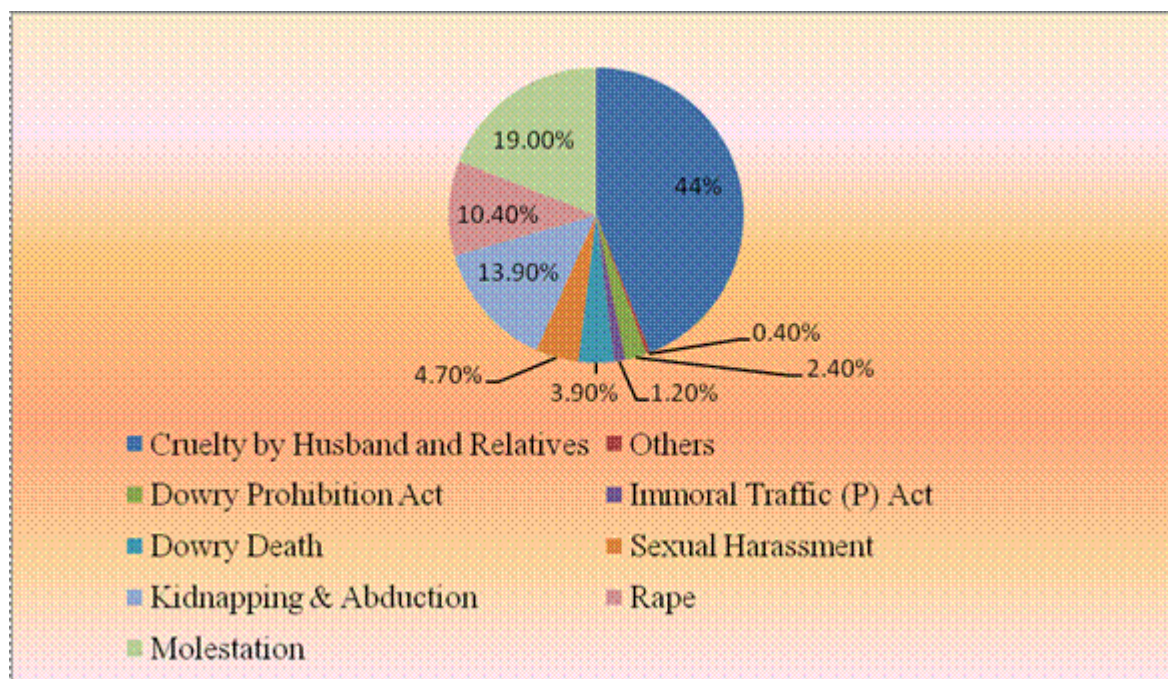


Incidence of Crime Against Women during 2011



Crime Against Women Percent Distribution during 2011

Crime against women Percentage Distribution during 2010.



Proportion of Crime against women (IPC) towards total IPC crimes.

S.no	Year	Total IPC crime	Crime against women (IPC cases)	% to total IPC cases.
1.	2006	18,78,293	1,54,158	8.2
2.	2007	19,89,673	1,74,921	8.8
3.	2008	20,93,379	1,86,617	8.9
3.	2009	21,21,345	2,03,804	9.2
4.	2010	22,24,831	2,13,585	9.6

Source- Crimes in India , 2011, National Crime Record Bureau. 5

As per the above data crime rate trend analysis against women in India shows clearly the sharp increased crime rate from (8.2%) in 2006 to (9.6 %) in 2010 in the last five years. which is a serious matter from the safety and security point of Indian women

CONCLUSION OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION:

Females of our country have faced the discrimination for ages now and still continue to exist in various forms. Any denial of equality, gender and opportunity on the basis of gender is gender discrimination.

Nature doesn't discriminate men from women. But women worldwide have been the victim of inequality not only in terms of social and political rights but also on grounds of employment opportunities.

The male dominant society of India makes its women habitual of this discrimination. As a result, most women fail to understand their own rights and freedom.

There are many spheres of life where women are denied opportunities. Discrimination against females starts with their birth and continues through their lives. An unborn girl child is aborted with the help of sex determination techniques. A girl child who is born is seen as a burden on her parents or family and not given equal treatment as boys of the same family ever since birth.

She is not given proper nutritious food in some cases. As she grows, she is either denied of right to education and in some cases it is limited to elementary level. Her health and well being is not given due attention and concern. She is married at an early age and this puts an end to any possibilities of growth and a good life in most cases.

The discrimination doesn't end here but continues with the expectations of giving birth to a boy. The vicious cycle of female discrimination starts here. Almost all women face some incidents of eve teasing, some are unfortunate to be assaulted sexually and raped.

Marriage of a woman becomes more perplexed if she faces dowry threats, which sometimes cause deaths also. With such a deprived living, how can we expect the standard of living of women to rise and their presence be felt at international level?

Women, both illiterate and partially literate have limited access to health care and job opportunities and remain confined to the bounds of their household chores, raising children and looking after families. A good education or qualification does not bring women at par with the men. They are still deprived of many work opportunities as men are believed to be more capable than their female counterparts with similar qualifications.

The notion that women do not have caliber and intelligence to take up managerial positions or high profile jobs is another proof of the discrimination against women in our society.

According to 2011 census, the female literacy rate was 65.46% compared to 82.14% for males. The underlying thought that educating women is of no value as they will only serve their husbands and family in future makes the parents unwilling to spend on girl's education.

Women are not able to enjoy equal status in society as men and have very little say or authority. The grant of equal rights by the Constitution does not bring any significant change in their position and respect in the society.

Law and property rights are also enforced inefficiently and inheritance is usually the sole right of sons and not the daughters. Even though laws are now enforced for the rights of women on parental property, not many people are aware of it and the social structure is such that daughters do not usually insist on their property rights.

Society favors men and gives them higher authority and this makes women vulnerable to crimes like rapes, eve teasing, sexual abuse etc. Though the number of women officers is growing, yet the number is not comparable with men holding higher ranks.

The discrimination against women is not only hampering the growth of women at social, economic and personal level but also significantly lower female-to-male ratios impact the growth in both agriculture and industrial sectors. Thus, gender discrimination also impedes the country's growth.

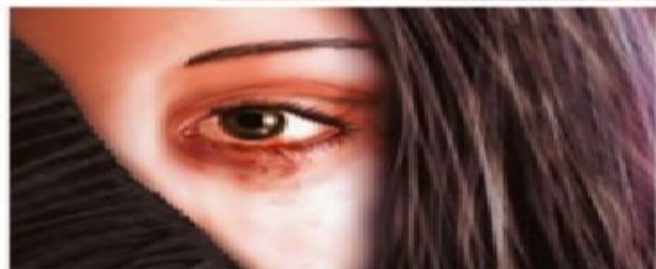
While women are the most common sufferers and remain suppressed due to social pressure, there are some disadvantages that men have over women as laws favor women in certain cases. For instance, in case of adultery husband can be jailed for his unfaithfulness towards wife.

However, there is no law which jails and no court that punishes women for adultery. Sexual molestation of men is rarely taken into procedure or FIR filed in the regard. It is men who are blamed for this crime even if the woman is the culprit. Some women also misuse the anti-dowry law to get their husbands jailed for dowry demand. The law does not favor men until there is solid evidence provided against the allegations.

महिलाओं की घटती भागीदारी !

का कामकाजी महिलाओं के खिलाफ दुर्व्यवहार का सिलसिला अनवरत जारी है। उद्योग संगठन एसोचैम ने यह निष्कर्ष अपने एक ताजा अध्ययन में निकाला है। इस अध्ययन के मुताबिक 55 प्रतिशत कामकाजी महिलाएं मानती हैं कि उनके साथ कार्यस्थल पर भेदभाव होता है। 'चैलेन्ज फॉर विमन इन मॉर्डन इंडिया' नामक यह अध्ययन इंगित करता है कि देश में भले ही महिला सशक्तीकरण की बातें खूब होती हों, लेकिन आज भी 29 प्रतिशत पढ़ी-लिखी महिलाएं शारीरिक शोषण की शिकार हो रही हैं। लगभग 84 प्रतिशत कामकाजी महिलाओं का अपनी ही कमाई पर कोई अधिकार नहीं होता है।

आम राय यह है कि आर्थिक मोर्चे पर भारतीय महिलाएं बड़ी तेजी के साथ आगे बढ़ रही हैं, परन्तु आंकड़े इससे उलट कुछ और बयान कर रहे हैं। 2009-10 के एक सर्वे के मुताबिक 'कार्य' में महिलाओं की भागीदारी की दर 2004-05 में 28.7 प्रतिशत थी, जो 2009-10 में घटकर 22.8 प्रतिशत रह गई। ये आंकड़े स्पष्ट रूप से महिलाओं की आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता के पिछड़ने की बात कर रहे हैं, परन्तु ऐसा क्यों? यह प्रश्न उलझा-सा प्रतीत होता है, क्योंकि देश के चुनिंदा उच्चपद पर आसीन महिलाएं जहां फोर्ब्स पत्रिका में स्थान पा रही हैं, तो कोई यकायक कैसे विश्वास कर सकता है कि आर्थिक मोर्चे पर महिलाओं की भागीदारी घट रही है, पर सच यही है। दरअसल भारतीय महिलाओं के लिए यह ऐसा संक्रमण काल है, जहां नगरीय संस्कृति से ताल्लुक रखने वाले मध्यमवर्गीय परिवारों ने अपनी आर्थिक जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए घर की महिलाओं को बाहर जाकर काम करने की 'इजाजत' दी है, परन्तु इसके बावजूद उन्हें परिवार के महत्वपूर्ण मसलों पर राय देने का भी अधिकार नहीं है। वहीं दूसरी ओर कार्यस्थल पर मिलने वाला लैंगिक भेदभाव, उनके प्रबन्धन, नेतृत्व एवं कार्यक्षमताओं पर विश्वास न करने की मानसिकता, उन्हें उनके पुरुष सहकर्मियों की अपेक्षाकृत अधिक चुनौतीप्रद एवं तनावग्रस्त माहौल देती है, और यही दोहरा दबाव भारतीय महिलाओं को 'आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता' की सोच को ही तिलांजलि देने के लिए प्रेरित करता है, और जो ऐसा नहीं कर पा रही, वह



लगभग 48 प्रतिशत महिलाओं को उनके कार्यस्थल पर मौखिक, मानसिक और शारीरिक यौन शोषण का शिकार होना पड़ता है।

16%

कामकाजी महिलाएं ही अपनी कमाई मनमर्जी से खर्च कर पाती हैं।

गहरे दबाव और काम के बोझ तले जी रही है। कार्यस्थलों पर महिलाओं का उत्पीड़न सदैव से ही चिंता का विषय रहा है। सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और आउटसोर्सिंग उद्योग की छः सौ महिला कर्मचारियों के बीच हुए एक सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि उनमें से 88 प्रतिशत को कार्यस्थल में किसी न किसी प्रकार के यौन उत्पीड़न का सामना करना पड़ता है। इसी तरह अहमदाबाद बुमेन्स एक्शन ग्रुप द्वारा किए गए एक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार यह तथ्य उजागर हुआ कि लगभग 48 प्रतिशत महिलाओं को उनके कार्यस्थल पर मौखिक, मानसिक और शारीरिक यौन शोषण का शिकार होना पड़ता है। यह अध्ययन इशारा कर रहे हैं कि कार्यस्थल पर महिलाओं की प्रतिष्ठा और आत्मसम्मान को, किस हद तक ठेस पहुंचाई जाती है; क्योंकि उनके भीतर सामाजिक प्रतिष्ठा के साथ-साथ यह भी डर घर करे हुए है कि उनके विरोध करने की स्थिति में उन्हें नुकसान पहुंचाया जा सकता है या नौकरी से निकाला जा सकता है।

महिलाओं के प्रति समाज का एक बड़ा वर्ग हमेशा हमेशा से संवेदनहीन रहा है और उन्हें एक 'व्यक्ति' के बजाय 'वस्तु' के नजरिए से देखता है और अगर हम यह सोचते हैं कि यह सोच कम पढ़े-लिखे या अनपढ़ों की है, तो हम गलत हैं। उच्च पदस्थ अधिकारी से लेकर निम्न वर्ग के कर्मचारी तक यही सोच रखते हैं। एक स्त्री को 'काठ का पुतला' समझ उसे सामाजिक एवं पारिवारिक दायित्वों के बोझ तले दबा देना क्या यही हमारे सांस्कृतिक मूल्य की जीत है?



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN :-

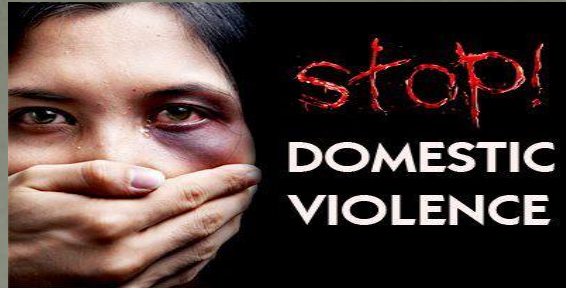
Domestic Violence against Women – A Wake Up Call!



Think about this! Are there not sufficient laws to protect her and prevent such incidents or is our society not mature enough to deal with such things? There are laws to prevent violence against women, police to keep a watch on these incidents and there are seminars and symposiums to analyze the various issues and make recommendations but what is the result!!!

Amartya sen, the famous Indian Nobel prize winner calculated that more than 100 million females and after follow up studies; 60 million to 107 million women were missing worldwide - all victims of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!!

WHY???



Domestic Violence is fact
not fiction

Not a figment of imagination

✓ **Case Study: 1**

A village near Jabalpur. News reported in Punjab Kesari:



A man comes home at midnight after a bout of drinking. He suspects his wife and when she protests, he wants to conduct a purity test because it is a question of his 'honor'. He brings

boiling hot oil and forcibly put her hand into it with the remarks that if she is pure, she will not be scalded.

✓ **Case Study: 2**

Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow (Muzaffar Nagar). News reported in HT:

“Mahabharata Redux” A husband wagers his wife in gambling, comes home and declares, “Tumko hum juaan mein har gaye hain. Hamari izzat ka sawal hai. Tum jao unke saath.” His friends come to drag her out but she goes into hiding with the help of neighbors. When she approached the cops they told her to buzz off. The woman says, “They scolded me saying that I should not bother them on trivial issues. For them it was too small a thing to intervene,”

✓ **Case Study: 3**

Haryana, Sirsa. News reported in The Tribune:

A woman’s nose chopped off over son’s love affair- for “honour”.

In a brutal incident in Haryana’s Sirsa district, a man chopped off a woman’s nose, cut a braid of her hair and carried them away as ‘trophies’. This was done as punishment for her son’s ‘love affair.’ It is alleged that the police are in collusion with the assailants and did not register a case.

What is Domestic Violence:-

The problem of violence against women is not new. Women in Indian society have been victims of ill-treatment, humiliation, torture and exploitation for as long as written records of social organization and family life are available. These records are replete with incidents of abduction, rape, murder, and torture of women. Women have continuously been ruthlessly exploited in our society. as the cases of wife.battering, rapes, kidnapping and abductions, intra familial murders, dowry-death, eve-teasing and molestation, etc.have been more frequently reported since the late1960s and early 1970s, the issue of violence against women has been transformed from a private issue into a public problem.

Some females fall prey to violence before they are born, when expectant parents abort their unborn daughters, hoping for sons instead. In other societies, girls are subjected to such traditional practices as circumcision, which leave them maimed and traumatized. In others, they are compelled to marry at an early age, before they are physically, mentally or emotionally mature.

rape is still being used as a weapon of war, a strategy used to subjugate and terrify entire communities. Soldiers deliberately impregnate women of different ethnic groups and abandon them when it is too late to get an abortion.

Though it is true the incidence of violence by men towards women is not identical in all groups and communities and that moral and social belief and family arrangements differ from group to

group, yet instead of examining these groups difference and analyzing the sub cultural and socio-ethical beliefs of these groups, we should concentrate on violence against women as perceived in general terms.

There are no women who have not suffered at one time or another the harassment, humiliation, exploitation and violence that shadow her sex. A woman's life lies between pleasure at one end and danger at the other end. In daily life, women are routinely defined by sex, and even if not all men are potential kidnappers, rapists, batterers, molesters and torturers of women, all women are potential victims.

Domestic violence is one of the crimes against women which is linked to their disadvantageous position in the society. Domestic violence refers to violence against women especially in matrimonial homes. Therefore domestic violence is recognized as the significant barriers of the empowerment of women, with consequences of women's health, their health-seeking behaviour and their adoption of small family norm. However an attempt has been made to study whether ever married women of reproductive age group in India view wife-beating as justified. In addition, the prevalence of beatings and physical mistreatment since age 15 and also in last one year are used as the dependent variables. The National Family Health Survey II data, 1998-99 which covered 90,303 ever married women is used in the analysis. Background characteristics such as education, age, marital duration, place of residence, caste, religion, sex of the head of the household, standard of living, work status of women, exposure to mass media and the autonomy of women with respect to decision making, freedom of movement and access to money are linked to domestic violence. An autonomy index is computed to understand the relationship of women's autonomy with domestic violence. Bivariate analysis is used to examine the variation of domestic violence by background characteristics. Logistic regression is carried out to predict the domestic violence with the selected independent variables. The analysis shows that the women belonging to low socio-economic status are more likely to agree with each of the different reasons justifying wife-beating. Again domestic violence is more among lower autonomy and women belonging to low socio-economic status.

The Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women declared that rape in armed conflict is a war crime -- and could, under certain circumstances, be considered genocide.

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali told the Beijing Conference that more women today were suffering directly from the effects of war and conflict than ever before in history.

"There is a deplorable trend towards the organized humiliation of women, including the crime of mass rape", the Secretary-General said. "We will press for international legal action against those who perpetrate organized violence against women in time of conflict."

Domestic Violence also known as domestic abuse, spouse abuse, child abuse or intimate partner violence (IPV) can be broadly defined as a pattern of abusive behavior by one or both partners in a relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation.

Introduction and Context

Domestic violence that is any act of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society. The perpetrators of domestic violence have often been found to be the males and the victims, their sexual partners. Internationally, one in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in their lifetime by a member of her own family (Heise et al. 1999). Looking at the domestic front, staring from Vedic age to twenty first century, women in India perhaps have never experienced equal rights and freedom compared to their male counterparts. The concept of 'Ardhangini' [half of the body] seems to be restricted only in literatures and have never implemented in practical life. In addition to this, extracts from Ramcharitamanas of Tulsidas like 'Dhol, Gauwnaar, Shudra, Pashu aur Nari; Sakal Tadan ka Adhikari' [drums, uncivilized illiterates, lower castes, animals and women are all fit to be beaten] besides other indicators like Pardaha system [hiding the face in veils], Sati system [self immersion of the lady in husband's pyre] that are subject to women only; is a reflection of the history of women's subordinate status. In short, it is always the women who have to be in the tight rope, subject to inequality and looked down as an inferior sex. Staring from childhood to the end of her life she has to be under the control of father or husband or the son. The subordinate status of women combined with socio cultural norms that are inclined towards patriarchy and masculinity can be considered as an important factor determining the domestic violence.

- ***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 private or public life.***

Types of Domestic violence

- ***Harm***
- ***Threat and injury to the health safety, life, limb or Well being whether mental or physical***
- ***Harassment***

a) ***Physical Violence:-***

Beating, Slapping, Hitting, Biting, Kicking, Punching, Pushing, Shoving, causing bodily pain or, Injury in any other manner.

b) Sexual Violence:-

Forced sex, Forces a woman or a child to watch pornography or obscene pictures, Any act of sexual nature to abuse humiliate or degrade a woman, Violation of her dignity, Child sexual abuse.

c) Verbal and Emotional Violence:-

(i) Insult, Name- calling, Accusations on character or conduct, Insult for not having made child, Insult for not bringing dowry

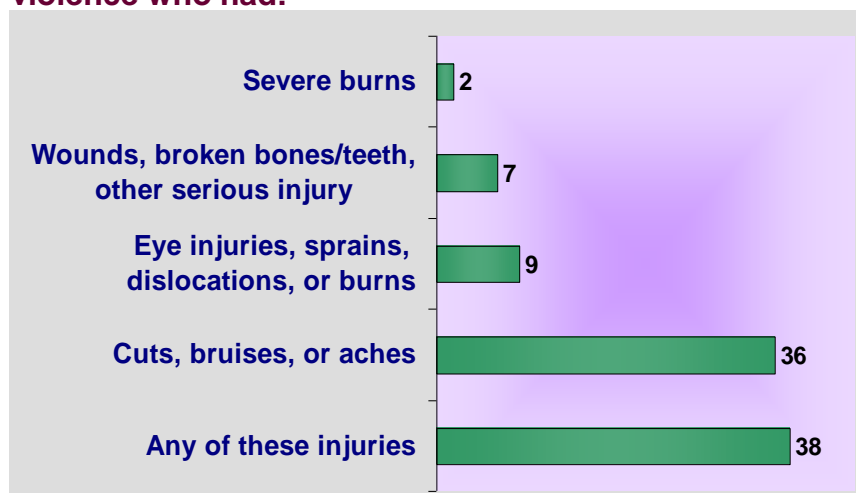
(ii) Threat to commit suicide, Forcing to get married when you do not want to do, forcing a woman girl to leave her job, Preventing her to take a job.

d) Economic Violence:-

- *Not providing money for maintaining you or your children.*
- *Not providing food, clothes, medicines*
- *Stopping or disturbing a woman from carrying on her employment.*
- *Disposal of household effects movable/immovable*
- *Not allowing use of your salary*
- *Taking away income*
- *Forcing to leave the house*

Injuries Due to Spousal Violence

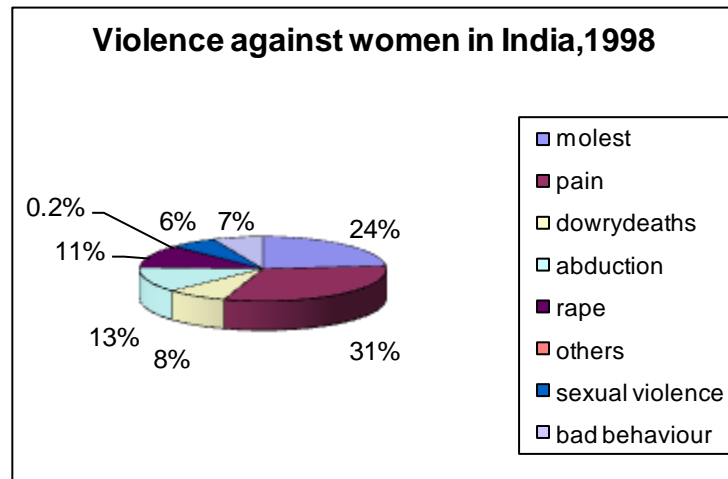
Percent of women who have experienced spousal violence who had:



India 2005-06

Who are victims of domestic violence?

Statistics reflect that 95% of domestic violence victims are women, although men can also be victims. Regardless of who is being victimized, domestic violence is a serious problem that needs to be addressed.



How does it affect women?

A constant fear and anxiety feeling 'on edge'. Losing belief in yourself and who you are. Feeling isolated and alone. Thinking that you are going mad. Suffering physical and pain. Domestic Violence is an ongoing experience of physical, emotional and / or sexual abuse faced by the women within the household

Domestic violence is an ongoing experience of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse faced by the women within the household



- ❖ *Most women tolerate violence because they find no alternative. They perceive themselves inferior to men. Depending on males makes them feel the lack of self confidence and the inability to recognize their own potential. We associate them with passivity, timidity, vulnerability, helplessness, being emotional while men are associated with activity, independence, reliance and rationality.*
- ❖ *In India, violence against women has jumped to 44% between 1993 and 2011. Further kidnapping rose by 13% and rapes increased by 23% over the same period.*
- ❖ *Of about 8000 criminal cases registered all over India under the protection of women from domestic violence act, 2005, Rajasthan had 3440 cases Kerala had 1028 cases, while Punjab had 172 cases registered.*

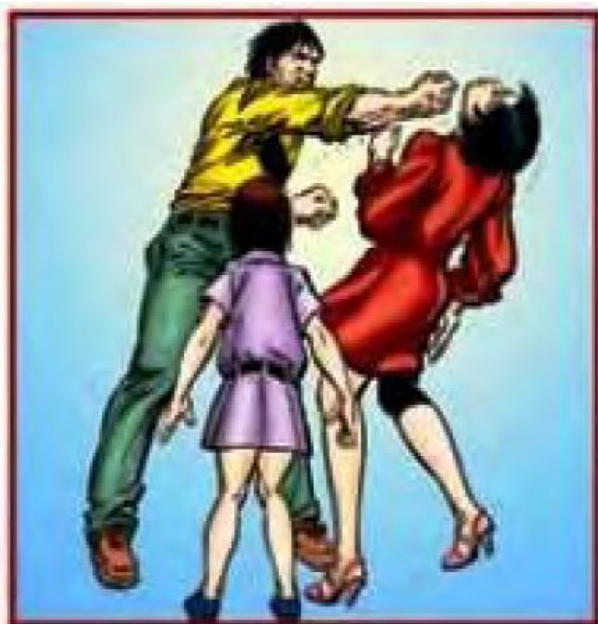
One of the Victims said:

'I have always been beaten up. I thought most women were'

Unsafe at Home:



Behind closed doors- the agony of women continues unabated. Is it not an irony that woman suffers inside the home, a place where she is supposed to be the safest





Causes of Domestic Violence:-

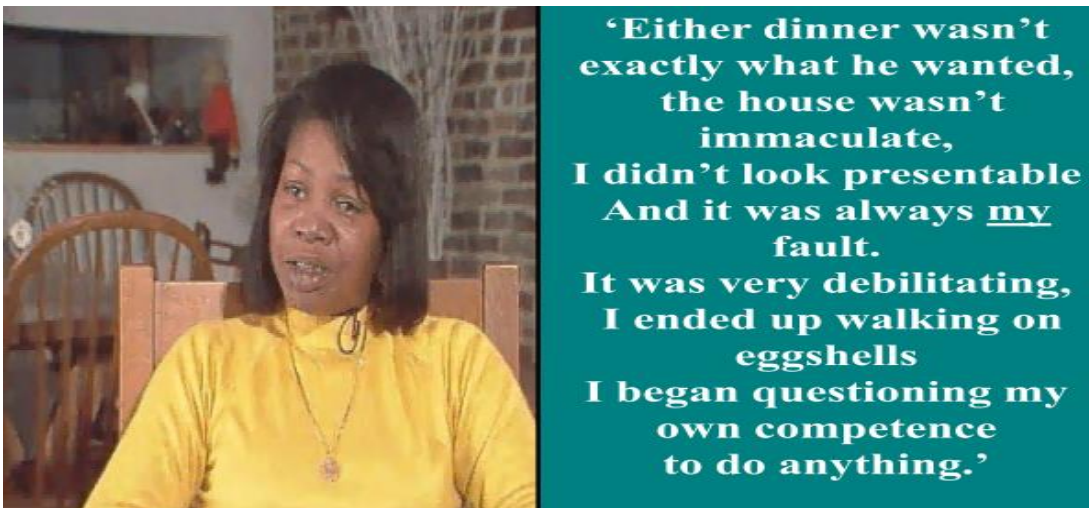
- Unequal power relations
- Gender Discrimination
- Economic dependence of women
- Low moral values
- Negative portrayal of women's image in media
- No participation in decision making

- Gender stereotyping
- Negative mindset of men

Domestic Violence Hurts Everyone:



- ❖ *85% of men reported that they had indulged in violent behavior at least once, behaviour at least once, be it physical, psychological or sexual in the past 12 months*
- ❖ *57% of men with 6-10 years of education admitted to sexually abuse their wives*
- ❖ *Men use violence as a tool to establish their power over the weaker sex*
- ❖ *Employed women seem to report more instance of violence against them than the unemployed*
- ❖ *'I am the boss syndrome' which is often a hangover of his growing up in a patriarchal society, frustrations, ego clashes arising out of the husband's inability to accept the success of his wife are the most common reasons for Domestic violence*



- *Woman also experience psychological aggression or abuse that includes a gamut of behaviors such as refusing to talk to the person, giving her the cold shoulder, constant belittling, and / or controlling her whereabouts almost keeping her imprisoned. Psychological abuse (also sometimes referred to as emotional abuse) is a distinct component of domestic violence.*

It is all the more paradoxical that while world attention and focus is on improving the status of women through better health, education and employment facilities, the women is becoming threatened in her very home.

Crime against women continued unabated –ugly figures (Jan10, 2012)

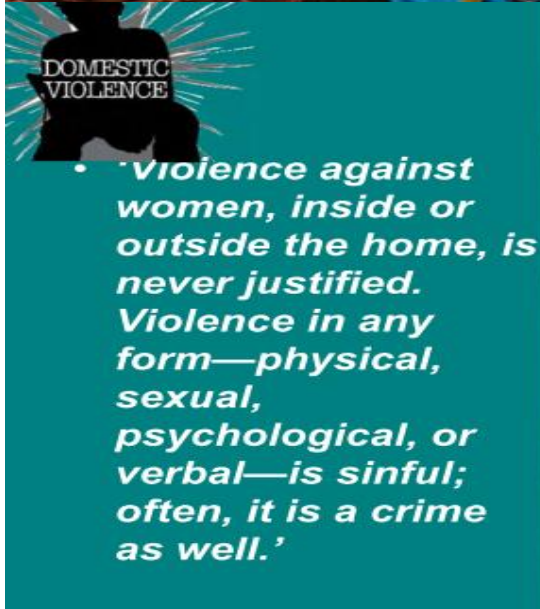
CRIME	2011	2010	2009
DOWRY DEATH	135	101	109
RAPE	409	435	431
TORTURE FOR DOWRY	851	945	1044
MOLESTATION	299	237	305
FEMALE FOETICIDE	15	18	19
CRIME BY NRIs	19	20	20

It is common for the women to suffer psychological damage in the form of:

- *Depression*
- *Lowered self esteem*
- *Unhappiness*
- *Afraid (of husband)*
- *Anxiousness*
- *Nervousness*
- *Experiencing nightmares*

She has problems dealing with:

- *Anger*
- *Identity*
- *Children*
- *Own mother*
- *Own father*



Recognizing abuse is the first step to getting help:

- ❖ *Emotionally abusive relationships can destroy your self-worth, lead to anxiety and depression, and makes one feel helpless and alone.*
- ❖ *No one should have to endure this kind of pain- and your first step to breaking free is recognizing that your situation is abusive. Once you acknowledge the reality of the abusive situation, then you can get the help you need.*

Understanding Emotional Abuse:

- ❖ *The aim of emotional abuse is to chip away at your feelings of self-worth and independence. If you're the victim of emotional abuse, you may feel that there is no way out of the relationship or that without your abusive partner you have nothing.*
- ❖ *The woman may think that physical abuse is far worse than emotional abuse, since physical violence can send you to the hospital and leave you with scars. But, the scars of emotional abuse are very real, and they run deep. In fact, emotional abuse can be just as damaging as physical abuse-sometimes even more so.*



Domestic Violence and children:

Violence against women has devastating consequences for the women who experience it and a traumatic effect on those who may develop serious emotional, behavioral, developmental or academic problems. Children in a home where the mother is being abused are also at greater risk of being abused themselves, or being used to control their mother. Due to his own lack of self-worth the abusive partner feels the need to control all those to whom he considers himself superior. In a family, this includes the children.

Hence domestic violence affects children in multiple ways:

- *children can suffer from witnessing abuse*
- *children can be harmed as a result of trying to break up a fight or ward off an attack by the abuse*
- *children can pick up on the fear, anxiety and trauma of the person being abused and can also pick up on the aggressive vibes from the perpetrator of violence*
- *children living in a home with domestic violence are at a far greater risk of suffering child abuse directly (the NSPCC recently reported that in one third of the child abuse cases they were made aware of, domestic violence in the home was a factor)*
- *children can be used to manipulate one partner against the other, both while still living together and once the victim of abuse has left*
- *children are frequently used to threaten the victim to ensure they stay or submit to further abuse (threats such as the abuser will harm or kill the children, report the mother to Social Services, or gain custody of the children are all very common)*

Children living with domestic violence do not have a happy home in which they can feel secure and loved, even when their non-abusive parent wants to provide them with security and strong boundaries, this is usually hampered by the abusive parent.

To be better able to help children living with domestic violence, we need to be able to better understand the effect which witnessing abuse has on them, understand how the children are

being used by the abuser, consider the risk of actual harm to the child themselves and finally look at ways of helping the children, whether we remain in an abusive relationship or not.

Strategies from prevention:

- *Constitutional provisions or other laws with the authorities*
- *Looking into complaints and taking notice of matters relating to deprivation of women's rights*
- *Non implementation of laws meant to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development*
- *Non compliance of policy decisions, ensuring welfare and providing relief to women and taking up issues arising out of such matters with authorities*
- *Calling for investigations into specific problems or situations out of discrimination and atrocities against women and identifying the constraints as to recommend strategies for their removal*
- *Undertaking promotional research, participating and advising on the planning process of socioeconomic development of women, inspecting jails, remand homes, women's institutions or other places of custody of women, funding litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women*

The Need of the Time:

- *That the existing laws should be enforced strictly. The society is registering a steady social advance. The old reactionary conception of the role, position and function of women is slowly giving way to a new higher and more democratic conception*
- *The age of marriage has been steadily rising. Education is spreading among a large section of women.*
- *The modern woman is slowly breaking through the shell of a narrow domestic existence and is beginning to participate in the various activities outside the home*
- *Communication media are a powerful tool for the creation of an alternative and positive image of women and could promote new attitudes and strategies for action directed towards the achievement of the goal of equality for women*
- *They should portray images consistent with human dignity of girls and women and not encourage demeaning, degrading a negative, conventional, stereotypical images of women and violence against them women themselves will have to come forward, start taking their own decisions regarding their life. They have to walk those few steps, which will get them at par with men. But this cannot be possible without a change in the attitude and a change in the views of their family members. The need of the hour is not simply to criticize the social or cultural or political structure but the actual empowerment of women in all spheres of life in order to enhance their status.*

Safety of women 'serious' concern

NEW DELHI: Observing that there is a serious public order problem if a woman is not safe in her own neighbourhood, a Delhi court has sentenced a man to a year in jail for misbehaving with his neighbour and beating her up when she resisted.

"...It is a serious public order problem if women are not safe in their own neighbourhood from their neighbours," metropolitan magistrate Ekta Gauba said.

The court made the observations while sentencing 33-year-old Subhash, a west Delhi resident, to one year in jail.

PTI



Save The Girl Child



मैं औरत हूँ...!!
मैं प्यार करती हूँ
मनुहार करती हूँ...
मैं पालनहार हूँ ...
पर गुहार भी करती हूँ...
मैं सृजन जानती हूँ...
तो विनाश भी करती हूँ
संसार रचती हूँ...
इसलिए जननी हूँ
मैं सत्य हूँ...सुन्दर हूँ...शिव भी हूँ...
मैं ही मां हूँ...बेटो हूँ...बहन भी... और
तुम्हारी प्रिया भी...
तुम कहते हो..
मैं यौवन और श्रृंगार हूँ..
लेकिन
मैं मृगीचिका भी...
मैं सृष्टि हूँ...
मैं सम्पूर्ण हूँ...
गर्व है मुझे
मैं औरत हूँ...!!।

कागजों में सिमटी महिला सहायता समितियां

■ न बैठकें होती, न मिलती है सहायता

■ कई जिलों में गठन ही नहीं हो पाया

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पीड़ित महिलाओं को उनका हक दिलवाने के लिए बनी महिला सहायता समितियां कागजों में सिमट कर रह गई हैं। जुल्म की शिकार महिलाओं की मदद करना तो दूर, बीते एक साल में राज्य के अधिकतर जिलों में महिला समिति की बैठक तक नहीं हुई। मजेदार बात यह है कि कुछ जिलों में महिला सहायता समितियां गठित ही नहीं हैं।

इन समितियों के गठन का उद्देश्य पीड़िताओं को विधिक एवं आर्थिक सहायता, सुरक्षा एवं सम्बल प्रदान करना था, लेकिन सरकारी फीताशाही के चलते इन समितियों के गठन के औचित्य पर ही सवाल खड़े हो गए हैं।

खुद ही बेबसी का शिकार

राज्य सरकार ने महिलाओं पर बढ़ते अत्याचार को देखते हुए 1997 में सभी जिलों में महिला समितियों के गठन के आदेश दिए थे। धौलपुर, झालावाड़ एवं

ये हैं बैठकों के हालात

दुष्कर्म, शारीरिक प्रताड़ना और घरेलू हिंसा की शिकार को मदद दिलवाने के लिए इन समितियों की हर तीन महीने में एक बैठक होनी चाहिए। आंकड़े बताते हैं कि राज्य में एक भी जिला ऐसा नहीं, जहां पूरी बैठकें हो पाई हों। बीते



साल में जयपुर, जोधपुर, बारां एवं बीकानेर जिले में दो बैठक हुई हैं। पाली, कोटा, डूंगरपुर, बांसवाड़ा, दौसा, सवाई माधोपुर एवं नागौर जिले में पिछले एक साल में एक भी बैठक नहीं हुई।

कुछ अन्य जिलों में ये समितियां बन ही नहीं पाई हैं। जिन जिलों में गठित हुई, वहां भी इनकी स्थिति अच्छी नहीं रही है। प्रचार-प्रसार के अभाव में समितियां लोकप्रिय नहीं होने से ज्यादातर लोगों को इनकी जानकारी ही नहीं है। कुछ स्थानों पर पीड़िताएं जैसे-तैसे समितियों के पदाधिकारियों तक पहुंच भी जाती हैं, तो बैठकें नहीं होने से उन्हें न्याय नहीं मिल पाता है।

प्रमुख लोगों के हाथों में कमान

इन समितियों की अध्यक्षता का जिम्मा जिला प्रमुख के जिम्मे है। जिला कलक्टर समिति के उपाध्यक्ष तथा महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के उप निदेशक सचिव हैं। पुलिस अधीक्षक,

जिला परिषद् के सीईओ, सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग के उप निदेशक एवं अन्य स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं से जुड़े लोग पदाधिकारी होते हैं। पीड़ित महिलाएं इनमें से किसी को भी अपनी व्यथा बता सकती हैं। बैठक में उनकी पीड़ा पर चर्चा कर सहायता के बारे में निर्णय होना चाहिए, लेकिन बैठक नहीं होने से मदद नहीं मिल पाती है।

गंभीरता बरतने के हैं निर्देश

महिला अत्याचारों के मामले में जिला कलक्टरों को गंभीरता बरतने के निर्देश दिए हुए हैं। कहीं कोताही है तो गंभीरता के निर्देश दिए जाएंगे।

सी.के.मैथ्यू,

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