

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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**Abstract:** “Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relation between men and women” and that “violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced in to a subordinate position compared with men.

This paper is a serious effort to bring out the causes of violence against women. Violence against women is not something that can be prevented or stopped over night. I think it need lost of efforts from all wards of life including we individuals, most important of all. We have to first educate ourselves and understand that any form of violence is not justified, least this form. We need to bring in a radical change in our socialization process, beginning from home itself.

The reason that we emphasize women right within Human Rights goes beyond history. Traditionally women have not enjoyed equal access to basic Human Rights, protections, resources, and service. Unfortunately, gender inequality is still present in envery society and remains as a huge barrier for the world. Even in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the greatest challenge that the women faces is how to live in a world free of the threat of violence. The important issue which is going to persist is the insecurity faced by women.

The present paper also lays emphasize on the solution of this biggest problem. Our extreme anger and agony over the Delhi rape case will not prevent such events in future. For this we need to properly identify the reasons for a rise in crime and implement definite strategies in the short, medium and long term at various levels to make women feed safe.

**Key Words:-** Severity, mainfestation, pandemic perpetrated, sterilization, inhibiting, atrocites, infringement, implement.

**Introduction:-**Issues relevant to defining violence against women include the importance of severity of aggressive behavior in partner relationships, relationships among type of abusive behavior, and adequacy of emplanatory models of partner violence. Severity of aggresion is important for describing and understanding partner violence. Different types of abusive behavior should be assessed to account for variation in partner abuse.

The UN Declaration on the elimination of Violence against Women state that:

“Violence against women is a mainfestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women” and that “Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced in to a subordinate position compared with men.”

**Kofi Anna, Secretary – General of United Nations,**

declared in a 2006 report posted on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) website that:

“Violence against women and girls is a problem of Pandemic proportions. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced in to sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone know to her.”

Violence against women can fit in to several broad categories. These include violence carried out by ‘individuals’ as well as ‘states’. Some of the forms of vilence perpetrated by individuals are rape, domestic

vilence, sexual harassment, coercive use of contraceptives; female infanticide; parental sex selection; obstetric violence and mob violence; as well as narmful customary or traditional practices such as honor killings,m dowry violence female genital mutilation, marriage by abduction and forced marriage. Some forms of violence are perpetrated sexual violence and sexual slavery during conflict, police and authoritative personnel; stoning and flogging. Many forms of VAW, such as trafficking in women and forced prostitution are after perpetrated by organized criminal networks.

The World Health Organization, in its research on VAW, categorized it as occurring through five stages of the life cycle. “ 1. Pre-birth, 2. Infancy, 3. Girlhood, 4. Adolescence and adulthood and 5. Dderly.”

The United Nations defines violence against women as any aat of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental narm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or aibitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

**Intimate partner Violence** refers to behaviour by an inimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological narm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

**Sexual Violence** is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape,

defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object.

**Scope of the Problem** Pollution-level surveys based on reports from victims provide the most accurate estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in non-conflict settings. The first report of the “WHO Multi – Country study on Women’s health and domestic violence against women” (2005) in 10 mainly low – and middle – income countries found that, among women aged 15–49.

- Between 15% of women in Japan and 71% of women in Ethiopia reported Physical and /or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- Between 0.3–11.5% of women reported experiencing sexual violence by someone other than a partner since the age of 15 years.
- The first sexual experience for many women was reported as forced – 17% of women in rural Tanzania, 24% in rural Peru, and 30% in rural Bangladesh reported that their first sexual experience was forced.

In the broadest sense, violence against women is any violation of a woman’s personhood, mental or physical integrity, or freedom of movement through individual acts and societal appraises women. Violence against women ranges from sterilization abuse to prescription-drug abuse, pornography, stalking, battering, and rape. It includes the sexual and physical abuse of young girls and the abuse of elders.

Every form of violence threatens all women and limits our ability to make choices about our lives. Sexual violence is particularly insidious because sexual acts are ordinarily and rightly a source of pleasure and communication. It is often unclear to a woman who has been victimized and to society as a whole whether a sexual violation was done out of sexual desire or violent intent or whether these motivations are even distinguishable, because violence itself has come to be seen as sexual or erotic.

Thirty years ago, most forms of violence against women were hidden under a cloak of silence or acceptance. As more and more women talked with each other in the recent wave of the women’s movement, it became apparent that violence against us occurs on a massive scale, that no woman is immune; and that family, friends, and public institutions have been cruelly insensitive about it.

Over the past thirty years, women have mobilized to offer direct services to those who have encountered violence, to educate people about the range and nature of male violence against women, and to develop strategies for change. This chapter reflects the important work of some of these women.

In some societies, women are often looked upon as representatives of the honour of the family. When women are suspected of extramarital sexual relations, even if in the case of rape, they can be subjected to the cruelest forms of indignity and violence, often by their own fathers or brothers. Women who are raped and are unable to provide explicit evidence, of unlawful sexual relations, the punishment for which is often death by public stoning. Such laws serve as a great obstacle inhibiting women from pursuing cases against those who raped them.

Assuming an accused woman’s guilt, most family members believe that they have no other means of undoing a perceived infringement of “honor” other than to kill the woman.

Violence against women is a global pandemic. Without exception, a woman’s greatest risk of violence is from someone she knows. Domestic violence is a violation of a woman’s right to physical integrity, to liberty, and all too often, to her right to life itself. When states fail to take the basic steps needed to protect women from domestic violence or allow these crimes to be committed with impunity, states are failing in their obligation to protect women from torture.

Female genital mutilation is the removal of part or all of the external female genitalia. In its most severe form, a woman or girl has all of her genitalia removed and then stitched together, leaving a small opening for intercourse and menstruation. It is practiced in 28 African countries on the pretext of cultural tradition or hygiene. As estimated 135 million girls have undergone FGM with dire consequences ranging from infection to sterility in addition to the devastating psychological effects. Though all the governments of the countries in which FGM is practiced have legislation making it illegal, the complete lack of enforcement and prosecution of the perpetrator means FGM continues to thrive.

In the Hindu mythology, a woman is regarded as an equally important wheel of the family vehicle along with man, but alas woman has always been discriminated against being a weaker sex, both at the home front as well as society. The humanity all over the world has helplessly watched that woman has been discriminated against, her modesty violated all over the world time and again. Atrocities against the woman have occurred not only during times of war or during spells of social turmoil but discrimination, exploitation, and atrocities take place routinely in normal time even in family, schools, workplaces and public places all over the world.

The reason that we emphasize woman’s Right within Human Rights goes beyond history. Traditionally women have not enjoyed equal access to basic Human Rights, protections, resources, and service.

Unfortunately, gender inequality is still present in every society and remains as a huge barrier for the world. Even in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the greatest challenge that the woman faces is, how to live in a world free of the threat of violence. The important issue which is going to persist is the insecurity faced by women confronted by a constant fear of being molested or teased or even raped, what kind of response do they get to confront such insecurity? Unless physical security is ensured to women in market place, at work place, in a restaurant, in a train compartment, in a taxi, in a bus (as happened on Dec. 16, 2012) how one can expect them to be competent, outgoing and efficient like men? The only solution of this problem is that the attitude and thinking of men towards women should be changed. Our extreme anger and agony over the Delhi rape case will not prevent such events in future. For this we need to properly identify the reasons for a rise in crime and implement definite strategies in the short, medium and long term at various levels to make women feel safe in India. But before we even begin, it is important to first understand the size of the problem.

Ashish Puntamkar, The Tata Foundation, Mumbai 2011 in the article Rising Crime and Role of Planning Commission indicated that census data and employment statistics appear to indicate that overall crime in India is likely to rise by almost 5 times by 2018 with a near 100% probability of occurrence. Population data indicate that in excess of 200 Million young people will be joining the working age group in India by 2018. This is in addition to the 112 Million already un-employed according to the 2011 census. This is equivalent to two thirds of entire group in an environment where no new jobs are being created. Today may be just 10% - 15% have reached the street and we already have so much. Imagine what will happen when the balance 85% + arrive.

According to a 2013 global review of available data. 35 Percent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. However, some national violence studies show that up to 70 percent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime from an intimate partner.

It is estimated that of all women killed in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members.

More often than not, cases of violence against women go unreported. For instance, a study based on interviews with 42,000 women across the 28 member states of the European Union revealed that only 14

percent of women reported their most serious incident of intimate partner violence to the police, and 13 per cent reported their most serious incident of non-partner violence to the police, and 13 percent reported their most serious incident of non-partner violence to the police.

Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married as children (below 18 year of Age) more than one in three – or some 250 million – were married before 15 child brides are often unable to effectively negotiate safer sex, leaving themselves vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, along with early pregnancy.

The fact that girls are not physically mature enough to give birth, places both mother and their babies at risk poor girls are also 2.5 times more likely to marry in childhood than those living in the wealthiest quintile.

Around 120 million girls worldwide have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.

More than 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the harmful practice is most common. Beyond extreme physical and psychological pain, girls who undergo FGM are at risk of prolonged bleeding, infection, infertility complications during pregnancy and death.

Research conducted in different countries has documented associations between HIV and physical and/or sexual violence, both as a risk factor for HIV infection and as a potential consequence of being identified as living with HIV.

A 2009 study in Australia estimated the cost of violence against women and children at AUD 13.6 billion per year.

**Conclusion :-** Violence against women is not something that can be prevented or stopped overnight. I think it needs lots of efforts from all wards of life including we individuals, most important of all. We have to first educate ourselves and understand that any form of violence is not justified, least this form. We need to teach our politicians, policy makers and the so called torch bearers of social reforms in India to come out clean with their brains and thought washed with the chemicals of humanity, we need to bring in a radical change in our socialization process, beginning from home itself, to learn to respect each one for their individuality and value the lives, emotions and existence of this most beautiful creature of the supreme power, our daughters, sisters, wives, mothers and above all the creator herself

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