

Gender Violence: Causes and Effect

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Abstract

Gender violence is one of the world wide problems occurring in past and present era of the society. It occurs in all societies of the world within the home or in wider community and it affects women and girls most probably. Gender violence mainly reflects and imparted the idea of violence towards gender only .This paper discusses mainly the meaning of Gender Violence with its causes and effect or impact on the society, family and mostly individually on the females who suffer violence. The main causes of Gender Violence are lack of education among females, traditional value and customs in societies which lead to superstitious thinking among people, dominating attitude of males following patriarchal tradition, negative attitude of our society towards women's development etc. which gives rise to violence such as domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, low confidence, fear and depression in the family and females causing mental trauma, psychological and physically. The main impact of all gender violence leads to great impact on the life of females. The sufferer has to face the problem arising within her individually facing the community and her family itself suffering with physical and mental trauma. So, the problem of Gender Violence could be solved by awareness among females towards violence, having positive attitude, giving proper education to all student and youth regarding sex education imparted by parents, and by school and teachers including in curriculum, enhancing laws and regulations towards gender violence.

KEYWORDS: Gender Violence, Community, Females, Education, Awareness, Attitude

Introduction

Our Indian society is based on all such social customs and norms which could not be relegated according to the traditions and culture. As today we are moving in the 21st era we have overcome many social problems and issues of our country India like sati, widow-remarriage, child marriage, being superstitious related to castes and untouchability etc. These social problems have overcome and had lag behind all the thinking and ability of our Indian society with the regenerating of Indian social change and development society. For centuries women have been treated inferior in this male dominated society they have been subjected to several restrictions and were vulnerable to violence and exploitation. A woman has to face such a violence right from the womb itself, fighting abortion of fetus, when it is known that the foetus is a female and female infanticide. During childhood, a girl child is neglected and malnourished and she is denied in education. During her youth, she has a fear of sexual violence and does not have any safety if she goes alone or stays alone and at last after marriage, she is harassed and often beaten for dowry, which may lead to suicide or murder. Thus a woman has to face violence in some or the other throughout her life. One of the problems of our society has still not changed that is "Gender Violence". Gender Violence includes rape, sexual assaultments,

relationship violence in heterosexual and sex partnership, sexual harassment, stalking, prostitution and sex trafficking .Gender Violence arises from the patriarchal system which since time immemorial has erected control over women's life (world month of women 2000) .Gender Violence occurs in the societies of the world, with in home or in wider community and it affects women's and girls' disappointment. It is even said that the world we live in is mainly and typically characterize with violence based on Gender.

The National Crime Records Bureau has recorded an increase of 40% in the case of social harassment, and 15.2% in cases of dowry deaths. (Crime in India, 2011 Statistics, NCRB, p.197) According to the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly, violence against women is 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 threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty; whether occurring in public or private life.

The term “**Gender Violence**” reflects the idea that mainly it is a violence regarding gender including all types of violence against men, women, children, adolescents, inequalities gay, transgender people etc. mainly it is a type of which influence by almost gender. Thus, simply quoted by *Ward Jeanne (2000) New York, “**Gender Violence refers to any harm that is perpetuated against a person's will; that has negative impact on the physical or psychological health, development and identity of the persons; and that is the result of gendered power inequalities that exploits distinctions between males and females, among males and females. Although not exclusively to women and girls, gender violence affects all cultures. Violence may be physical, sexual, psychological economic or socio-cultural.**” Basically gender violence is predominantly against women and perpetuated by men. Gender violence highlights male patterned violence, it is prevalent violence committed most often but not always by men. According to the department of Justice, 99% of all people are arrested for rape and sex trafficking are men. Gender Violence has been described as public health problems by World Health Organization and a problem of proportions by the United Nations General Assembly .The United National Fund named Sixteen forms of Gender violence –

1. Sexual Violence
2. Pre-Natal Sex Selection
3. Female Genital Mutilation
4. Date Rape
5. Bride burning or other forms of dowry related violence
6. Child Marriages
7. Trafficking Of Girls and women's
8. Domestic violence
9. Crimes committed in the name of passion or honor
10. Abduction of adolescents girls during combat
11. Bride death and harassment and torture
12. Physical or Emotional Violence intimated by Partner
13. Sexual Harassment at work
14. Exploitations of domestic workers
15. Feticide

16. Forced sterilization or other coercive reproduction practices etc.

Violence against women within the general community includes battery, rape, sexual assault, forced treatments and the exploitation and commercialization of women's bodies. Gender violence is universal reality existing in all societies regardless of income, class and culture. It would be very difficult to find one woman, whom at one time or the other in her lifetime had not been afraid merely because she was women. Gender violence can affect the female, psychologically, cognitively and inter-personally.

Causes of Gender Violence

The Causes of Gender violence are most probably on the types of violence's being occurred. The main cause of Gender Violence is created by the Society which portrays a **man to be viewed as being strong, educated, creative and clever** while a women is opposite to all these traits. The Upbringing of parents bringing their **child discrimination** between boys and girls is also a source and of course a cause of gender violence in life, as boys grows up he is forced to study hard and earn his life but the girl is only taught to do household work and live according to the customs and limitations of the society and culture authorized by our Indian society to feed up and serve the family up to and until death.

Another cause of gender violence which had mostly affected our society is **lack of education in women's**. In most of the rural areas it is mostly observed that women is not given higher education as they have only to do marriage and serve and respect their families and in-laws families, cook food and do caring and rearing of the children, so higher education for the is a wastage. Thus, violence in the family begins with the **Male dominating nature** of the men's which leads to another cause of gender violence and domestic violence. Another cause according to Bitarango (1999) summarized that causes of violence against women as being deeply rooted in the way society is set up with **cultural beliefs, powerful relations, economic power imbalances and masculine idea** of male dominance. One of the causes of gender discrimination might be high living status and society. Most of the women's and girls' follows the **wrong track to uphold herself towards modernization** which leads to rape, eve teasing, sexual harassment and of course verbal harassment too among teenagers, wearing provoking dresses and even behavior can cause such violence towards women's.

Another cause of gender violence is **attitudes of men** towards women leading to negative image of women empowerment. **Psychological trauma** is also one the cause of violence. **Family disruption** created among and between the family members also leads to violence among the gender. Thus all these causes' leads to the negative impact towards gender affecting the life individually and having long lasting effect in the life victim leading to long lasting effect.

Effects of gender violence

All the causes regarded with gender violence or any other causes of violence have or had and have of course a bad and virtual effect on the society and the victim individually. The effect of violence towards gender violence had deviating and long lasting forever effect.

It enhances a danger to women's reproductive health and lives a scar on the life of the effected female psychologically, cognitively and inter personally .The main effect is imparted with the family leading to depression, fear, frustration and exploitation in the community. Domestic violence leads an impact on the children in the family having a great effecting their studies and social circle.

Demanding dowry, bridal burning and death leads to the impact with the conflict with the modern value system leading to exploitation, mental and physical torture even leading to death or killing of the bride. The another effect of gender violence like rape ,sex trafficking ,sexual harassment has far reaching effects in the life of victim leading to depression and even try to take out their life by committing suicide. Mental trauma also leads to the life of victim. Even the family of the victim is also affected; they have to face a low prestige life in the society. The victim has to suffer a lot of humiliation. The main effect which gives a pain to the life of the victim suffered with rape or other type of sexual harassment is sexually transmitted infections in the victim's body which is quite non –curable.

Conclusion

Violence against women exists everywhere just it varies from time to time and to place to place in type, frequency, intensity and control. Even today there are many causes of gender violence which made women's life effected. The fourth world conference on women has adopted for platform for action, which declares that the "Violence against women is an obstacles to the achievement of the objective of equality, development and peace" (Population Reference Bureau 2003). The different types of violence based on gender should be stopped and legal laws should overcome these actions taking place in the society.

Rehabilitation centers must be established for battered women and these centers should be linked with some organizations which can provide women to start some sort of self-employment. Legislation which are made to prevent dowry system should be followed which could help in eradicating the dowry system to an extent. Burden of stigma and shamefulness should not be attached to the victim and the family. Most importantly sex education should be impacted by the parents, teachers and schools curriculum to the adolescents and youth so that they should be well acknowledged towards gender or any type of violence.

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