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GENDERED VIOLENCE: NEED TO CONTROL FROM ALL SECTORS**Dr. Anuradha Khade**Late. Nirdhanrao Patil Waghaye Arts, Commerce and Science College
Lakhani, Dist Bhandara**Dr. Nitin Kayarkar****Abstract**

Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of their gender. Both women and men experience gender-based violence but the majority of victims are women and girls. Gender violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continues to be of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. It gets manifested throughout the entire lifecycle of the women- right from the womb of the mother till death. Gender-based violence knows no social or economic boundaries and affects women and girls of all socio-economic backgrounds. Gender-based violence was traditionally conceptualized as violence by men against women, but is now increasingly taken to include a wider range of hostilities based on sexual identity and sexual orientation, including certain forms of violence against men who do not embody the dominant forms of masculinity.

Gender-based violence includes a broad spectrum of interactions, from verbal harassment and institutional discrimination to enslavement and murder. This continuum includes but is not limited to: acts of physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, economic and psychological violence by intimate partners or family members; sexual assault (including sexual assaults on children, stranger rape, acquaintance rape, marital rape and any unwanted touching, kissing or other sexual acts); sexual harassment and intimidation, and forced prostitution (Russell, 1984). Work on gender-based violence often focuses on one of three broad and widely overlapping areas: sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and sexual harassment.

International research has consistently revealed that woman is more vulnerable to being assaulted, injured, raped, or killed by a current or ex-partner than by a stranger.

This is in contrast to the situation for men, who are more prone to being attacked by a stranger or an acquaintance than an intimate partner. Therefore there is need to control incidences of gender-based violence are seldom disclosed and many women and gender minorities keep their victimisation concealed.

(Keywords-Violence. efforts, strategy, implication, role. acts etc)

Introduction

Patriarchal attitudes and beliefs are mainly cause for gender-based violence is often rooted in patriarchal attitudes and beliefs that view women as inferior to men and justify their subjugation in Indian society. Domestic violence includes all acts of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence that occur within the family, domestic unit, or between intimate partners. These can be former or current spouses also when they don't share the same residence. 22 % of all women who have (had) a partner have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a

partner since the age of 15. Sex-based harassment: includes unwelcome verbal, physical or other non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person. Between 45% to 55% of women in the EU have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 in current scenario. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the ritual cutting or removal of some or all of the external female genitalia. It violates women's bodies and often damages their sexuality, mental health, well-being and participation in their community. It may even lead to death. Today, more than 200 million girls and women alive worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation. Lack of gender inequality, including unequal access to education, employment, and resources, can contribute to gender-based violence.

Poverty: Poverty can exacerbate gender-based violence by increasing the vulnerability of women and girls to exploitation and abuse. Cultural norms that condone or normalize violence against women can perpetuate gender-based violence. In some cases, laws may not adequately protect women from violence, or they may not be enforced effectively. Women are often objectified and reduced to their physical appearance or sexual function, which can contribute to gender-based violence. Alcohol and drug abuse, substance abuse can increase the likelihood of gender-based violence by impairing judgment and inhibitions. Mental health issues, such as depression or anxiety, can make individuals more vulnerable to abuse and violence. Perpetrators of gender-based violence may not be held accountable for their actions, either due to social or legal barriers. Discrimination based on factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation can compound the effects of gender-based violence for marginalized groups.

Judicial Barriers

- Lack of access to justice institution mechanism, resulting in a culture of impunity for violence and abuse
- Lack of adequate and affordable legal advice and representation
- Lack of adequate victim and witness protection mechanism
- Inadequate legal framework, including national and traditional, customary and religious law, that discriminate against women and girls

Effects of gender-based violence

- While women are usually the victims of gender violence, the consequences of gender violence have negative impact on society as a whole.
- Gender-based violence typically has physical, psychological, and social effects.
- Gender-based violence has been linked to many serious health problems, both immediate and long-term. These include physical and psychological health problems

1. Physical

- Injury.
- Disability
- Chronic Health Problems
- Sexual And Reproductive Health Problems



- Death

2. Psychological

Effects can be both direct/ indirect

- Direct: anxiety, fear, mistrust of others, inability to concentrate, loneliness, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, suicide, etc.
- Indirect: psychosomatic illnesses, withdrawal, alcohol or drug use.

Economic and social impact:

- Rejection, ostracism and social stigma at community level;
- Reduced ability to participate in social and economic activities;
- Acute fear of future violence, which extends beyond the individual survivors to other members in community;
- Damage to women's confidence resulting in fear of venturing into public spaces
- Increased vulnerability to other types of gender-based violence;
- Job loss due to absenteeism as a result of violence;
- Negative impact on women's income generating power.

The impact of violence on society

- Burden on health and judicial systems
- Hindrance to economic stability and growth through women's lost productivity
- Hindrance to women's participation in the development processes and lessening of their contribution to social and economic development.
- Constrained ability of women to respond to rapid social, political, or economic change.
- breakdown of trust in social relationships
- Weakened support networks on which people's survival strategies depend.
- Impacts can range from physical harm to long term emotional distress to fatalities. Rape and sexual assault can result in unwanted pregnancies complications during pregnancy and birth.

Forms of gendered based violence

- **Domestic violence:** This refers to any form of violence that occurs within a domestic setting, such as between spouses or partners. It can include physical, sexual, emotional, or financial abuse.
- **Sexual violence:** This refers to any form of sexual activity that is non-consensual or forced. It can include rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation.
- **Human trafficking:** This refers to the recruitment, transportation, or harbouring of individuals for the purpose of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labor
- **Honor killings:** This refers to the killing of a family member, usually a woman, who is perceived to have brought shame or dishonour to the family.
- **Forced marriage:** This refers to a marriage in which one or both parties are forced to marry against their will. It is often used as a means of controlling women and girls.

- **Cyber harassment:** This refers to any form of online harassment or bullying that targets an individual based on their gender. It can include cyberstalking, revenge porn, and online hate speech.
- **Workplace harassment:** This refers to any form of harassment or discrimination that occurs in the workplace based on an individual's gender. It can include sexual harassment, unequal pay, and discrimination in hiring and promotion.

Government approach on gender-based violence

Constitutional Provisions:

The Constitutional framers had included several provisions in it in the form of Directive Principles, Fundamental Duties, the Preamble, and Fundamental Rights in the fundamental law of our land in order to prevent gender-based violence. Here they not just included those provisions in the Constitution but they included to authorize the centre to take appropriate measures to avoid this type of violence.

Based on those provisions, the Central Government had taken several remedial measures and also signed in several international treaties for guaranteeing equality for women.

- **Article 14:**
- This article authorizes the State to accept every person equally. "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India."
- **Article 15(1):**
- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Here the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- **Article 15(3):**
- This article of the Constitution states: "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children." Based on this provision, the central legislatures have enacted the child Sexual Harassment Act, the Domestic Violence Act, Workplace Harassment Law, and the Hindu Succession Act and also made amendments to criminal law recently (Nirbhaya case).
- **Article 16(1):**
- There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment under the State. (2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth or any of them, be ineligible for any office under the State.
- **Article 39(d):**
- States that the health and strength of workers irrespective of whether men, women or children shall not be abused or manipulated. Further, economic necessity/condition shall not be the reason for entering such avocation that is unsuitable for specific age or strength.



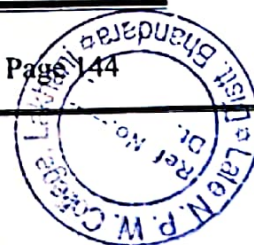
- **Article 39(A):**
- According to Article 39A of the Indian constitution the State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid.
- **Article 42 -** Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
- **Article 46 -** The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

Some of the acts are as follows

- Dowry Prohibition Act
- Amendments to the Indian Penal Code
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
- Domestic Violence Act
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
- Information and Technology Act
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
- Criminal Law (Amendment) Act
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act
- Child Labour Amendment Act
- Decriminalization of Gay Sex

suggestions

- **Education:** Education is the key to preventing gender-based violence. Schools should teach students about gender equality, respect for diversity, and healthy relationships. This will help young people to understand the importance of treating everyone with respect, regardless of their gender.
- **Empowerment:** Women and girls should be empowered to speak out against gender-based violence. They should be encouraged to report any incidents of violence and given access to support services. Women's groups and organizations can provide a safe space for women to share their experiences and find support.
- **Legal reforms:** Governments should enact laws that criminalize gender-based violence and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. Laws should also protect victims from retaliation and provide them with access to justice.
- **Community engagement:** Communities should be engaged in efforts to prevent gender-based violence. This can involve raising awareness through public campaigns, organizing community events, and working with local leaders to promote gender equality.
- **Men's involvement:** Men and boys should be actively involved in efforts to prevent gender-based violence. This can involve challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes, promoting healthy relationships, and speaking out against violence.



- **Economic empowerment:** Economic empowerment can help to prevent gender-based violence by reducing women's dependence on men and increasing their ability to support themselves financially. This can involve providing women with education and training, access to credit, and opportunities for entrepreneurship.
- **Support services:** Victims of gender-based violence should have access to a range of support services, including counselling, medical care, legal assistance, and safe housing. These services should be available to all victims, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.
- **Media engagement:** The media can play a powerful role in preventing gender-based violence by raising awareness, promoting positive role models, and challenging harmful stereotypes. The media should be encouraged to report on issues related to gender-based violence in a responsible and sensitive manner.
- **International cooperation:** Gender-based violence is a global issue that requires international cooperation. Governments, NGOs, and international organizations should work together to share best practices, coordinate efforts, and provide support to victims of gender-based violence around the world.
- **Awareness raising campaigns and policies to address gender inequality and gender-based violence** can also help to raise the importance of the problem in the public eye. Such campaigns might use traditional means, such as posters, leaflets and websites, but might also utilise social media and flash mobs, for example
- **Training professionals** to be able to identify, address and respond to gender-based violence. This might include providing training for teachers, youth workers, social workers, trainers, the police, the justice system, health care providers, etc.
- **Work to change attitudes, or questioning gender roles and stereotypes** that make gender-based violence acceptable in society. This can be done through organising campaigns, training, peer-to-peer education, or by including a gender equality dimension in all aspects of education policies.


Conclusions

Gender Based Violence is a harm for society and the upcoming generation. Specially women are targeted. Gender empowering and creation of social cultures that appreciate the role and differences in the gender act as a basis for stemming out gender violence. In times of war and conflict, human rights and social activists need highly developed systems of monitoring the military activities taking place in the refugee camps to ensure protection of women and vulnerable person living in the camps. Structural and cultural violence towards women remains evident in many societies. Inequalities and discrimination against women in the education, employment, and leadership opportunities presents an ample environment increased violence and gender disparities. Given the patriarchal nature of many societies, there is need for sensitized women focused development to stem out the culture of discrimination. Developing and in depth understanding of the root drivers of gender and violence against women offer the opportunities.



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