

Domestic Violence against Women: Forms, Consequences and Remedies

Abstract

The main objective of this research paper is to examine the forms, consequences and remedies of domestic violence against women. The study is based on secondary data and it is observed from the study that there are mainly three types of violence against women such as physical, psychological and sexual violence. It is concluded from the study that without educating the women about their rights, enforcement of strict laws and punishment for offence of domestic violence and without government and every person's intervention this problem cannot be solved.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Socio-Economic Responsibilities.

Introduction

Every phase of the life of human being encompasses various socio-economic responsibilities and obligations. But, women are burdened with more social liabilities as compared to men. They face the injustice and inequality since their childhood. They have subordinate status and their condition is very disappointing in the community. The son preference rather than daughter reveals the foremost inequality faced by the women in every society. Most of the women depend on others socially and economically. The twenty-first century has provided them many opportunities to come out of the shackles of social as well as economic liabilities. Efforts are being made to make them aware of their rights and consciousness is raised towards attaining autonomy in every field of their life. In spite of all these steps, women still remain subordinate to men and they are still considered to be the puppets in the hands of men. They are meant to stay in the domestic chores serving their family. Thus, they are expected to be dummy characters in the household, social and economic decisions which require the safety nets for them.

Indian society is also not far from reality. The condition of women is same as the other nations of the world. The gender inequality is faced by them in every sphere of their life. The most important form of gender inequality is revealed through domestic violence faced by the Indian women. The domestic violence against women is perpetrated by their partners or the non-partners. It can be in the form of physical assault, psychological harassment or sexual violence. This violence contributes to their bad health status and limits their primary roles in the society. Thus, domestic violence against women is not only the issue of rights of human beings especially the women, but, it is also considered to be a major factor concerning the health status of the women.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this research paper is to examine the forms, consequences and remedies of domestic violence against women. The study is based on secondary data and it is observed from the study that there are mainly three types of violence against women such as physical, psychological and sexual violence.

Forms of Domestic Violence

The domestic violence against women involves the gender based inequality in the form of physical, psychological or sexual harm to the women. The declaration on the elimination of violence against women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 defined violence against women as "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" (WHO, 2005). Thus, domestic violence involves the ill-treatment or the abusive behavior used against the women which affects their physical, mental as well as reproductive health.

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Physical Violence

The physical violence is the most common form of violence confronted by women from their partners or non-partners. The wife beating has attracted the attention of various government and non-government organizations. It is highlighted through various harmful acts of men towards women which result in physical injuries. These harmful acts involve beating, slapping and throwing or hurting with objects. In India, the women have high power to tolerate this violence. Women tolerate this violence because if they choose to leave them, they have no place to go and the social stigma associated with the broken marriage (bhuiya, et.al, 2003). Moreover, it is considered as the men's right to use violence against women in order to have control over them. This, in turn, restricts the women from defending themselves from the epidemic of physical aggression and they continue to suffer this pain for centuries.

Psychological Violence

The psychological harassment is the outcome of physical aggression faced by the women which has direct impact on their mental health. The psychological impact of violence is visible through their mental distress, depression, suicide attempts and substance use. Sometimes, they are not allowed to meet their natal family and their relatives without permission of their husbands. This results in irritation and mental disturbance among them. Along with this, the psychological harassment may force the women to indulge in harmful acts of committing or attempting to commit suicide and use of drugs. This may further worsen their health. The psychological distress results in the dreadful situation of women caused by their subordinate status in the society.

Sexual Violence

The women, who face the physical or psychological violence, may also encounter with sexual violence. Using vulgar language, unwanted touching or forced sex are the forms of sexual violence. This violence results in unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases or miscarriages which has direct impact on the reproductive health of women. The health consequences of physical violence against women include maternal mortality, gynaecological infections, unwanted pregnancies and depression (Kundu, et.al, 2007). The social norms, efforts to prevent employment and fear from husband constitute the main reasons for sexual violence. This form of violence is the main reason for rape or related activities. The economically independent and educated women face less sexual violence than the dependent and less educated or illiterate women. Thus, the sexual violence reveals the terrible face of gender inequality.

Consequences and Remedies

All the three forms of domestic violence, that is, physical, psychological and sexual violence have negative impact on the health of women. While the

various initiatives have highlighted the need to promote the health of the women but, still the results are far behind and the women acquire adverse health status due to violence. The domestic violence has increased their risks to life and it has resulted in depletion of reproductive health in addition to sex ratio. Physically, the women have not nourished health; psychologically, they go through mental distress and sexually, they are confronted with worse reproductive health and miscarriages. Thus, domestic violence needs to be addressed through various initiatives by public or private organizations. There is need to give due importance to the policies which aim at protecting them from epidemic of domestic violence and improve their health status. The health hazards for women must be reduced in order to ensure women empowerment through focusing on a joint policy regarding domestic violence and women's health.

Conclusion

Though many efforts are made by various sections of society and the Government to control the threat of domestic violence against women, but there is a rise in domestic violence. This can be limited by:

1. Educating women about their rights.
2. Community agenda for domestic violence.
3. Providing sufficient help to the victim
4. By contribution safe shelters, crisis interference, support, and education and prevention programs.
5. Provision of strict laws and punishment for offence of domestic violence.

To conclude it is therefore necessary that every person of society must contribute to make sure a violence free life for every woman.

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