

The Impact of Domestic Violence on Human in Different Ways

¹Manju Kumari and ²Dr. Rinki Verma

¹Research Scholar, Department of English, Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh

²Associate Professor, Department of English, Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 17 August 2020

Keywords

Domestic Violence, Human race, Victims, Children.

Corresponding Author

Email: [manjukumari199312\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:manjukumari199312[at]gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Domestic violence has always been discussed with the perception of women. As soon as we come across the word "Domestic violence", a face of a victimized woman comes in front of our eyes. But the fact isn't totally true; because not only women but also men and children become the victims of domestic violence and in a very horrendous way. This paper intends to focus on the impact of domestic violence on human as a whole but the impact will be shown in different ways which are never discussed openly in detail but its impact on the entire human race is terrible, whether it be men, women or children.

1. Introduction

Domestic violence is any form of violence that takes place within the four walls of a family. However, any kind of verbal abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse comes under the category of domestic violence. Domestic violence is not a recent issue. It has not originated suddenly during the twentieth or the twenty-first century. It was already there since ages, which can be witnessed in a very famous Law book of India i.e. *Manusmriti*. The date of its origin is uncertain but some researchers suggest that it was written around 200 B.C. In *Manusmriti* there are huge numbers of laws meant for women. In verses 5.147-5.148 of *Manusmriti* it has been stated that a woman cannot have a liberty of her own, which means that if a woman raises her voice or seek freedom from all the social bondages, she is to be punished. This also suggests that patriarchal society has permitted men to torture women in the name of gender since ages though there was no proper term for the word violence caused to women by men. The National family and Health Survey in 2005 conducted a survey where they found that prevalence of domestic violence in India was 33.5% and 8.5% for sexual violence among women between the age group of 15-49 years. However, we cannot deny the fact that India ranks first in the list of the dangerous country in the world for women.

Though the origin of Domestic Violence is uncertain, one can guess the root cause of domestic violence i.e. 'dowry'. Dowry system in India is not a new concept. This originated with the origin of social or cultural construct. Though according to the Dowry prohibition Act, 1961 giving and taking dowry is a crime, it is still prevalent in India in the form of gifts for the brides. Girls are provided with gifts in the form of money, gold coins, gold and silver jewellery, animals, vehicles, etc, during the time of marriage which basically is dowry; which would symbolize the rise of their status in the eyes of their in-laws and their neighbours. Those girls whose families were incapable to pay huge amount of dowry to their in-laws had to go through all kinds of violence caused by the husband and his family. Most of the dowry victims die due to severe torture; most of the brides are killed by their in-laws within a year or so in excessive greed of earning lots of money or becoming rich instantly without any hard work. According to the report of 2012 found

by the National Crime Records Bureau, India reported dowry homicide rate of 0.7 per 100,000 and the rate of domestic cruelty by husband or his relatives as 5.9 per 100,000.

It is also seen that most of the married women turn insane or a maniac due to unbearable torture on their body parts and also because their parents turn them down by saying that they belong to the husband and his family. According to the parents they doesn't have any right on their married daughters, and their husband's family own them after marriage, so it is their choice to keep them alive or kill them which makes the pain unbearable and gives them a trauma. Women doesn't have any place of their own, they have to rely on their parents before marriage and on the husband after marriage; wherever they get food and shelter, they move and survive accordingly similar to an animal. Even if you kick the animals they will follow you only for that one meal to survive. The status of woman is no less than an animal in India. Even in the twenty-first century in many of the remote places women are treated brutally and cruelly. If the women folk try to fight against the patriarchal and societal stigmas they are raped and murdered to make them silent.

Domestic Violence in simple term means domestic abuse or family violence. It may take various forms such as: physical, verbal, mental, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive, sexual abuse, marital rape, female genital mutilation, acid throwing, bride burning, honor killings, dowry deaths and many more. Researchers believe that rate of Domestic violence is higher in those countries where Gender Equality level is poor. In the modern scenario, not only women but men and children are also victims of domestic violence and it is considered as one of the most underreported crimes world-wide for men, women and children. Now, women are coming up with their own experiences of domestic violence and fighting against it but there are few women who cook up stories to play the victim card, where the case is totally the opposite according to the husband.

Since domestic violence against men are hardly registered in India there are very less number of cases registered till date. A recent study on domestic violence against men says that 51.5% males have experienced violence by their wives at least once in their life time. However, it is said that men experience higher rate of all forms of violence than women except sexual

violence. Whenever men try to file a case of domestic violence, they are ridiculed by the police officials, and also by the neighbors and the relatives who question them about their masculinity. Men are always ridiculed and are said that it is shameful for the person if he doesn't have the capability to even control his wife or a woman. Those men who are ridiculed in the name of gender turn out pugnacious and try to commit crimes like rape, murder, suicide, etc. It is noticeable that men mostly die due to cardiac arrest which is the ultimate result of excessive work and abuses faced by them. There are very less number of suicidal deaths of men due to domestic violence compared to women, but we cannot deny the fact that both men and women can be the worst sufferers and victims of Domestic violence.

People who tend to suffer from Domestic violence are generally seen to be more aggressive and are irritated soon, they are mostly hushed people since they cannot express their feelings independently. Moreover, victims of domestic violence get trapped within their psychological traumas which lead to isolation, loneliness, mental illness, and suicides. It occurs in almost all the countries of the world but the people of lower socio-economic status are seen to be at higher risk of domestic violence. Familial issues taking the form of violence can impact the minds of children to a greater degree. Children facing domestic violence have been witnessed recently because it was earlier believed that the violence is between two partners and hence they are the only ones who suffer. But due to violence in the family children become the worst sufferers as they have to witness all the arguments and choose one among their parents, which is a difficult, almost impossible thing for a child to do so. This comes as a great shock to the children which ultimately become a reason for mental trauma. We can even say that domestic violence between parents can turn out to be a kind of mental harassment on children. It is noticeable that witnessing violence between parents can have an adverse effect on the minds of the children in various ways, such as, poor mentality, anxiety, fear, depression, poor capability of remembering things, getting irritated quickly, depression which leads to suicidal tendencies, etc. It is also seen that children who witness violence at home become more and more aggressive with their friends and classmates in schools. They are seen to be the most mischievous students in schools. Stealing, fighting, executing small crimes at a tender age as well as getting indulged in unlawful activities can lead to a dark future for the young minds. Children who are mentally disturbed at home are mostly the ones who become alcoholic and addicted to drugs quickly. The drug dealers mostly look for such children to exploit them. Hence, we can say that unguarded and unprotected home can have a vulnerable life for the children.

Another most important and most dangerous impact of domestic violence is that the children have to lose one of their parents. No matter how close the parents are to their children but the physical absence of both the parents together at home can also have a negative impact in the young minds. They fear to give commitments in life. Also, they make up their own fantasy world where everybody with a single life lives happily. They want to do whatever they feel like and these children are mostly seen to get more aggressive when they do not get what they want. This is basically the outcome of forcing the children to choose one of their parents in husband-wife violence,

irrespective of the fact, what the children actually want. The parents mostly file a case for the custody of their children. They think they are capable enough to nurture their children alone, but the parents fail to give the love, care and attention of both the parents together, which again make the children, isolate themselves from the outer world. These children mostly live an isolated life without talking much about their personal life. These vulnerable children totally cut themselves from the social world to keep their personal life a secret. They don't like sharing their feelings to anybody, not even to their parents and siblings. These isolations then lead them to depression and suicide as they feel there is no one who bothers and cares for him/her. They feel lonely; making friends seems to be a huge task for these types of children, who fear the fact that their friends will laugh, humiliate and will never try to understand them. Without knowing the truth people will judge them which ultimately lead those children to aggressive nature.

Children, who witness violence every now and then at home are likely to be seen lacking in confidence. They are confined to their own world so much that their mental development stops growing. Psychologically they are so disturbed that they lose interest in the physical activities, which results to be a patient of insomnia, though they lie on their bed for the whole day. Excessive jealousies, possessiveness, verbally aggressive, blackmailing and all sorts of things are mostly seen among those children who don't feel protective at home. If these children are again cheated by their friends in any way, they tend to get more aggressive and hit the other person or hit themselves. There are very less number of people whom they can trust but if the trusted person gives more attention to some other friends, they get annoyed and feel lonely. Hence, we can say that loneliness leads to depression; and depression leads to suicidal tendencies.

"I don't want to go back home, because my hostel room is my protective world. I think if I move out from this place I will lose myself, I will die because I cannot see my parents fighting everyday and threatening to kill each other".

The above quoted lines are spoken by a girl who has been going through mental trauma since a tender age and is a victim of domestic violence at home. She witnessed all sorts of arguments and fights between her parents, which has forced her to live a life of isolation. She was most of the time forced to witness all the arguments going on between the mother and father to teach her a lesson for life after she gets married. This is an example of the fact that how deeply the children are affected psychologically due to familial issues.

2. Conclusion

Hence, we can conclude by observing that whether it is psychological trauma or physical trauma both of them have a bad and equal impact on the minds of all the human beings, no matter of which religion, class, caste and gender they are. Domestic violence not only leads to an uneasy life but it also makes life difficult for all those people involved in it. Truly, the couples are affected by its adverse effect, but it should also be noted that the bright life of the young minds are totally devastated by the familial insecurities.

References

- [1]. Edleson, Jeffrey L. "Children's Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence". *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. August, 1999.
- [2]. Kitzmann, Katherine M., Gaylord, Noni K., Holt, Aimee R., and Kenny, Erin D. "Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence: A Meta-Analytic Review". *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2003.
- [3]. Despande, Sanjay, "Sociocultural and Legal Aspects of Violence Against men". *Journal of Psychosexual Health*, Dec 30, 2019.