



Short Review Paper

Violence against women: a gender perspective

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Available online at: www.isca.in, www.isca.me

Received 10th September 2017, revised 9th January 2018, accepted 13th January 2018

Abstract

The only creation of almighty in the universe that has the inherent capacity to create and sustain a universe, the blessed one to bless entire world. The status of women, especially Indian woman is mysterious. She has passed from the state of princess to slave in the ancient, medieval and modern era respectively. Every coin has two sides. Somewhere she is being treated as equal compared to male entity while somewhere she has been treated as just an object. The medieval period is considered as the "dark period" in the history. Later on by the efforts of various social and political leaders worked for upliftment of marginalized women. As a result, a mixed response was received for women welfare. In addition, still the society has those orthodox masses who still believe women are there to please the family members by being within the four walls of a house. The present paper briefly discusses the status of Indian women from ancient to present (modern) life, the experience from the junction of princess hood to slavery. It further reveals the conceptual framework of Gender and Sex. Gender based violence- its forms will be highlighted. Further, it will focus on some initiated programmes launched and designed for women welfare by state and central government under various ministries.

Keywords: Marginalized, orthodox, gender, sex, gender based violence.

Introduction

The existence of women in the universe is the mean for the sustainability of the mankind. Since the inception of the world, the all creatures of a creator are equipped with end number of resources in terms of money, material, men, etc. The sense of togetherness, sense of equity, sense of fraternity and synergy were received by default to social animals. The time never remains the same. The platinum era turned into golden, golden into silver and so on the deterioration was witnessed. The women were the highest susceptible in this regard. The further reading of the article briefly discuss on the development of women to deterioration and later on the developing state of women only.

Women in India

Indian Constitution guarantees equality for both genders i.e. male and female in every span of life and activity. As far as equality for women is concerned in the education, health, vocation and in other dimensions, it has been sanctioned by state to Indian women¹. The status of Indian women is categorized as the ancient era, the medieval era and the modern era.

Ancient women: Women enjoyed an equal quantity of freedom in this period. In the Vedic period, she had her own stand with regard to religious ceremonies. The historian characters like Goddess Sita, Draupadi- 'the Panchali'- (wife of five Pandavas) who is recalled frequently by the Indian Culture even after the ages.

Medieval women: The adventure of Islamic ruler in India, kept the women in the state of dependency from the state of independency. The Purdah System (veiling of women) among the Islam forced non-Islam to follow the same system. Indian women cursed by child marriage, the veiling system Sati System, the dowry system and so on. Due to Islamic rules, the Hinduism was forced to accept and adapt the practices which constrained development of Hindu females. Beliefs and practices further constrained the status of Indian women. So, the blessed status of women was reversed in cursed state in the middle period.

Women in modern period: In the Contemporary era, due to the British advent, many policy makers changes took place as a part of involvement of some eminent social reformers. As a result, the education, health, economy etc. were increased in a positive direction for women empowerment².

Presently, from the walls of kitchen, she has reached to space. The live examples of women empowerment are many. She has her stand in each and every sphere of life. Indira Gandhi, Kalpana Chawla, Sunita William, Late Mangeshwar, Saina Nehwal etc. are the role models for women achievement.

Forms of gender-based violence

According to the conclusion of union council (5th and 6th June of 2014), following are formed as Gender based violence against women³.

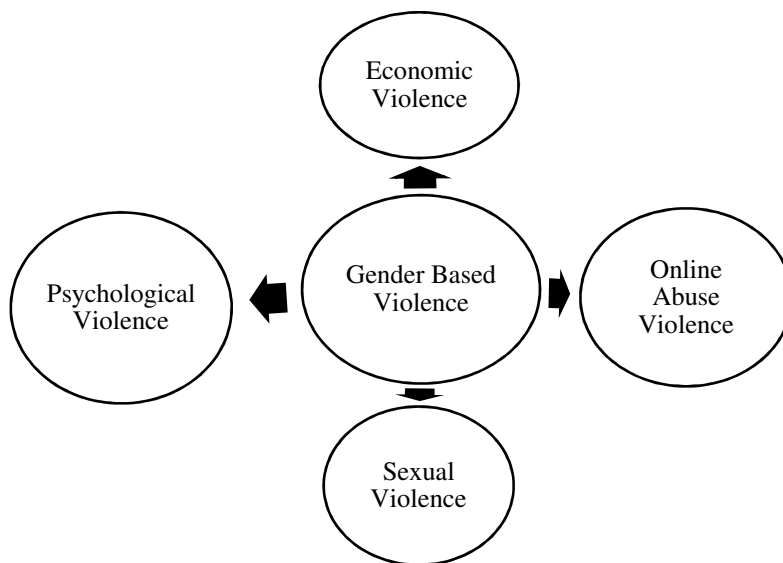


Figure-1: Gender based violence as a broad.

Table-1: Shows the detail explanation on gender based violence against women.

Form of Violence	Exploration on form of Violence
Economic Violence	Denying for employment
	Denial for property
	Denial from Utilization of money
	Deprivation from decision making in economic matter
Online Abuse (Cyber World Violence)	Online harassment
	Stalking (unwanted or obsessive attention for a person)
	Bullying (unwanted, aggressive behavior)
Sexual Violence	Forced sex
	Rape
	Sexual assault in public place or privately
Psychological Violence	Controlled behaviour by husband or any other family members
	Forced marriage
	Child marriage

Gender and Sex

The psychological traits and Sociological traits distinguish the male and female. The feature like internal and emotional organs differs in male and female. So when we think on male reproductive organ spermatozoa the muscles, the long beard,

etc. are the symbolic person of being a man. Likewise, about female they are ovaries, breast, long hair, etc. are being discussed. Therefore, the physical characteristic that departs the humans in male and female is sex.

Gender is the behavioural patterns and the societal roles given or described for male and female. Certain roles are there which are specified for particular gender. For example, earning and livelihood responsibilities are on the shoulder of male whereas, household chores are the pocket of female⁴.

In the nutshell, it can be concluded that the sex is connected with the physique of a person and gender is associated with the societal expected role as masculine and feminine.

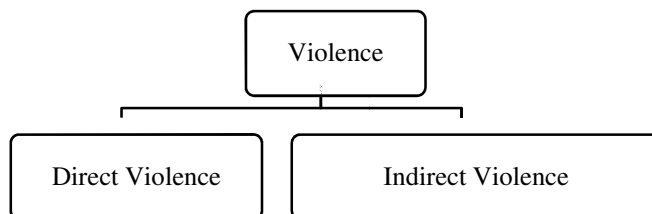


Figure-2: Classification of violence.

The violence occurs between husband and wife is termed as Intimate Partner Violence. (IPV) Direct Violence and Indirect Violence are termed as two headings of typology of violence. The Direct Violence is explained through the structural disequilibrium with regard to physical, psychological, economical life. The Indirect Violence wherein a female character is discriminated on a least grounds of norms, customs, traditions, stereotyped roles, etc. This is done generally on the grounds of gender.

The women emancipation and woman subordination is prevalent in Indian culture since the conception of human

civilization. It is also fact that the constitution of India has tried hard to bring the state of equilibrium. However, the decentralization of the initiatives/steps taken by the state is poor at some extent⁵.

The next phase of the paper briefly discusses the strategies and plans designed for the women empowerment. They are categorized under four heads, i.e. health initiatives, employment initiatives, social security and initiatives for literacy⁶.

Strategies and Plans

Health Dimension: i. Initiative: Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS), Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Purpose/Objective: To leverage the Information Technology for ensuring delivery and Immunization for expecting mother. ii. Initiative: Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana, Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched it in 2010. Purpose/Objective: Safe delivery and proper nutritional and feeding practices. iii. Initiative: Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA), Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (In the year 2011), Purpose: To strengthen the morbidity and nutritional status of adolescent girls.

Education Dimension: i. Initiative and Purpose/Objective: Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya- for the primary education of girl children. Target Group: Girls of below 16 years of age. ii. Initiative and Purpose/Objective: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan for the elementary education, Target Group: all the children between the age group of 6-14 years. iii. Initiative and Purpose/Objective: Saakshar Bharat Mission for the increasing female literacy ratio (Adult Education). Target Group: Females of 15-35 years of age, iv. Initiative and Purpose/Objective: Kanya Saksharta Protsahan Yojana for creating interest, Target Group: Females belong to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribal Community.

Employment Dimension: i. Initiative and Purpose/Objective: (Support to the programme for training and employments to women i.e. STEP, this scheme was designed to provide sustained employment to needy and poor women. Focused Group: Assetless and poor women. ii. Initiative and Purpose / Objective: National Credit Fund for Women (Rashtriya Mahila Kosh). The centrally sponsored scheme was set to upgrade social and monetary (financial) condition of women. Beneficiary: Women from backward belt, iii. Swayam siddha: This scheme was launch in February, 2001. The basic aim of the scheme was holistic development of women.

Social Security Dimension: Initiatives: The Constitution of India provides for equal rights and privileges for men and women and makes special provisions for women to help them to improve their status in society⁷.

As far as the development of working women or non-working women is concerned, several Acts were designed and are implemented for the security purposes of women.

Table-2: Displays laws (legislation) pertaining to women welfare.

Act of maternal leave launched in 1961 i.e. Maternity Benefit
Social Security measure as payment of gratuity in 1972
The Act pertaining to Provident Fund (1996) (EPF)
The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
The Employee's State Insurance Act, 1948

Conclusion

Since the ages, it is presumed for female to manage the domestic chaos and for men to manage task of breadwinner. Then a time has come where few regions i.e. some developed states and cities have try to change the stereotyped patterns of society. As a result, some eminent women experienced the pick of education, employment, leadership, etc. still, on the other hand, we have an another side of coin, where, the creators of new generations are not even allowed to breath freely. She is forced to be the illiterate, slave, victim of wimple practice, marriage at the age of adolescent, motherhood at very young age and so on.

The concept paper has attempted to orient some needful social legislation and certain initiatives to promote and demote female literacy ratio and child marriages respectively.

It is said about India that it has good planners, but poor executors. It is true in this regard where end number of schemes for women welfare is designed but that has not reached to every target group. The State (Law) has certain policies and programmes but its decentralization is not effective. The only way to free women from the state of subordinators and marginalization is sensitization. Through gender sensitization and awareness for the same, the message can spread on gender equity and more and more people can be awakened.

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