



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ROLE OF FEMINISM

Dr.Deoman Shrikrushna Umbarkar

Department of Sociology,
Late.Vasantrao Kolhatkar Arts College, Rohana, Tah. Aroi Dist.Wardha

ABSTRACT

Violence against women is not only restricted in India but also it is world wide. Women's are victim of domestic violence from ancient period of time. Generally domestic violence victim are women, children, adult and men. In our male dominant Indian society most of the percentage of victim is women. There are some reasons like slavery, illiteracy, dowry, emotional, sexual harassment and others for domestic violence. The concept, causes, analysis of domestic violence is well explained here with the help of phenomenon feminism. Feminism, women's movement definitely inspiring and enriching the others. Social, cultural, political movements, theories and moral philosophies for gender inequalities, equal rights also explained the feminism. The women's struggle for their rights is not only restricted in India but in world also focus such serious issues.

KEY WORDS:- Domestic violence, Feminism

INTRODUCTION

India is a country of south Asia. It is seventh largest country of area, the second most populous country and most populous democracy in the world. Officially it is a "Republic India". India is a largest megadiversity with flora and fauna. It contain religious, cultural, spiritual, social importance. Among socio-economic challenges India faces many problems like gender inequality, child malnutrition, poverty, child labour, human trafficking, corruption, population etc. The gender inequality creates imbalance between men and women. This is due to male dominance over women. Nowadays women's empowerment increases strength of women due to education. She has a chance to go in every sector due to her strength, power of intelligence and she is trying to balance equality with men. The gender equality awareness programmed run by Government by various ways like social media, newspaper, T.V.channels, educational departments, various offices,schools,colleges etc. The aim of this programme is to remove inequality between men and women but one of the major issues related to this fact is the domestic violence. There is a complex relationship between gender and violence .The male, female, childrens and adult with their specific behavior in society. Differences in gender roles and behaviours often create inequalities, whereby one gender becomes empowered to the disadvantages to the other. The present paper deals with the issues related to domestic violence in India and world. The term feminism also helps to explain this concept.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

For a relationship honesty, emotion, mutuality, respect and love is essential. It makes a good partnership. Domestic violence can be broadly defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family friends or cohabitation. According to the UN, "there is no region of the world, no country and no culture in which women's freedom from violence has been secured.(1)

Domestic violence happens between people who are dating, married, separated and divorced. It occurs in heterosexual as well as in gays and lesbian relationships and in adolescent dating relationships. Domestic violence can happen to any one of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or who are dating. This way of life is nothing new to humans. It has gone on for hundreds of years.

Domestic violence is not caused by stress, mental illness, alcohol or drugs. It classify into criminal domestic violence and non criminal domestic violence. Generally the physical domestic violence contain hitting, verbal or sexual but in mental domestic violence psychological, emotional, economical(FOW). Domestic violence not only restricted for women but also for men, children, adult of the society also the victim of them.(4) Every day 4 women,1 man and almost 5 children die as result of domestic violence. In 2003,Lesbians,gays,bisexuals or transgendered people experienced 6,523 incidents of domestic violence,44% were men,36% women and 2% transgendered for every hour, as many as 115 children are abused.90% of children from violent homes witness their fathers beatings their mothers. Mothers are also often abused in front of their children, which may trigger shame/embarrassment, compromising their role as mothers, as men's violence affects all aspects of women's lives, including their physical and mental health, which makes it difficult to perform the already strenuous work involved in mothering (2).Children exposed to domestic violence experience fear, anxiety, low self esteem, withdrawal and poor performance in school. Everyday nearly ten people die as a result of domestic violence in the United States. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender.(5)



Domestic violence may start when one partner feels the need to control and dominate the other. Some men with very traditional beliefs may think they aren't equal to men. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. 1/3rd of women in the world have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or other abuse in their lifetime. Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone known to her. (8). In US in 1970's the term 'The family violence' originated. There are various forms of violence like rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, acid throwing reproductive coercion, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection, obstetric violence and mobile violence, honor killings, dowry violence, female genital mutilation, marriage by abduction and forced marriage. The term gender based violence refers to "any acts or threats of acts intended to hurt or make women suffer physically, sexually or psychologically and which affect women because they are women or affect women disproportionately. (9)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA

There are various reasons for domestic violence like Feticide, infanticide, physical assaults, rapes, molestations, dowry deaths, female literacy rate etc.

Feminism- Feminism is a collection of movements and ideologies including establishing, defending, political, socio-economic rights for women, women suffrage. Feminism has shown and continues to show that poverty is very much a feminist issue. Whilst the inequality exists in wages and on the work floor, women will find it a greater struggle to reach out of poverty. Whilst they are kept in poverty, they remain powerless, and men continues to oppress them. Feminism are of various types like radical feminism, socialist feminism, cultural feminism, liberal feminism, islamic feminism. According to American Heritage Dictionary- feminism is someone male or female who believes in social, political and economic equality between the sexes. Generally feminism is a philosophy in which women and their contributions are valued. Using a feminist framework, we found that patriarchal family structures, gender and power dynamics contribute to the use of violence. The term was developed in France (Feminism) in the mid-1800s.

Feminism form three waves :- During **first wave of feminism** start in 19th century in UK and USA including equal property rights and opposition to "chattel" marriage, later for political power and suffrage, voting rights, antislavery, against abortion. It's activity in 19th and 20th century in united kingdom and USA it focused on equal contract, marriage, parenting, property rights but at the end of 19th century political power, women suffrage, women's reproductive, economic rights. It also shows combination of social and economic forces, campaigns for vote and equality.

During **second wave of feminism** in 1960-80's- In 1963- criticized the ideas that women could only find fulfillment through childrearing and homemaking, women are victims of a false belief system that requires them to find identity and meaning in their lives through husbands and children, women

lose their identity in that of their family, new technologies made households less difficult making women work less meaningful and valuable. In 1960's – the end of the 'patriarchy' women became active in politics, demanded and won the rights to university education, to a career, to easy divorce, suddenly women began voting differently to men. During third waves early 1990's- 2nd wave over-emphasize the experience of upper middle-class white women.

During **third wave of feminism** sudden representation of women at all levels of Government issues which appear to limit or oppress women, gender violence has become a central issue for third wave feminists. There are criticisms between waves.

Feminist theory is the extension of feminism into theoretical or philosophical fields and in other disciplines like anthropology, sociology, economics and women's studies, literacy criticism, art history and philosophy. Feminist theory aims to understand gender inequality and focuses on gender politics, power relations. In the field of literature the feminist movement produced both feminist fiction and non-fiction and created new interest in women's writing. Gender inequality have a large and wide ranging impact on society. For example, they can contribute to gender inequities in health and access to health care, opportunities for employment and promotion levels of income, political participation and representation and education. For instance, traditional beliefs that men have a right to control women make women and girls vulnerable to physical, emotional and sexual violence by men (6) (7)

The world health organization reports that 40-70% of women murdered in the US, Canada, Australia and Israel were killed by their husband or male partners. Rape is a threat to women everywhere in the US, 74 women are raped every hour, 1 in 4 women in her lifetime. In India a woman is raped every 35 minutes and 1 in 10 reported to police. Feminist constructions of domestic violence as a social problem vary and range from early constructs focusing on family preservation to later ones emphasizing mental illness, sex differences in intersubjectivity, male domination, family conflict and survival.

According to **Thomson Reuters foundations** experts survey found the ten most dangerous countries for women were seen to be India, Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen, Nigeria, USA.

THE WORLD MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRIES FOR WOMEN 2018

INDIA- RANK-01-causes- 1) the risk of sexual violence and harassment against women. 2) the danger women face from cultural, tribal and traditional practices. 3) the country where women are most in danger of human trafficking including forced labour, sex slavery and domestic servitude.

AFGANISTAN-RANK-02-causes- 1) the most dangerous in terms of non sexual violence such as conflict-related violence and domestic abuse 2) the worst access to healthcare and a lack of access to economic resources and discrimination over jobs and land.

SYRIA- RANK-03-causes- 1) in terms of access to healthcare and regards non violence which includes conflict related violence as well as domestic abuse. 2) Syria was a joint third



with the united states with regards to the risks women faced of sexual violence and harassment and named seventh worst for lack of access to economic resources.

SOMALIA-RANK-04-causes-1) Somalia as the third most dangerous country for women in terms of access to healthcare and for putting them at risk of harmful cultural and traditional practices.2) Somalia was named as fifth worst country in terms of women having access to economic resources, tied ninth when it came to non sexual violence such as conflict related violence and tied 10th on sexual violence.

SAUDI ARABIA-RANK-05-causes-1) customary gender segregation in most workplaces still limits the way in which women can be employed and a guardianship law by which women need permission from a male relative to travel abroad, marry and other activities remains in place.

PAKISTAN-RANK-06-causes-1) regarding the risks women faced from cultural, religious and traditional practice including so-called "honour" killings.2) Pakistan ranked fifth when it come to non-sexual violence including domestic abuse and point seventh regarding sexual violence and harassment.3) World Bank Data shows almost one in the three married Pakistani women report facing physical violence from their husband although informal estimates are much higher.4) Rights groups say hundreds of women and girls are killed in Pakistan each year by family members angered at perceived damage to their honour. In Pakistan the feminists work for women's like Asma Jahangir, Fareeda Kokikhel Afridi, Kishwar Naheed, Khalida Brohi etc.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO-RANK-07-causes-1) The vast Central African country ranked as the second most dangerous country for women as regards sexual violence.2) it ranked between seventh and ninth including non sexual violence, access to healthcare, economic resources and cultural and traditional threats.

YEMEN-RANK-08-causes-1) Yemen was named as the eighth most dangerous country for women.2) It ranked poorly on access to healthcare, economic resources, the risk of cultural and traditional practices and non sexual violence.

NIGERIA-RANK-09-causes-1) Africa's most populous country was named as the sixth worst nation regards the risks women face from cultural and traditional practices and tied 10th when respondents were asked about the risks of sexual violence, human trafficking, the tens of thousands of Nigerian women have been trafficking into Europe from sexual exploitation.

USA-10-causes-1) According to #Me Too campaign against sexual harassment or abuse. Thousands have joined this campaign was accused of sexual misconduct.

Affected women can complain to the concerned protection officer, police officer, service provider or magistrate. Aggrieved woman has right to be informed about the available services and free legal services from the protection officer. Domestic violence is still not viewed as a serious criminal offence by the judiciary in India. None of the judgement over the year acknowledge that domestic violence is a closed-door crime, ignored by neighbors and the community. In 1983, domestic violence was recognized as a specific criminal offence by the introduction of section 498-A into the Indian penal code. This section deals with cruelty. Some myths about

domestic violence that causes of domestic violence are not known to date. The research carried out in different parts of the world indicates that any social structure which treats women as fundamentally of less value than men is conducive to violence against women.

Personal safety skills require to avoid the violence. Personal safety skills will not effective to solve the violence problem, but in some extent it avoid getting into a destructive relationship, handle in each and every situation and help them. Protecting physically without fighting back, creating a safety plan, assessing that what is normal and what is dangerous in relationship, keeping the children as safe as possible, paying attention and surviving at the time of dating, abusiveness etc.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Violence against women is deeply rooted in our country. To spread awareness and knowledge about what feminism works for equality. Everyone who has a mother, sister, daughter, son or a friend would want them to have respect and rights, commitment to achieving the equality of the sexes. For the feminist movement there is a need to address radically the additional layers of discrimination women experience because of class, race, sexuality, disability and age and also the heightened impact on women and children of war, poverty and environmental degradation. Domestic violence is both a national and a worldwide crisis. According to a 1100 UNICEF study, 20-50% of the female population of the world will become the victims of domestic violence (10) The domestic violence and feminism are related concept on women issues. The domestic violence not only restricted for women but also it is found in children, adult and even in men also. In some extent women also responsible for domestic violence but due to male dominancy and gender inequality it's effect mostly found on women. The daughter, children, mother, sister, girlfriend, wife, women's in the society etc were the victims of domestic violence. To stop the domestic violence personal safety skill is also help to handle the situation. Discrimination starts even before women are born and continue till they die. In India, each and every person take part to oppose the domestic violence then we are not in the list of topper rank of world most dangerous country of domestic violence. If we start to oppose such a thing from our house then definitely victims are decrease, women's power increases which is beneficial for our society and also for our nation India.

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