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IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON WOMEN AND CHILD**ABSTRACT**

It is known that women enjoyed considerable prestige, respect, and Independence in the past. However, today's society has consistently struggled with the issue of domestic violence. The long-term effects of the violence that women experience on children are dependent. Women may experience physical, sexual, or emotional assault in this situation. Women are being violently treated, regardless of status. According to a recent study by the Hindu, 86% of women reported receiving no assistance from others, and 77% did not even talk about the pain they had gone through. In the household, the woman is not given equal representation. Children are thought of as a step forward in the growth of the nation, yet violence is destructive to children. This will have an effect on their dread, anxiety, and despair. This will adversely impact the child's mental health. Until they require a psychiatrist or mental health advocate to eliminate the stigma they had on the people, their viewpoint toward society will remain unchanged. In this world, domestic violence is regarded as a severe violation of human rights. This research aims to find of impact faced by women and children.

Keywords: domestic violence, Women, child, victims.

INTRODUCTION

The report's findings and identified research initiatives revealed the discrepancies between the constitutional provisions of equality for women and reality. Women's organisations and human rights organisations tackle a variety of issues, including as assault, domestic violence, dowry deaths, female

foeticide, etc., in their campaigns and pursuit of gender justice. The second wave of the women's movement of this century made a comeback in the middle of the 1970s and early 1980s. The analysis of the corpus of existing information has also benefited from this new understanding of prejudice, deference, and neglect. Studies on women began with this. Laws and revisions to the current Acts, policies, and programmes for women have been passed despite flaws and shortcomings.

Ironically, in the Indian situation, women and goddesses are worshipped. "Yathra nariyasthu pujiyathe ramanthe thathra devathaha." Where women are revered, angels shall live. Subsequently, Women are denied a status and an autonomous identity. The social structure, culture, economics, and governance are all deeply intertwined with this. "A woman should never be independent. Her father has authority over her in childhood, her husband in youth, and her son in old age. "

According to research, domestic violence rates and the degree of gender equality in a nation are significantly and directly correlated. Gender equality is worse in nations with a greater incidence of domestic violence. India has adopted many measures to eliminate discrimination against women. Article 15 (3) of the Indian Constitution gives the legislature power to make special provisions for women and children. In exercise of this power, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) was passed in 2005¹. The Act provides for the definition of "domestic violence", which is vast and covers not just physical but also emotional, economic, sexual, and verbal abuse as well as other types of violence. It is a civil legislation, not a criminal one, and it is primarily intended for protective orders.

Section 3 of the Domestic violence Act, 2005 defines domestic violence as "any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it:

- harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or wellbeing, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or
- harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security, or"²

Women do not need to endure a sustained period of abuse before seeking legal help as violence against women can occur with just one act of omission or conduct. The Act applies to all women, regardless of whether they are mothers, sisters, wives, widows, or roommates. However, no complaint may be filed against the wife by a female relative of the husband or the husband himself. The Domestic

¹ Coordinator, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, JournalsOfIndia (2021)

² The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, No. 43, Acts of Parliament , 2006

Violence Act also provides the remedy for children. Therefore, children's covered under the legislation. This Act provides a remedy for the victims.

In contrast to its predecessor 498A, this allows the victim to file the case immediately with the district's protection officer, who would thereafter transfer it to the magistrate court without the assistance of an attorney. According to this Act, the maximum penalty is one year in jail or a fine of Rs 20,000. Typically, these situations result in separation, which makes it simpler for the abusive men to divorce their wives and find other partners.

IMPACT ON THE WOMEN

The domestic Violence Act defines it as "physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and financial abuse against a woman by her partner or family members residing in a joint family and also includes unlawful dowry". In a patriarchal society, women are often victims of domestic violence. A diverse range of groups, including women in the media, in the workplace, at home, and in many other professions, has spoken out and encouraged others to do the same. Women who are victims of domestic violence often endure severe physical and emotional abuse. The majority of reported abuse incidents worldwide originate from India. This violence has been widely practised by men for centuries. This is negatively impacting the child's mental health³. This would have a long-term impact on them and might escalate into abuse if they get married. Nearly 283 cases of cruelty towards the wife by the husband or his relatives are reported daily in India. Emotional harassment, demand for dowry, physical, verbal and sexual violence. All of this fall under domestic violence. Any such behaviour, whether physical, sexual, emotional, economically harmful, or the risk of harming someone else, is intended to establish control over a close relationship. These activities fall under the categories of frightful, frightening, hurtful, humiliating, critical, destructive, or harmful to someone. No matter a person's caste, colour, or ethnicity, they might become a victim of this. This may occur in dating and cohabiting relationships.

Women who experience domestic violence often have poor health. It adversely affects their emotional and physical well-being, including their sexual and reproductive health. Injuries, gynaecological issues, depression, suicide, and other issues are also included. Both immediately and over time, domestic violence severely impacts women's health and wellbeing, and it can persist even after a relationship has ended. After the anguish, battered women often remain silent, in agony, and emotionally disturbed. Domestic abuse causes psychological anguish and setbacks for women, which

³ Mittal, Kunjana, 2020/07/07, Impact of Domestic Violence on Children, pg10
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impacts their productivity in all facets of life. Another fatal outcome of such abused ladies taking their own lives is happening more frequently.

An Indian woman who works could quit her job due to mistreatment at home or at the office, which could affect her productivity and think of suicide. If she is not mentally and physically well, it might affect her health. After the first few horrifying incidents, some women instantly leave their homes and attempt to become independent. When people must work hard to obtain two meals daily, their survival becomes uncomfortable and challenging. Welfare organisations for Women's like the Affuse Woman Welfare Association (AWWA), Women Welfare Association of India (WWAI), and Women's Emancipation and Development Trust step in to save a lot of these women (WEDT).

IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN

Domestic violence erodes children's childhoods like a colossus. Children are crucial to the growth of the nation. On the other side, children are negatively impacted by family violence. The parent's primary concern is their children, but they lose sight of them in their own struggles. If children grow up in a family with domestic violence, they will experience tension, concern, and wrath dread. The children experience maltreatment because of their damaged mental and physical states. They lack access to a setting that is secure, compassionate, and encouraging. Domestic violence harms the victim's physical, sexual, and other aspects. Children's social and intellectual life has been influenced⁴. Many students from disadvantaged groups struggle to stay on top of their academics because they lack internet access. In addition to these issues, abuse will cause persistent trauma to remain in the child's mind. Parents are unaware that it would alter their child's outlook on society. These are the possible severe consequences that a youngster might face in such a hazardous environment.

The One-Stop Center Scheme addresses gender-based assault. It became active on April 1, 2015. The principal objective of the initiative is to facilitate the process for women who have experienced violence to seek all kinds of support. The One-Stop Center Scheme will aid any woman, especially those under the age of 18, who are the targets of assault, regardless of race, gender, faith, location, or family status. The One-Stop Center Scheme for girls under 18 would be linked to organizations and agencies established under the Juvenile Courts "Care and Protection of Children Act of 2000 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act of 2012."

⁴ "Case study on India: Impact of domestic violence on the nutritional status of children", by Shoba Suri
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CONCLUSION

One major issue has been the ability of women to procure legal equality. The significant aspects of child marriage, women's property rights and widowhood, were at the centre of the women's rights movements in India throughout the nineteenth-century social and religious reform movements. Legal reform followed Independence, with progressive, bold legislation translating constitutional commitments and guarantees into laws that were aimed at improving the status of women legally. The Indian government has undertaken and implemented several initiatives throughout the years that have helped Indian citizens, especially women, improve their economic circumstances while contributing to the nation's economy. These initiatives have helped them gain equality from the sort of patriarchal society we have had for decades. We can also notice from these programs that these schemes are usually applied and used more by the rural regions than urban ones. Through this, the government aims to uplift underprivileged families and provide them with the necessary support.

Through public awareness initiatives, women need to be aware of their fundamental rights.

There is also a high probability that women will be treated equally to men if they voice for themselves. In the future, we hope to not carry forward any abuses because of the knowledge that treating people equally is wise. The child might benefit from counselling in schools, with doctors, respecting women in public and at home, and living in a peaceful environment.

It is best that people embrace them now and refrain from tolerating violent or abusive patriarchy.