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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

This article provides some information about what the health sector and individuals can do prevent and address violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Violence against women in India is commonly attributed to an overarching meta-cultural patriarchal framework. Crime against women has become a major social concern for all states, nation and agencies of the present era. The growing rate of crime of women and violence against women are rampant our society. But the seriousness and frequently of violation or crime against women are well evident when the pages of daily newspapers are turned, when the television is viewed. The various kind of violation against women are murder, rape, molestation, kidnapping, harassment to women at working place and eve-teasing, forcing women into prostitution etc. are reported by media, even important T.V. channels have also started showing real cases of crime against women. The present study has been conducted keeping in view the crime against women in the city. In this present study has been analyzed the causes, incidences of increasing crime against women in the city. Conventional wisdom would have us believe that Assam is a state where the status of women is comparatively better off than that of their counterparts in the rest of India. That they suffer from fewer instances of domestic violence. The present indicators and crime statistics have actually shown a high incidence of overall crimes against women in India. The present study endeavors to explore the socio-structural dynamics and contexts rooted in India that perpetuate domestic violence against women. This article examines a recent assessment of initiatives to current research, advocacy and anti-violence organizing.

Keywords- Crime; Women; Domestic Violence; Status of Women; Human Rights.

COVID-19 AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Violence against women remains a major threat to global public health and women's health during emergencies,

1. Violence against women is highly prevalent intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence. Globally, 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by any perpetrator in their lifetime. Most of this is intimate partner.
2. Violence against women tends to increase during every type emergency, including epidemics. Older women and women with disabilities are likely to have additional risks and needs. Women who are displaced, refugees and living in conflict-affected areas are particularly vulnerable.
3. Although data are scarce, reports from China, The United Kingdom, The United States and other countries suggest an increase in domestic violence cases since the Covid-19 outbreak began. The number of domestic violence cases reported to a police station in Jingzhou, a city in Hubei province, tripled in February 2020, compared with the same period for previous day.
4. The health impacts of violence, particularly intimate partner, domestic violence on women and their children are significant. Violence against women can result in injuries and serious physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health problem, including sexually transmitted infection, HIV, and unplanned pregnancies.

METHODOLOGY:

This study plans to use existing data on the issues involved mainly from secondary sources. After getting the data from secondary source like Books, Encyclopedia, Internet, Journal etc. a critical analysis has been made on the issues.

OBJECTIVES:

The offered study aims to bring out the Covid-19 and violence against women, definition, types of violence, forms of violence, history, effects of society and other importance of the violence against women. The study will focus upon on the following,

1. Violence against women during Covid-19.
2. Definition and types of violence.
3. The emergence of violence against women as a social problem.
4. States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill women's right to a life free of violence.

DEFINITION OF VIOLENCE:

Violence against women affects women everywhere. It impacts women's health, hampers their ability to participate fully in society, affects their enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights and is a source of tremendous physical and psychological suffering for both women and their families.

A number of international instruments that aim to eliminate violence have been enacted by various international bodies. These generally start with a definition of what such violence is, with a view to

combating such practices. The Istanbul (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence) of the council of Europe describes VAW as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and defines VAW as all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts of coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

In addition, 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 disproportionately. The definition of gender-based violence is most often used interchangeably with violence against women and some articles on VAW reiterate these conceptions by suggesting that men are the main perpetrators of this violence. Moreover, the definition stated by the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women also supported the notion that violence is rooted in the inequality between men and women when the term violence is used together with the term gender-based.

TYPES OF VIOLENCE:

Violence against women can fit into several broad categories. These include violence carried out by individuals as well as states. Some of the forms of violence perpetrated by individuals are: rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, acid throwing, reproductive coercion, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection, obstetric violence, online gender based violence and mob violence, as well as harmful customary or traditionally practices such as honor killings, dowry violence, female genital mutilation, marriage by abduction and forced marriage. There are forms of violence which may be perpetrated or condoned by the government, such as war rape, sexual violence and sexual slavery during conflict, forced sterilization, forced abortion, violence by the police and authoritative personnel, stoning and flogging. Many forms of VAW, such as trafficking in women and forced prostitution are often perpetrated by organized criminal networks. Historically, there have been forms of organized VAW, such as the witch trials in the early modern period or the sexual slavery of the comfort women.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in its research on VAW, has analyzed and categorized the different forms of VAW occurring through all stages of life from before birth to old age. In recent years, there has been a trend of approaching VAW at an International level through means such as conventions or in the European Union, through directives (such as the directive against sexual harassment, and the directive against human trafficking).

HISTORY:

The history of violence against women remains vague in scientific literature. This is in part because many kinds of violence against women (specifically rape, sexual assault and domestic violence) are under-reported, often due to societal norms, taboos, stigma and the sensitive nature of the subject. It is widely recognized that even today, a lack of reliable and continuous data is an obstacle to forming a clear picture of violence against women.

Although the history of violence against women is difficult to track, it is clear that much of the violence was aspect condoned and even legally sanctioned. Examples include that Roman law gave men the right to chastise their wives, even to the point of death and the burning of witches, which was condoned by both the church and the state (although this was not a practiced exclusively against women).

In the 20th and 21st centuries and in particular since the 1990s, there has been increased activity on both the National and International levels to research, raise awareness and advocate for the prevention of all kinds of violence against women. Most often, violence against women has been framed as a health issue and also as a violation of human rights. A study in 2002 estimated that at least one in five women in the world had been physically or sexually abused by men sometime in their lives and ‘gender-based violence accounts for as much death and ill-health. As a greater cause of ill-health than malaria and traffic accident combined’.

Certain characteristics of violence against women have emerged from the research. For example, acts of violence against women are often not unique episodes, but are ongoing overtime. More often than not the violence against women is a severe and pervasive problem the world over, with devastating effects on the health well-being of women and children.

EFFECT ON SOCIETY:

Since the 1970s largely through the efforts of victim advocates, the public and policymakers have become more informed about violence against women. Society has assumed greater responsibility for preventing and ameliorating the effects of violence against women and it has evolved into a social, community, criminal justice, and public health issue. Regardless of many years of advocacy and involvement of many feminist organizations, the issue of violence against women still remains one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violations worldwide. The violence against women can occur in both public and private spheres of life and at any time of their life span. Violence against women often keeps women from wholly contributing to social, economic and political development of their communities. Many women are terrified by these threats of violence and this essentially influences their lives so that they are impeded to exercise their human rights; for instance, they fear contributing to the development of their communities socially, economically and politically. Apart from that, the causes that trigger VAW or gender-based violence can go beyond just the issue of gender and into the issues of age, class, culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and specific geography area of their origins.

Importantly, other than the issue of social divisions, violence can also extend into the realm of health issues and become a direct concern of the public health sector. Health issues such as HIV/AIDS infection are also leads to violence. Women who have HIV/AIDS infection are also among the targets of the violence. The World Health Organization reports that violence against women puts an undue burden on health care services, as women who have suffered violence are more likely to need health service and at high cost, compared to women who have not suffered violence. Another statement that confirms and understanding of VAW as being a significant health issue is apparent in the recommendation adopted by the council of Europe, violence against women in private sphere, at home or domestic violence, is the main reason of “death and disability” among the women who encountered violence. In addition, several studies have shown

a link between poor treatment of women and international violence, these studies show that one of the best predictors of inter and intra-national violence is the maltreatment of women in the society.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA:

If women were treated equally in India, there should have been 512 million women in the present population of one billion. However, estimates show that there are only 489 million women. Where are the missing 25 million? Some are never born, and the rest die because they are not given the opportunity to survive. In countries where women and men are treated equally, women outlive men as they are biologically the stronger sex. Typically, one can expect to find 103-105 women for every 100 men in the population. Violence against women in India refers to physical or sexual violence committed against Indian women, typically by a man. Common forms of violence against women in India include acts such as domestic abuse, sexual assault and murder. In order to be considered violence against women, the act must be committed solely because the victim is female. Most typically, these acts are committed by men as a result of the long standing gender inequalities present in the country. Violence against women in India is actually more present than it may appear at first glance, as many expressions of violence are not considered crimes, or may otherwise go unreported or undocumented due to certain Indian cultural values and beliefs. These reasons all contribute to India's Gender Inequality Index rating of 0.524 in 2017, putting it in the bottom 20% of ranked countries for that year.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, since the 1970s, violence against women has been redefined as a social and legal problem, so communities, criminal justice agencies and public health organizations have been encouraged to take greater responsibility for intervening and preventing its occurrence. Of course, the theories we develop to explain violence and abuse against women will be dictated in large part by the type of research we conduct. If we focus only on developing surveys and generating estimates of the prevalence and incidence of specific types of violence and abuse, we will not generate compelling stories about the causes of violence against women. Although it is clearly important to know the scope of the problem, it is equally important to understand the why and wherefore of the problem. To do this, we must incorporate ethnographic methods into our research designs. We must also query our research participants about their lifetime experiences with various forms of violent and abusive acts. Only by incorporating these approaches we can be sure we are accurately defining and measuring violence and abusive acts against women, only then we can better understand the underlying causes of violence and abusive acts against women. Only then, we can deny violence and abuse against women in future.

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