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## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT

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### Abstract:

The present study explore that violence against women is the most pervasive yet under recognized social problem, not only in India but also throughout the world. It is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education and age. More significantly, with the increasing trend of urbanization the number of cases of violence against women has rapidly grown over the years. The sociological dimensions of Violence against Women in the present study an attempt is made to analyze the relationship between urbanization and increasing violence against women. The research also focuses on their Violence against women poses numerous challenges that impact women's physical, emotional, and social well-being. Some of the key problems faced by survivors of violence against women in Vijayapura District. The major casual factors for the violence against women have been discussed from sociological study. For this purpose, primary data was collected from 100 respondents. Data was tabulated and analyzed with the help of statistical tools to achieve the objectives of the study.

**Keywords:** *Violence against women, Dowry Death, Sexual Harassment, Physical, Emotional etc.,*

### INTRODUCTION

Violence against women remains a pervasive and urgent global challenge, violating the fundamental rights and dignity of women and girls across all societies. This multifaceted issue encompasses various forms of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse perpetrated against women, often by intimate partners, family members, or individuals in positions of power. Despite significant advancements in awareness and advocacy, the prevalence of violence against women persists, with millions of women subjected to harm, fear, and trauma on a daily basis. This violence not only inflicts immediate physical and emotional harm but also perpetuates cycles of inequality, limiting women's opportunities, autonomy, and well-being. Rooted in deeply ingrained gender norms, discrimination, and power imbalances, addressing violence against women requires comprehensive strategies that challenge societal attitudes, strengthen legal frameworks, enhance support

services for survivors, and promote gender equality in all spheres of life. Without meaningful action, the enduring scourge of violence against women will continue to undermine the rights and freedoms of women and hinder progress towards a more just and equitable society.

**Table-1. Incidence of Violence against Women during 2006-10 and Percentage Variation in 2010 over 2009**

Type of Violence	Cases Registered on Crimes against Women during the Years					Percentage Variation in 2010 over 2009
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Rape	19348	20737	21467	21397	22172	3.6
Kidnapping & Abduction	17414	20416	22939	25741	29795	15.7
Dowry Death	7618	8093	8172	8383	8391	0.1
Torture	63128	75930	81344	89546	94041	5.0
Molestation	36617	38734	40413	38711	40613	4.0
Sexual Harassment	9956	10950	12214	11009	9961	-9.5
Importation of Girls	67	61	67	48	36	-25.0
Sati Prevention Act, 1987	--	--	01	--	--	--
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956	4541	3568	2659	2474	2499	1.0
Indecent Representation of Women Prohibition Act, 1986	1562	1200	1025	845	895	5.9
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	4504	5623	5555	5650	5182	-8.3
Total	164765	185312	195856	203804	213585	4.8

Source: Crime in India).

**Table-2: Year wise reported dowry deaths in India-2008-2012**

Sl. No	Year	Reported dowry deaths
1	2008	8,172
2	2009	8,383
3	2010	8,391
4	2011	8,618
5	2012	8,233

Source: "Crimes against Women." National Crime Records Bureau, 2013

**Table-3: Year wise reported rapes in India**

Sl. No	Year	Reported rapes
1	2008	21,467
2	2009	21,397
3	2010	22,172
4	2011	24,206
5	2012	24,923

Source: "Crimes against Women." National Crime Records Bureau, 2013

## STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Violence against women multifaceted challenges faced by survivors of these challenges is exacerbated by the intersection of their gender and socio-economic status, placing them in a vulnerable position within society. This study tries to identify the various problems faced by violence against women.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Primary data conducted from violence against women through an interview schedule. Secondary Data: The various secondary information sources used for the present research include the journals and magazines and websites. Tools used for Data Analysis: The data collected was analyzed through percentages, frequencies and Chi-square tests are applied for the analysis of data undertaken in Vijayapura District. Sampling Design: The study covers selected violence against women. In this study convenient in-depth interview technique has been used to collect the data from 100 respondents.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the types and prevalence of violence against women
2. To explore the factors contributing to violence against women
3. To examine the impact of violence on women's physical and mental health:
4. To identify the problems faced by violence against women

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of violence against women could cover a wide range of topics, including research findings, theoretical frameworks, policy analyses, and interventions aimed at addressing the issue. Here's an outline of what such a review might include:

**Visaria (2000)** published an article "Violence against Women: A Field Study" in „Economic & Political Weekly“. This article presents the results of an enquiry into domestic violence conducted in rural Gujarat. The sample survey shows the severity and the endemic nature of violence. Forms of and reasons for violence as also social and demographic characteristics associated with violence are discussed.

**Renuka Viswanathan (2001)** writes on “Development, Empowerment and Domestic Violence: Karnataka Experience” in „Economic & Political Weekly“. The systematic underestimation of women’s work and its value remains a core developmental issue. Despite the attempt by leading women economists to develop an alternate set of indicators that would focus on women’s economic, political and professional participation, such measures remain inadequate in countries where class differentials remain acute and women remain mute victims to a subverted social system.

**Bhuiya et al. (2003)** writes a paper on “Nature of Domestic Violence against Women in a Rural Area of Bangladesh: Implication for Preventive Interventions” in „Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition“. This paper reports finding from a study carried out in a remote rural area of Bangladesh during December 2000. Nineteen key informants were interviewed for collecting data on domestic violence against women. Each key informant provided information about 10 closest neighbouring ever-married women covering a total of 190 women. The questionnaire included information about frequency of physical violence, verbal abuse, and other relevant information, including background characteristics of the women and their husbands. 50.5% of the women were reported to be battered by their husbands and 2.1% by other family members. Beating by the husband was negatively related with age of husband: the odds of beating among women with husbands aged less than 30 years were six times of those with husbands aged 50 years or more. Members of micro-credit societies also had higher odds of being beaten than non-members. The paper discusses the possibility of community-centered interventions by raising awareness about the violation of human rights issues and other legal and psychological consequences to prevent domestic violence against women.

**Malhotra (2004)** published a book entitled “Dimensions of Women Exploitation”. Women have been oppressed, suppressed, marginalized rather colonized by men since antiquity. They have been carefully and systematically excluded from all the important spheres and for along time they remained, condemned to home and hearth. Women are subject to discrimination not just one the basis of gender but on the basis of numerous other factors such as caste, community, religious affiliation and class. Despite many positive developments in securing women’s human rights, discrimination against women continues to be embedded in the social system in many parts of the world, denying the majority of women the choice to decide how they live. Female feticide continues to be common. Poor families have little interest in educating girls and will often engage them in marriage as children to ensure they are taken care of economically. The working often objects of sexual harassment and many of them are getting low payment for their job. Levels of crime against women including rapes, kidnappings, instances of dowry death, mental and physical torture, sexual molestation and harassment and trafficking are increasing day-by-day. The book discussed various issues related to the female exploitation and women’s emancipation. It is valuable reference tool for policy makers, academics, women’s associations, social welfare agencies and women activists.

**Harihar Sahoo and Saraswati Raju (2007)** published a paper on “Domestic Violence in India: Evidences and Implications for Working Women” in „Social Change“. Domestic violence is one of the most pervasive and commonest manifestations of violence targeted towards women. It is very difficult to problematise domestic violence in any one analytical framework as the factors contributing to it are interlinked and are culturally and contextually specific. The inter-linkage between women’s work - often seen as a proxy for their enhanced status - and domestic violence is one of the most nuanced and little understood issues. The paper, therefore, focuses on working women and their experience of domestic violence situating the analysis in the referential framework of other contributing factors by using the data from the National

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- **Physical Harm:** Women who experience violence may suffer physical injuries ranging from bruises and cuts to more severe injuries, such as broken bones or internal trauma. In extreme cases, violence can lead to disability or even death.
- **Psychological Trauma:** Survivors often experience psychological trauma, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and low self-esteem. The emotional scars of violence can have long-lasting effects on mental health and well-being.
- **Social Stigma and Shame:** Many survivors face social stigma and shame, which can prevent them from seeking help or disclosing their experiences. Fear of judgment or retaliation from perpetrators or society at large may contribute to silence and isolation.
- **Barriers to Seeking Help:** Survivors may encounter various barriers when trying to seek help, including lack of access to support services, financial dependence on the perpetrator, fear of not being believed, and concerns about the legal or immigration consequences of reporting abuse.
- **Economic Consequences:** Violence against women can have significant economic consequences, such as loss of income due to inability to work, medical expenses, and costs associated with relocating or seeking legal assistance. Economic dependence on the perpetrator may also limit survivors' options for escaping abusive situations.
- **Cycle of Violence:** For many survivors, violence can become cyclical, with repeated instances of abuse occurring over time. Factors such as economic insecurity, emotional manipulation, and social isolation may contribute to the perpetuation of abuse.
- **Impact on Children:** Children who witness or experience violence in the home may suffer from emotional and behavioral problems, academic difficulties, and long-term psychological effects. Breaking the cycle of violence is crucial for the well-being of both women and their children.
- **Legal and Justice System Challenges:** Survivors may face challenges navigating the legal and justice system, including lack of awareness about their rights, limited access to legal aid, and skepticism or bias from law enforcement or judicial authorities.

- **Fear and Safety Concerns:** Survivors often fear for their safety, especially if the perpetrator is known to them or if they are economically dependent on the perpetrator. This fear can make it difficult for survivors to leave abusive situations or seek help.
- **Isolation and Lack of Support:** Many survivors experience isolation from friends and family due to shame, stigma, or the control exerted by the perpetrator. This lack of support network can exacerbate feelings of helplessness and prevent survivors from seeking assistance.
- **Emotional and Psychological Trauma:** Survivors of violence often experience emotional and psychological trauma, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, and feelings of guilt or worthlessness. These psychological effects can have long-term consequences and may require professional intervention to address.
- **Financial Dependence:** Economic dependence on the perpetrator can be a significant barrier for survivors, particularly if they lack access to financial resources or employment opportunities. This dependence may limit their ability to leave abusive relationships or access support services.
- **Access to Healthcare:** Survivors may face challenges in accessing healthcare services, including physical and mental health care, due to financial constraints, lack of transportation, or fear of judgment from healthcare providers.
- **Legal Barriers and Justice System Failures:** Survivors may encounter obstacles when seeking legal recourse against their abusers, such as limited access to legal aid, lengthy court processes, and skepticism or bias from law enforcement or judicial authorities.
- **Cultural and Social Norms:** Cultural and social norms that condone or normalize violence against women can discourage survivors from speaking out or seeking help. These norms may also perpetuate victim-blaming attitudes within communities and institutions.
- **Impact on Children:** Survivors who are parents may worry about the impact of violence on their children and may struggle to protect them from harm. Children who witness or experience violence in the home may suffer from emotional and behavioral problems, compounding the challenges faced by survivors.

### Conclusion:

Addressing these complex problems requires a comprehensive and coordinated response from governments, communities, and support organizations. Efforts should focus on providing accessible support services, strengthening legal protections, challenging societal attitudes, and promoting gender equality to create safer and more equitable environments for survivors of violence against women. By acknowledging and addressing these key challenges, we can work towards empowering survivors and preventing future instances of violence against women. It is the education level of women that has to be improved to fight against such violence. It is essential on the part of the society to treat women as equal and social reformers

must have to organize and agitate against social evils associated to women such as dowry, domestic violence, etc. Further, it is suggested men to accept equality of women in society.

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