

Domestic Violence Against Women And COVID-19 , Lockdown.

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ABSTRACT.

Domestic Violence is one of the most common crime against women which is inextricably linked to the perpetuation of Patriarchy. Domestic Violence can be defined as a pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is used to gain or Maintain Power and control over an intimate Partner . Abuse can be Physical, Sexual, Emotional, Economic or Psychological action or threats of action that influence another person . Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race , age ,sexual, orientation , religion or wound someone . It can be Happen to Couples who are married Living together or who are Dating . Domestic violence affects People of all Socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels . The management of Domestic violence essentially requires combined effort to Law enforcement. Social Welfare and Health care services. Domestic violence is recognized as the significant barrier in the path of Women Empowerment and also skews the Democratic setup of the Polity. India has Specifically Legislated Domestic violence Act in 2005, to reduce the Violence against women but the same as Bore mixed result as of now incidents of Domestic violence appear to be Increasing the rates of domestic violence have surfaced across the Globe because of COVID -19 , Lockdown . Stand still , mandatory stay- at-home rules , Economic uncertainty and Anxiety caused by the Pandemic have led to an increase in Domestic violence. The Lockdown has brought the world to a stand still the lives of Women across the Globe . The same Violence is repeated and Perpetrated frequently and on regular basis during the Lockdown Various Domestic Violence help lines and Organizations all over the World are working constantly to deal with this Global issue.

Key words : Domestic Violence, Health care, Social Welfare , Women Empowerment , Democratic setup , COVID-19 , Lockdown , Global issue .

Introduction.

In Ancient India Women enjoyed a significant role not only at home but in the society as whole . Many a Vedic hymns are attributed to the women sages. Women was the apostle of the Matrishakti . The Kings and the Priests always held and propagated the prosperity depends upon the respect that the Households shows towards the Women after the Vedic period Superstition and oppressive

customs were manufactured that confined Women within the Four Walls of their house. The status of Women was reduced to the status of a Maid and merely a source of progeny the patriarchy Dominance was total the Male Dominant society would not give Women due Regard and respect , the system continues to linger in the Twenty first Century . Every day we hear and read about Atrocities inflicted upon women by their own Husbands for whom they live and die .

Women have rarely been treated at par with the Men in the Patriarchal system . Women face Discrimination , Exploitation and Violence . Violence against Women and Girls has spread into a Global Epidemic . This Debilitating effect over the Performance of the Women . She is harassed physically , Psychologically, Sexually and Economically . It is one of the most Pervasive of Human Rights. Violence denying Women and Girls self worth and their Right to enjoy Fundamental freedoms at par with men . Gender based Violence including rape , Mutilation, Betting , Family violence defined as a various by one is an murder, Sexual abuse is a profound Health Problems for Women across the Globe .

The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna (1993) accepted that the rights of Women and Girls are an inalienable , Integral and Indivisible part of Universal Human Rights . The UN General Assembly adopted the declaration on the Elimination of Violence against women . In December 1993 it was first International Human Rights Instruments to deal exclusively with Violence against Women and Kindling a string of enactments against the abuse of Women at home world across .

In India the protection of Women from Domestic Violence act 2005 was enacted by 5th Parliament of India to Protect Women from Domestic Violence . This Act for first time provided a definition of Domestic violence in Indian Law . this definition is broad and inclusive and included within its ambit not only Physical violence but also another forms of violence such as Emotional , Sexual and Economic abuse it is a civil law meant primarily for Protection orders and not meant to be enforced Criminally .

Increase Risk of Domestic Violence During the COVID -19 Pandemic.

IN the attempt to flatten the COVID-19 Curve Women's Equality and Mental health seems to have suffered a collateral damage. The Reports of increasing rates of Domestic violence have surfaced across the Globe . the reason for this upsurge happens to be with shelter in place measures and widespread organizational closures related to COVID-19 . The Countries like China , US , UK , Brazil, Tunisia, France and Australia and many others have reported Cases of Increased Domestic violence. India is also showing symmetrical trends especially when it is Infamous for being the fourth worst Country after (UAE , Qatar and Saudi Arabia) for gender Equality.

Recently the UN Secretary General appealed to Government to pay the attention and prevent a horrifying global surge in Domestic Violence over the last few weeks amid lockdown measures imposed by several Countries to tackle the COVID-19 Pandemic. Fueled by mandatory Stay-at-home rules, Social distancing, Economic uncertainties and Anxieties caused by the Corona virus pandemic, Domestic Violence has increased globally. According to the Crime in India Reports 2018, published by the NCRB every 1.7 minutes a Crime was recorded against Women in India, every 16 minutes a rape was Committed and every 4.4minutes a girl is subjected to Domestic Violence.

Within a few days of the lockdown the National Commission of Women (NCW) noted a rise in the number of Domestic Violence complaints received via emails. In March and up to 5 April 2020 the NCW received 310 grievance of DV. during this period a total of 885 complaints were received by NCW for other forms of Violence against Women (Polygamy, denial of Maternity benefits to Women, Dowry deaths, Harassment of married Women, rape, Sexual assault) several women rights organizations have also been receiving numbers DV complaints since the enforcement of the lockdown. Unemployment frustration, reduced income, limited resource, Alcohol abuse and limited Social support are likely to be future reasons for the increasing of DV against Women during the COVID – 19. Another serious issues with respect to Domestic abuse or family violence is an increasing risk of DV relate homicide.

Being trapped in a space with Violent or manipulative individuals could lead to increased rates and intensity of humiliation, controlling behavior. The ability to isolate the person from family and friends, monitor their movements and restrict access to Financial resource, Education Medical care is heightened by a Lockdown. These behaviors often have lasting effect on people on mental health and well being.

When Government starts putting together plans to Respond to crises such as COVID-19 addressing DV must be prioritized. In India the Government seems to have overlooked the need of formally Integrate DV and Mental health, repercussion into the Public health preparedness and emergency response plans against the pandemic. We need an aggressive National wide Campaign to promote awareness about DV and highlight the various modes through which complaints can be filed.

Civil society Organizations are critical to providing assistance. Hundreds of non profits are working to enable access to Medical assistance, Legal aid, counseling 24*7 shelter needs. Therefore in its efforts to combat COVID-19 the Government must allow civil society organizations, counselors, Mental health organization and other service providers to come to the aid of people facing DV.

CONCLUSION :

This Family Violence that women go through in the society is basically a result of age old patriarchal structure prevailing in India. The extent is so much that even in the time of Natural Disasters like Corona virus , which is the most unpredictable incident that has occurred across the Globe ; Women are having a real tough time staying indoors therefore the onus is now on the Governments that while putting the plans together to respond to one of the biggest disaster Mankind has Ever faced called as COVID- 19, The issue of Domestic Violence must be prioritized . In India , the Government has over looked the need to formally integrate Domestic violence and mental health repercussions into the public health preparedness and Emergency response plans against the pandemic , but rather putting the Blame on the Government we should promote awareness about Domestic violence and Highlight the various modes through which complaints could be filled .

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