

IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

Domestic Violence is like a giant and eats the childhood of the children. Children are precious for the development of the nation. But domestic violence leaves the adverse impact on the children. Children are the center point for the parents, but they are forgetting them in own fight. If children are grow up in the environment of domestic violence and then they are live in tension and anxiety and in fear of anger. Thus the children are victims of child abuse due to emotionally and psychologically broken. They are not getting the safe, secure, nurturing and loving atmosphere. Its true domestic violence negatively affects victim's physical, sexual and reproductive health etc. It may lead to socio-economic difficulties such as- a limited ability to take care of themselves or their children, an inability to work and to sustain wages and isolation, which leads to lack of participation in social and regular activities.

INTRODUCTION:

Domestic Violence means the violence in the home where spouse is living. A dispute between the partners is not hurt only them, but their families are also affected by it. Domestic Violence directly or indirectly has leaved the impact upon the family members and especially upon the children. The children are needed too healthy or peacefully or securing or safe environment in the home. Homes are the heaven and secured place for children. But domestic violence spoiled the home environment. Impact of domestic violence clearly shows on their behaviors, adjustment, development and thoughts. Children are losing faith on the relationships. In current era the great impact of domestic violence upon the children's attitude, behavior. The children are suffering at the hands of family members and they are suffering from silence. A child needs the both mother and

father for the development. Due to violence the children are divided into two parts and they're brought up makes them stubborn, impatient, violated, etc. They are facing so many problems to cope up with the society and other peoples.

MEANING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Domestic Violence is a worldwide problem among the families. Domestic violence means an assault committed by the male or relatives of male against the woman. A woman who is the married with male and living with him in his house and they have a domestic relationship with each other¹. Domestic violence has many forms like physical, sexual, economic, mentally emotional and verbal. Domestic violence not only hurts the women's health, but it also affects the children. In a domestic violence in home creates the unsecure atmospheres for children. Domestic violence is described as: physical, mentally, sexual dowry violence, marital rape, sexual abuse, etc. Indian society is a male dominated society and women are like slaves for them. Therefore, male thinks that domestic violence is their right and its fate of the woman. Domestic Violence means that any violence in the home likes somatic abuse, sexual abuse, comments, scolding, mentally harassed by the man or his relatives. It also includes dowry demands, sex without woman consent, taunting her, abetment to suicide or threatens to injuries or harm etc². Domestic Violence has different meanings. These are:

1. Domestic Violence means that any violence at home likes somatic abuse, sexual abuse, comments, scolding, mental harassment by husband or his relatives. It also includes dowry demands, sex without her consent, taunts her, abetment to suicide or threatens to injuries or harm etc³.
2. Any acts of male husband and his relatives to humiliate female and exploit her, force her for prostitution, treating her as a maid, hurting her, sensual abuse, disposing of her property, always commenting on her about near and demand for dowry, assault, kidnapping and attempts of committing such acts shall be termed as Domestic Violence⁴.

¹ Domestic violence and impact on children, Ms. Disari Roy 2015 pp01-04,ISSN: 2279-0845

² UN declaration on Elimination of Violence against Women 1993

³ UN declaration on Elimination of Violence against Women 1993

⁴ UN Model Legislation on Domestic Violence

3. Violence means erotic abuse and psychological violence occurring in the family, including scolding, commenting, no financial aid and violence related to exploitation⁵.
4. Domestic Violence may relate to physical, sexual , verbal and emotional or economical abuse⁶.
5. Domestic Violence means an act, omission or commission or any conduct out of her modesty includes⁷:
 - (i) Injury/harm to her body, danger to her life, unsafe, mental or physical harassment, taunting, scolding and economic abuse; or
 - (ii) Living in uncomfortable zone, beating her or to get her beaten by his relatives, or unusual demands ,in security or threatens to her property ; or
 - (iii) Threatening to throw her out from the matrimonial home or creating a situation in which is unable to perform anything as per own choice: or
 - (iv) Making her a baby producing machine in order to get a baby boy

IMPACT ON CHILDREN:

According the Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), “A child means every human being below the age of 18 years”. Every year so many cases related to the impact of domestic violence on the children are identified. Homes are the best safer and protected place for the children. But violence provides the unhealthy and unsafe atmosphere for the children in the homes. The parents are protecting the children and love them. But violence breaks their emotions, relations and they feel ashamed, fear, guilt and depression. They are growing up in the violent atmosphere and its adverse impact on their development and socially isolated and their lives in fear. Behavior changes their ability,

⁵ Indira Jaising and Monica Sakhrani(2008)” Law of Domestic Violence” Universal law publishing Co. pvt. Ltd.Delhi

⁶ Hardeep Singh Arora versus state of Maharashtra, 2018(3) Hindu LR 35(Bom)

⁷ Sec.3 of the Law of Domestic Violence Act 2005

increased stress, fear of being alone and immature⁸. There are so many impacts of domestic violence upon the children. These are:

a. On Development:

Domestic violence, unhealthy environment, distressing or disturbing event affects the development of the children. Violent atmosphere are seeds, in future adverse effect in their adult life. Due to it children are psychologically weak and feel loneliness, rejection, abandonment, insecurity, trauma, fear, etc. They are emotionally and socially break down and so many health problems are arising⁹. They are mentally weak and they can't understand what is wrong and right for them. They are emotionally attached to their mothers and when they see the sufferings of the mother, it affects their bond and damage the relationship. Mother is caretaker for the child, but when the care taker is not secure in the home, then it deeply hurts; the most common symptoms are hyper arousal, fearfulness and increased aggression towards peers. They will not physically and mentally develop. The childhood memories always impact the personality of the person. The loss and grief experienced by children can lead to the children in different world, i.e, created by children and they lose faith and belief to anyone. In childhood they needs emotional, supervisory, educational, adequate food, shelter, clothing, hygiene and mental and physical care of their parents, but their parents are enabled to provide such services then their growth/development static.

b) Sexually exploitation:

A child who bought up in the atmosphere of the violence. He is emotionally weak and shy who cannot talk and share own problems with anyone. People or relative or friends are exploiting the children and misuse them. This type of children is facing the physical or sexual abuse. They are no safe in own home. Sexual abuse involved the threat and fear in their minds. And some manipulated the children and the children are thinks it is normal and it is love towards them. They need safety and protection from their parents.

⁸ Nisanth.P.M &Dr.Amruith G.kumar "Traces of Domestic Violence: Prespective of school going children in India 2012 ISSN:2277 3630

⁹ Sine Ware,1999" The impact of violence on children, Vol9.No 3 Princeton University Stable,pp33-49

Adolescence is the memorable time of the life of person, but violence leaves a great impact on this age. Girls are more sexually abuse as compared to the boy child¹⁰. They are not sharing with anyone.

c) ON RELATIONSHIP:

Children are losing faith upon the relationship due to abusive childhood experiences and dysfunctional household. Their innocence is lost in childhood. Children are the witnesses of the domestic violence in the homes. Thus, great impact shows on their behavior and conduct. Childhood memories never be finished. Parents are the god of the children when they see the fights of the parents; it leaves the great bad impact upon them. Children do not believe the relationships like friends, parents, relatives due to the chaos of the home. The parent's role is to provide protection to the child, but when parents are unable to protect them, this causes distress for the parent-child relationship. An absence of attachment increased anger between the relationships. Their brain are not developed so much to understand the depth of the relations.

d) ON EDUCATION:

Children are not concentrating the education because only parents can help the children in the studies. Children are neglected by the parents. Thus, they cannot get proper education and they are maltreated by parents, relatives and other person. Their brain and emotions are not working properly due to violence. Violence at home creates confusion and not clarity of the aspects of life. Children are not getting proper education due to domestic violence¹¹. During the pre-age school time, children are facing the domestic violence can impact their educational abilities. In school level teachers can observe the children who are affected the domestic violence and it directly affects to their education. Teachers can understand better to the psychology of the children and they can help with the children to come out this trauma.

¹⁰ Wekerle.c and Wolfe.AD 1999" Dating violence in mid adolescence: theory ,significance, and emerging prevention initiatives, Clinical Psychological Review,pp.435-456

¹¹ Llyod M(2018) Domestic violence and Education:Examining the impact of domestic violence on young children, and young people and the potential role of schools, Front.psycho.9:2094, dio:10.338/fpsyg.2018.02094

e) Addiction:

Children are going to addiction world due to distress and depression. When they don't get love, care, protection from the home, then they create own world. Children enter into the world of alcohol and drugs. They are far away from the real world due to the habits of addiction¹². Due to addiction their minds are not working properly and addiction becomes lazy/dumps. Growths of children are also static. He has no understanding skills to understand what is wrong and right for them? They become thieves, murderer and criminals due to addiction. They are far away from reality and interested in living fake world. Violence hurts their innocence and makes them violent. Neglecting children are becoming drug addicted. Parents are the guider of the children, but when parents are not given attention to the children then, they go to the wrong path.

f) On Social behavior

Domestic violence witnesses' children are socially alone and they are not comfortable in making friends and social network. They are avoided the parties, gathering, marriages and functions. Their behavior is very rude towards other people. They are not believed in the marriage system and relationship¹³. Domestic violence deeply hurts their behavior and not maintains any relation with someone. They are scared to maintain healthy relationships with friends and family members.

CONCLUSION:

At last, domestic violence is like a giant and eats the childhood of the children. It leaves a great impact upon the children. Above I discussed the few aspects of the impact on the children's behavior, development and other factors. Mother and children are closely related to each other. Thus, the violence against women leaves the great effect upon the children. No doubt, Children are the future of the nation, but house violence creates the chaos in the minds of the children. They have lost the ability of the mind and works slowly. Twentieth century produces the new

¹² Jessica M.Solis, Julia M.Shadur Alison R.Burns and Andera M.hussong" Understanding the diverse needs of children whose Parents abuse substances Drug Abuse rev.2012 June;5(2):135-147

¹³ Iheku V, graham RM 2017 what social impact does exposure to domestic violence have on adolescent Males? Journal health communication DOI:10.4172/2472-1654,100045

vision of the children towards elder and lost the discipline, etiquette etc. Few are entered in to the world of criminals and they do an illegal act without any guilt. They are reacting like abnormal and addicted of drugs. Parents are not looking after them carefully thus they become stubborn, criminals and alcohol addicted. Children are not concentrating even studies and they have no aim. They are totally blanked and not know what they want to do? Therefore, we should need to break the cycle of violence and prevent the children from the consequences of it. Always says on the home don't disclose the domestic violence to the public and women are facing it quietly and they are not even saying a single word against the domestic violence. Thus, children are also silent and not discussed the family chaos to anyone. It creates the volcano inside the children and it looks in their behavior and conduct.