

# **Domestic Violences: Challenges Of Women**

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## **Introduction**

The sustainable development and the role of women in nation building is vital. Swami Vivekananda said "that country and that nation which did not respect women has never become great nor will ever in future". Women undergo numerous challenges in respect of socio, economic, cultural, psyche, political, religious and so on. All these barriers hinder their sustainable development at various levels in different places of society in our country. It seems that home is the best place from where sustainable development should take place. 'Well begun half done', life is commenced at one's own domicile. Then, the first urgent urge would be the eradication of the challenges in the family and then creating sustainable development therein. Family is the unit on which the society is built Family is the cornerstone of society. The challenges women have in families are elaborately dealt in this paper, in the perspective of "Domestic Violence". The statistics of women's domestic violence at Coimbatore District highlights and limits the place, time and theme of this paper.

The second chapter deals with the concept and the third chapter on the issue of facts and challenges of domestic violence. The statistics of women's violence between the years 2012-2013 at Coimbatore District is stated in the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter finds the challenge of domestic violence as a fact and provides remedies to achieve women's sustainable development. Rabindranath Tagore in "Women and Home" describes women as the symbol of Shakti, the creative power,

an inspiration to man, guiding, her enormous variety of creations in literature, art, music and religious.<sup>2</sup> political empowerment of women, greater regard for social justice and notably equity between the rich and the poor.

## **DOMESTIC CHALLENGES**

The challenges of women are comprehended by domestic violence act - 2005 in the following ways at home. They are forced not to attend school, college or educational institutions. Preventing of women from having access to the home or using part of the home. The challenge is also in the form of employment, not allowing to take up employment. At times, she is deprived to have domicile of her own. The challenges are also in the form of non-payment of rent in a house of rented accommodation, not allowing to use clothes and article of general household use, and Non-payment of bills such as Electricity Bill. The law further adds that the omission or commission of the conduct of the respondent constitutes "Domestic violence."<sup>4</sup>

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

The prevalence of sexual violence endangers life. Sexual violence is found whenever women are forced to have intercourse, forced to watch pornography and forced to entertain others. It also includes act of sexual nature, abuse, humiliation, degradation, rape, harassment and amusement to please.

## **Accusation of Character**

Women face accusation of conduct. The constant passing of verbal and emotional abuse amounts to accusation of character. Insulting women for not bringing dowry, insulting for not having male child, ridiculing and name calling are the worst form of character assassination. While preventing women not to go

out of home, to meet persons, to take up job and if they do so, their character is defiled. Women are forced to marry against their will, and not allowed to marry as they wish.

## **Economic Degradation**

Women's essential commodities for decent life is not provided. Women are economically suppressed. Because they face their day today life, the denial of providing money, clothes, food and medicine, force them to go out of the house. Preventing not to use part of the house, non-payment of rent in rented house, not allowing to use clothes or articles of general household, selling her sridhana and articles without her God creates human beings - male and female - in God's own image and likeness Gen 1:27. God gives them both the authority over and responsibility over the entire creation (Gen 1:26-28).

## **CHANGE OF IDEOLOGY**

Male is considered to be the first, the best and higher than women. Women are considered to be secondary, lesser and lower. Ideologically women are looked down upon for centuries long. It is a social stigma for destruction. The works of Aristotle portrays women as morally, intellectually, and physically inferior to men.<sup>6</sup> Such ideologies of gender inequality to be thrown out from the society. Pessimism has to be replaced by full of optimism for the sustainable development of women. Patriarchal mentality is passed from generation to generation commenced at domicile. "These symbols are benchmarks which children learn about when they grow up, and the cycle of patriarchy continues much past.' Change is possible. There was colonialism, Racism in the world predominantly, now its faces have changed in history.

**PROTECTION FROM VULNERABILITY**

Women, child and elders are victimized easily due to their so called vulnerability. Male chauvinism of dominant superiority curtails women's protection. As a result of it they are victimized and abandoned. Victims are even isolated from seeking help, separated from the loved ones, deprived from inheritance. The danger of psychological sources of human vulnerability would be an exposure to traumatic experiences. Deprivation leads to commit suicidal deaths. Thomas Aquinas argues that suicide is not only contrary to justice, but also it is opposed to charity. In this respect suicide is a sin in relation to oneself, in relation to the community and to God. It is sinful, by reason opposed to justice.<sup>9</sup>

The empowerment of women's emancipation is possible psychologically through the perspective of positive attitudes, encouragement, positive thinking, appreciation, optimism, equal opportunity in all the sphere of social life. The attitudinal change has to come from the family itself. Women can fit into all the fields equally to men. The seed of equality by providing equal opportunity should be encouraged. Education plays a tremendous role in empowerment of women. It is a tool which pervades women's participation in all the social sectors. Education can dispel the darkness of ignorance. It can be weapon a for emancipation. Their contribution for the upliftment of the nation is immesaurable. The active participation in sports activities, Delhi Republic Parade of 2015, the martial arts like karate such kind of occurrences presupposes women can come out of their challenges.

**LAW AND ENFORCEMENTS**

Law is also enforced through social institutions. Law can only provide service to the society if it is implemented. The victims must come before the court. The aim is that people must access to social justice. All the affected don't seek the solution in the court of law, due to prejudice, intimidation and lack of awareness. The veracity of the law is very often questioned in history. "The golden thread which runs through the web of administration of justice in criminal cases is that if two views are possible on the evidence adduced in a case, one pinioning to the guild of the accused and the other to his innocence, the view which is favorable to the accused should be adopted."

Thomas Merton sees the root of systematic violence as , " When a system can, without resorting to overt force, compel people to live in conditions of subjection, helplessness, wretchedness that keep them on a level of beasts rather than men, it is plainly violence. To make men live on subhuman level, to constrain them in such a way that they have no hope of escaping their conditions, is an unjust exercise of force. Those who in some way or the other concur in that oppression-and perhaps profit by it-are exercising violence even though they may be preaching pacifism. And their supposed peaceful laws which maintain this spurious kind of order, are in fact instruments of violence.<sup>11</sup> "Time trusted rule is that acquittal of a guilty person should be preferred to conviction of an innocent person."

Time old laws need constant amendments according to the new findings of crimes. Few amendments in Indian Penal Code were inserted by Act 13 of 2013. They are S. 326 A - Voluntarily hurt by ACID, S. 326 B Voluntarily trying to throw or attempt to hurt by acid, S. 354 - Assault or criminal force to women with intent to outrage modesty, S. 354A - Sexual Harassment, S. 354B - Assault : Criminal force to disturb women, S. 354 C - Voyeurism, S. 354D -

Stalking (Chasing), S.376-Punishment for rape, S. 376A-Intercourse with wife during separation, 376 B- Intercourse by public servant in custody, 376 C- Intercourse by Superintendent of Jail. Many more laws need more amendments. The increase of new form of crimes are accelerated day by day. The laws are inadequate to punish the culprit is one of the limitations.

All cannot achieve by law alone. For example the relation between husband and wife of sexual chattel, right to live with the husband, treating one another with respect cannot be achieved by law alone. Therefore law can be a minimum guiding principle to a certain extent. But above the law, the conscience of humanity must rule the world. Therefore in order to establish sustainable development both law as well as conscience must contribute a lot. Man is not the judge that he cannot be good by choice. But he can be good only by conforming to certain rules and regulations imposed on him.<sup>13</sup>

## **Media**

On one side, these days media appears that at times it tries to propagate a false world view through talk shows, reality shows etc. It seems that media creates a picture that the world is more dangerous than it is in reality.<sup>14</sup> It may be an exaggerated fact. On the other hand within no time the wrong message is flashed instantly around the world through the media applications like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp etc.

The proper use of mass media has power to contribute for the sustainable development of women. The word 'Mass' derived from the Greek 'massein' has derogative (diminish) connotation in view of political sense to Aristotle. But for St Augustine, Hegel and French (revelation) it is a negative one but something

very positive which creates massification for revolution related to mass media or word communication. It needs a formal organization for their operation, it leads to large audiences, it is public, will be heterogeneous in its composition, simultaneously contacts large number of people who are widely separated from each other. It makes people collectively unique.<sup>15</sup>

The mass media , the press - Book and Publishing, News papers and Periodicals, News and News Agencies, Journals, - Broadcasting -Radio, Television, - Film and Video, Group Media as Audio-Visual language, New media as Cyber space.

Throughout history, people have loved storytelling. Let us retell the stories which made women to be slaves and under the domain of men. Culture changes in the way we hear and learn about the world. Media literacy helps teachers, parents, teens and children critically navigate the media culture of the twenty-first century. Instead of reacting to media let us response appropriately. Proper usage of media would empower women.<sup>16</sup>

## **END NOTES**

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2. **Ibid.** p. 285.
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4. **Ibid.**, pp.11-12
5. **Ibid.**, pp. 125-128
6. Bar On, Bat-Ami, **Engendering origins: Critical feminist reading in Plato and Aristotle**, London, 1994, p.61.

7. Lerner, Gerda, **The Creation of Patriarchy**, New York: Oxford University Press. "Symbols", 1986, Chapter 10.
8. Ivo Coelho, **Op.cit.**, pp.286-287.
9. **Ibid.**, P. 287
10. Supreme Court Judgement, State of U.P V.Ram Veer Sing and Another, 2007 (6) Supreme 164.
11. Thomas Merton, **Faith and Violence : Christian Teaching and Christian Practice**, Notre Dame, 1968, p.7.
12. AIR, Rang Bahadur Sing V. State of U.P., Air - 2000, SC 1209.
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14. Ivo Coelho, **Op. Cit.**, P. 374.
15. Franz-Josef Eiles, **communicating in community**, Manila : Logos (Divine Word) Publications, Inc. 2002, P. 74.
16. Gretchen Hailerand Rose Pacatte, **Media Mindfulness**, Winona : Saint Mary's Press, 2007, pp. 1- 15.