



WOMEN, VIOLENCE AND GENDER JUSTICE:A HUMAN RIGHT ASPECT

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Abstract

Women is considered as the most vulnerable and weaker section of the society and used as a commodity which can be used, re-used and abused. This paper highlights the status of women in the society and the nature of the violence taking place against women across the world. It describe various kinds of violence such as domestic violence, female foeticide, child marriage, rape, sexual harassment at work place, trafficking and prostitution. It also highlights different causes of violence against women such as lack of education, poor economic condition, lack of awareness of their rights. various forms of legislation enforced in India for the protection of women against violence.

Key words: protection of women, discrimination, violence against women, domestic violence.

1. Introduction

Women have been the most vulnerable and weaker section of the society. They are deprived of their rights, beliefs and existence. women have always been dependent on men for their livelihood ,mainly involved in domestic work. In the current time of globalization, women are now well educated and demanding equal status to men. But women are still faced with discrimination, cruelty, violence at every step inside their home as well as at their workplace. women are often

dominated by men in the society and thus violence against women has also increased.

2. Women and violence

Violation against women is increasing day by day due to the ignorance of the available rights of women and lack of education. It leads to murder, rape, intimidation, workplace harassment, trafficking and forced prostitution. violence against women includes child marriage, rape, female circumcision. These all are committed by the dominating class of men who violate the fundamental rights of the women.

3. Kinds of violence against women

Women became prey to violence even before their birth when the parents abort their unborn child because it's a female in the hope of giving birth to the male child. female foeticide is rapidly increasing in the world especially in the developing countries such as India. It is very severe in many parts of the country. At the domestic level, the women are often victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual abuses which results in traumatized condition i.e mentally, physically and emotionally or in some cases lead to death.

Following are the various kinds of violence against the women:

1. Domestic violence

Domestic violence occur in both developed as well as developing countries. It has been noticed that husbands endeavour unreasonable force and dominance on the wives to conquer their violence and rights and take to method of violence. They beat up their wives, abuse them, torture them physically, mentally and emotionally and lower the dignity of human being.



2. Female foeticide and Infanticide
 Female foeticide is a serious problem in our society. The preference for son in the family is one of the major reason for violence against women. Many women abort their child when they came to know that the foetus is a female. The study has shown that female foeticide and infanticide has reduced the male: female sex ratio in many countries such as Japan, Cuba, china.
 3. Child marriage
 Child marriage is another offence and a kind of violence against women which fully violates the human rights. Girls below the age of 18 are married to men who are often double their age. These girls married without their consent, forcefully and are not mature enough physically, mentally and emotionally to handle the pressure and outcome of such marriage.
 4. Rape
 Rape is another form of violence against women. It can take place anywhere in the world, at home, workplace, outside the home. Rape has become the fastest growing crime in the world and the lack of proper understanding and enforcement of laws to prevent such violence against women.
 5. Sexual harassment at work place
 Sexual harassment is an area of great concern. Employers abuse the female employees and use their authority. It is often seen that women who protest and refuse are faced with consequences such as termination from the job. But in recent time, women come forward and protested such violence and many laws have been enforced to prevent such kind of violence against women. The sexual harassment of women at workplace Act,2013 has been enforced for the protection or women against violence.
4. Various legislation for the protection of women
 It is a truth that women across the world are beaten up, raped, trafficked and also killed. Such abuses and violation of human rights not only impose a threat to the existence of status of women in the society but also apart the entire society. But now there is a growing concern for the women and to protect the women against such violence. The international community has come forward for the effective response to violence against women. various countries of the world have obligation under the international law to enact, implement and enforce.
 5. Legislation in India
 In India various legislation has been enacted for providing the rights of women. Article 14 of constitution of India deals with Right to equality, Article 15 deals with Right to non-discrimination, Article 19(1)(g) states that Right to practice one's profession and Article 21 deals with Right to life.
 Apart from these rights provided by the constitution of India, various other specific legislation have also been enacted and enforced to prevent violence against women. They are as follows-
 1. Abolition of sati in 1829
 2. Hindu widow's remarriage Act,1954
 3. Special marriage Act,1954
 4. Child marriage restraint Act,1929
 5. Prohibition of child marriage Act,2006
 6. Hindu women's right to property Act,1937
 7. Dowry prohibition Act,1961
 8. Indecent representation Act,1986



9. Commission of sati Act,1987
10. Pre conception and pre natal diagnostic technique(PCPNDT) Act,1994
11. Protection of women from domestic violence Act,2005
12. Sexual harassment of women at workplace Act,2013.

Apart from the above mentioned legislations, there are certain other enactments pertaining to industry which contain special provisions for women such as workmen's compensation Act,1921,payment of wages Act,1936,Factories Act,1948,Maternity benefit Act,1961,Minimum wages Act,1948,Employees state insurance Act,1948,Pension Act,1987.

All the above mentioned legislation have been enacted and enforced with a common goal of protecting women, their fundamental rights and to prevent women from violence. It is also important for the government machinery to conduct various awareness programmes and provide education and all other facilities to the women so as to develop skills, build confidence, develop leadership qualities. The states and government must need to work for the welfare of the women and to maintain equality among men and women and reduces violence and crimes taking place against women.

Conclusion

Women and the growing violence against them have become more prevalent in the society. Despite having so many enactments and legislation at international level and regional level which deal with women, the poor condition of women have not been

improved and they are still facing all types of violence and abuses. This proves that failure of legislation executive and judicial machinery in the country to protect the women to improve the status of women in the society and to prevent the violence against women and to protect them is the need of the hour. Since the traditionalist social thinking as deeply rooted in the society, there is a need that such legislation should to be enacted with the support and public willingness and belief.

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