

Domestic Violence on Adolescent Girl Child: A Case Study in a Selected Urban Area of Assam, India

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ABSTRACT

This paper proposes a case study for the domestic violence on girl child for a particular urban area in Assam, India. According to National Crime Bureau, Assam has the highest violence rate against women. Therefore, there is always a need for scientific study about the causes and remedies for this particular behavior against women or particularly for the adolescent girl child as they are most prone to any form of violence.

Keyword: - Domestic Violence, Sexual violence, Adolescent Girl Child

1. INTRODUCTION

Every year, around 1.3 million adolescents die as a result of various causes, including infectious diseases, pregnancy and childbirth, and injuries. Some 45 per cent of these deaths (about 600,000) are among adolescent girls; about 10 per cent of them are due to violence [1]. Violence can take many forms, including physical, sexual and emotional violence, and varies in its severity. While all adolescents may experience violence, being a girl presents unique vulnerabilities – some with consequences that can last a lifetime. Gender discrimination, norms and practices mean that adolescent girls are likely to experience certain forms of violence, such as sexual violence, at much higher rates than boys. Girls are also more likely to be exposed to certain harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) – both of which are direct manifestations of gender inequality. Adolescence is a period in life when the establishment of friendships and interaction with peers takes on increasing importance. While this presents opportunities for personal growth and the development of social competency, it also exposes adolescents to new forms of violence at the hands of their peers. According to General Comment No. 13 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, physical violence takes both fatal and non-fatal forms and encompasses physical torture, cruel and inhuman physical punishment, physical bullying and hazing, and corporal punishment [2]. Puberty intensifies the vulnerability of girls to violence. During the transition into womanhood, sexuality and gender roles begin to assume greater importance in how adolescent girls are viewed socially. For many girls, the first experience of sexual intercourse is unwanted or even coerced. Young brides face especially high risks of physical, emotional and sexual violence along with curtailed personal freedom and decision-making power. Puberty is also a time in which girls are more likely to engage in risky behaviors – such as drug and alcohol abuse and unprotected, unsafe sex – that increase their susceptibility to violence. Girls' low status in society and within the family, along with the tendency of men and boys to wield power, especially over girls' sexuality, is key factors in the high rates of violence against adolescent girls. When such factors remain at play into adulthood, they tend to reinforce recurring patterns of violence and the restrictions placed upon women. The right of adolescent girls to be

protected from all forms of violence and discrimination is guaranteed under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocols and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women. Moreover, many countries have legal frameworks that make sexual and physical violence against girls punishable by law.

1.1 Trend in India

In India, very little research work has been done on domestic violence. Firstly, there is a general tendency to overlook the incidence of violence within the family where only the serious like murder due to dowry etc. cases only attract public attention. Researchers appear to be reluctant to engage in research where they actually have to ask how or why you resorted to violence. Researchers may also feel that they will not be able to obtain reliable and valid answers to such questions. Most people think of physical violence between family members as something which happens only rarely. The facts are just the opposite. Leaving aside war and riots, physical violence occurs between family members more often than between any others. Trivedi (1986) found that the victims were mostly young (18-30 years), less educated than their spouses, dependent on husbands or in-laws for their living and mostly died from bum injuries [3].

1.2 Trend in Assam

In Assam (one of the major north east Indian state, famous for one horned rhino in Kaziranga National Park and the famous Assam tea), one out of every seven women faces one or other form of domestic violence. [4]. The National Crime Records Bureau data (2012) shows that crimes against women in Assam stood at 89.54%, which was double the national average of around 41.7%. Reported instances of crimes against women in Assam jumped to 17,449 in 2013 as against 13,544 the previous year. Statistical information on the situation of domestic violence in Assam is not uniform, with multiple databases in existence; however, the information available is still scant.

2. METHODOLOGY

A research study can be proposed by considering the group of women who are affected by Domestic Violence in Guwahati (Capital of Assam), Assam. As a preliminary step an enlistment in the form of a survey of the recorded cases were conducted to identify the various typologies of domestic violence. Women Cells, Family courts, Police stations, Counseling centers, NGOs working for women, Social workers, Women activists and members of the general public were contacted for this purpose. Based on the enlistment survey 200 victimized women from the city were selected by method of purposive sampling, considering the seriousness of the problem and were further interviewed for collecting the information. In addition, discussions with them were also undertaken to draw more information regarding the subject, which also came under the Preview of the study. The various methodologies that will be used in the case study are as follows:

- i) A prescribed format would be prepared that include the nature of violence, cause of violence, place of violence, whether school or home.
- ii) 40-50 houses will be selected in the selected urban area from upper, middle and lower class category.
- iii) The information would be collected from all ages of girls ranging from 15-18 years of age.
- iv) A software based approach would be proposed for the utmost safety of the girls.
- v) The results of the finding could be circulated among the NGO's and local police stations.

2.1 Limitation of the study

There may be many limitations that may come in the case study. The girls in the sample set may not be very comfortable in discussing personal staffs with the researcher. Also many a times, a true and accurate answer may not be received from the sample. Due to fear of society or the fear of the family, may make them give the false answer.

3. CONCLUSION

After the detailed study a clear scenario of the various factors involved in the child domestic violence can be observed. By providing the findings to the nearby police station and human right activist and NGO's , the condition of the girl child can be more improved and they will feel more protected and safe.

4. REFERENCES

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