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Women in ages (Suffering from violence)

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Abstract

Violence against women is a subject of great concern and invites young scholars, academicians, authors and law experts for discourse. Even after centuries, women have not come out of the cage of patriarchal bonds. The false codes of the bonds framed so tightly interwoven that they have merged into blood particles of the people. There were several severe codes imposed on women in the past depict violence against women. All the codes involve physically, mentally and emotionally violence against women. Life of women in the past was no less than hell and like the life of animals.

Keywords: Violence, aura, mahabharata, yuga, folks

Introduction

Etymology of Violence according to Oxford Dictionary reveals that violence comes in Middle English via Old French from Latin 'Violentia', from 'Vehement, Violent' meaning 'the unlawful exercise of physical force or intimidation by the exhibition of such force.' In general sense, violence involves to get the work done forcefully without his or her heartedly wish. It depicts the domination of one: the stronger, on the other: the weaker. The phenomena of stronger and weaker may be a subject of strength or force, or it may be outcome of outdated social codes of belief. In the present scenario, the term 'violence' or the phrase 'Violence against Women' strongly favours the second definition. It clearly indicates that 'physical, mental and emotional torture caused to women folks is the outcome of India's outdated dogmas, false codes of society determined by men in power.' The nature of violence in the present sense is entirely unlawful, can tremble even a stony heart.

Violence according to World Health Organization is, "the intentional use of physical force or power threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either insults in, or has a high likelihood of resulting injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation."

Woman has a great power 'Aura' that she has all time with her. Wherever she goes, Aura follows her like the Sun. Aura is positive energy that creates an environment of development. Aura of a woman is depicted in Jaishankar Prasad's Kamayani. Manu is completely emotionless when he is alone, but in presence of Shradha, Ida, and Kilaat, he feels getting emotions, thoughts and actions. It is due to presence of women an atmosphere of good feelings, work and action has been created. 'Ida was sister of gods, giving consciousness to entire mankind.'

In Nirved, Jayshanker Prasad says, "Naari ka vah hriday! Hridaya mein- sudha -sindhu laharen leta...." (Kamayani, 103). Only women folks are such creatures who has a deep sea of all knowledge within her heart.

"A mother is like a bellow (Dhaukani). A son is really belongs to his father. A father is also born in form of a son. Rear him up as your son and not to insult Shakuntala..." (Mahabharata-1, 71).

When a woman takes leaves of someone, aura also follows with her. That is why when in 'Kalidas' 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' Shakuntala leaves the Ashrama of Kanva Rishi, her friend reminds her, "The whole ashram was dipped into sorrowful atmosphere seeing your going from here. The hind left eating grass, peahen stopped dancing. This was not enough, the bowers were shedding tears in the form of falling dry leaves," (Shakuntalam, 4/117).

Negative aura produces if a woman is harassed and sometime it causes a great destruction. Its effect can be seen when Ravan forcefully steals away Sita and gets her stayed in Ashoka Vatika.

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In Sundar Kand, When Hanuman reaches Ashoka and sees Sita sad; he destroys all trees and plants growing there. "Nanashakuntavirutah prabhinnasalilashayah... (Ramayana, 40/155).

Violence in Different Ages

All ages are evidence of Violence against women. However, it has changed in form and nature, and also in graphically structure.

Violence against Women in 'Treta Yuga': In Treta Yuga, Sita had to face violence caused by Ram. She had to give fire ordeal thrice. Renuka, Parshuram's mother and the wife of Jamadagni was beheaded by her own son ordered by his father.

Violence against Women in Dwapara Yuga

Yudhisthira lost all in gamble with Duryodhana, and Draupadi faced violation in Mahabharata. It involved physically, mentally and emotionally violence. Laxman cut off Surpanakha's nose. This also represents violence against a woman. Rambha's raped by Ravan, the king of Lanka depicts another kind violence. Literature is the encyclopedia of evidence of the violence against the women.

Violence against Women in Kali Yuga

'Kali Yuga' is divided into: Gupta, Maurya, Buddha, British and Modern Period. Women could not save themselves from the fatal torture in Kali Yuga also. They faced severe and different short of violence in the present era. Child Marriage, Sati System, and Male inheritance power are some form of violence in Kali Yuga.

In Chandragupta Maurya period, Violence against women had no less furious form. Asura Marriage, second marriage to husband incase no issue till eight years, husband's freedom to have a number of marriage to get a male child, permission of high caste women to participate in public activities were some form of violence in Chandragupta Maurya period.

In Mughal Period, Parda System, Monogamy, prohibition to widow's remarriage, Sati System, and Highr education to only rich women were some kind of violence to women.

In British Period, women took a sigh of relief from the male domination. However it could not take its end completely, but lessened in effect.

Violence against Women in Modern Age

In Modern Age, due to imposing severe rules, codes, orders, and organizing different 'Women Empowerment Programmes', ratio Domestic Violence against women has come down, but cases of Divorce in the court have risen up. Every day a number of cases are heard, but at the same time, the more in number are again filed. It proves that even in modern age violence against women has not reduced. It has taken another form like keeping illegal relationship with other women.

Types of Violence

1. Physical Violence
2. Sexual Violence
3. Psychological Violence
4. Socio-economical Violence

5. Emotional Violence
6. (vi)Cultural Violence
7. Verbal Violence

According to WHO, "Globally about 1 in 3 (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical, or sexual violence, intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual Violence in their lifetime."

Women are the most Victim of intimate partner violence. Worldwide almost one third (27%) of women aged (15-49) years face, physical or sexual violence committed by intimate partner.

Effect of Violence on Women

Health Consequences of Violence vary with the age and sex of the victim as well as the form of the violence. Consequences include increased incidents of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and suicide, risk of cardiovascular disease, eating disorder, and premature mortality. Both kind violence: Physical and mental or Emotional cause bad influence on health as well as mental balance. Besides, there are the following impacts:

- (i) Social Impact
- (ii) Economic Impact

Social Impact

Any kind of Violence causes Social Impact to the women. The Impact includes:

- (a) Lack of Participation in Regular Activities
- (b) Isolation or Alienation from Friends, Family
- (c) No Cultural or Religious Response

Economic Impact

Violence against a woman causes Economic Impact on a woman. Due to lack of participation in daily activities, she suffers economically. Economic Impact includes:

- (a) Loss of Wages
- (b) Suffers from Health Issues
- (c) Unnecessary costs in Counseling and Court Cases

Conclusion

There are women like Kiran Devi, Sunita Williams etc who have a tremendous courage to inspire coming generation of women folks. Tina Dabi, an IAS topper who secured 1st rank is a best example for coming generation girls preparing for civil exams. Women have showed best in games (Deepa Karmakar, P.V. Sindhu, etc.), music (Asha Bhosle, Lata Mangeshkar, M.S. Subbulakshmi, Subha Mudgal etc.) dance (Rukmini Devi Arundale, Sonai Mansingh), IPS (Kiran Bedi, Vimla Mehra, B. Sandhya etc)), Space (Kalpna Chawla, Sunita Williams etc.), and Beauty Contest (Sushmita Sen, Lara Dutta etc.).

Violence against women will not let the national develop in any field. Every walk of life suffers badly if women are humiliated, harassed, and suffering. Women bring with them an aura that boosts up the atmosphere to work.

By organizing awareness programmes like 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', and other 'Women Empowerment' programmes, a great change in the position of women can be brought.

Within the same time, awareness about the punishment and penalty will also help develop their status in the society.

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