

A Review on Crime against Women and its Impact on Mental Health of Women

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ABSTRACT

Introduction:

In India, Domestic violence (DV) is common among women and has been associated with poor mental and physical health. Over the world, Domestic violence against women is experienced by women of all ages and social classes, all races, religions, and nationalities. Physical, sexual and psychological violence that occurs in the family, including sexual abuse of female children in the household; dowry-related violence; marital rape, etc. Physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurs within the general community, including rape; sexual abuse; sexual harassment, and threatening at work. Trafficking in women, and forced prostitution are also common in educational institutions and elsewhere. Domestic violence includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, scare, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone.

Evidence Acquisition:

This paper intends to review the crime against women like domestic violence, rape, trafficking in women, sexual harassment, etc, and its impact on the mental health of women. For this paper, more than 20 different studies have been reviewed using the electronic database, i.e. Google Scholar, PubMed, Medline, and Elsevier.

Result:

A detailed review of studies pointed that crime against women is very common like domestic violence, rape, trafficking in women, sexual harassment, threatening at work, sexual abuse and it occur in all ages of women and social classes, all races, religion.

Conclusion:

For breaking the cycle of abuse, it will require concerted collaboration and action between governmental and non-governmental actors including educators, health-care authorities, legislators, the judiciary, and the mass media. To change in attitudes and perceptions, the education of both men and women is very important. When the underlying causes of violence are addressed and cultural norms and attitudes are challenged, violence against women can be prevented and eliminated.

KEYWORDS: *Crime against women, Domestic violence, Intimate partner violence, Sexual assault, poor mental and physical health*

1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence (DV) is defined by the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 as physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and economic abuse against women by a partner or family member live in a joint family, afflict the lives of many women in India. 40% of women experience abuse at the hands of a partner estimated by National statistics (that utilize a modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) to measure the prevalence of lifetime physical, sexual, and/or emotional DV) [1]. DV has also been linked to numerous injurious health behaviors and poor mental and physical health. These include tobacco use, lack of contraceptive and condom use, diminished utilization of health care, higher frequencies of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and attempted suicide, HIV, asthma, anemia, and chronic fatigue. Furthermore, maternal intimate

partner violence (IPV) experiences have been associated with more terminated, unintended, less breastfeeding, perinatal care, and poor child outcomes [1]. Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, intimate partner violence (IPV). It is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, or concubinage. Domestic violence has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or pressurize; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic distress. In present challenges to eliminate domestic violence are Alcohol consumption and mental illness because they can be co-morbid with abuse [2].

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Almost, in all the developing countries, Gender-based violence is quite common. In our male-dominated society, a woman in India has been ill-treated for ages and it is a harsh reality. She is poor of her independent identity and is looked upon as a commodity [3]. Due to Domestic violence, there is a chance of short- and long-term physical and mental health problems. Some of the physical injuries which occur due to domestic violence include cuts, bruises, bite marks, concussions, broken bones, penetrative injuries such as knife wounds, miscarriages, joint damage, loss of hearing and vision, migraines, permanent disfigurement, arthritis, hypertension, 84 heart disease, and sexually transmitted infections including human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer and eventually death [4]. Around 30% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence by their current or previous intimate partner worldwide [5]. Throughout the world, sexual violence is endemic in conflicts. There are some reasons like stigma, shame, lack of political will, the insensitivity, and ineffectiveness of legal systems often prevent victims from obtaining justice [6]. The impact of physical abuse may be more 'visible' than psychological scarring, repeated humiliation and insults, forced isolation, limitations on social mobility, constant threats of violence and injury, and contradiction of economic resources are more subtle and insidious forms of violence [7].

Domestic Violence can have direct consequences for women's health, and it can increase women's risk of future ill-health. [8]. Rape remains one of the highly underreported crimes of the world due to various reasons such as fear of punishment from their abusers, lack of remedies for the victim's situation, fear of disbelief, and societal stigmatization [9]. Violence against women found high for violence in obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatric, and emergency clinic settings [10]. To Prevent Sexual Violence recommendations, make a clear distinction between primary prevention and secondary prevention like "primary prevention" defined as eliminating the root causes of sexual violence and stopping sexual violence before it occurs and "secondary prevention" defined as focusing efforts on specific groups at risk for perpetration or victimization [11]. Poverty, discrimination, ignorance, and social unrest are common predictors of violence against women in all societies. Most undergo enemies of a woman's dignity and security are cultural forces and its aimed at preserving male dominance and female oppression-often defended in the name of venerable tradition [12]. Most cases of sexual and physical violence against women went unreported whether by their husbands or other men [13]. Public health approaches to problems like sexual abuse move beyond ensuring the health of individuals; public health addresses the health of an entire population. Social justice is just the sort of social issue to be targeted by a public health prevention approach which highlights prevention before sexual violence occurs [14]. The increase of domestic violence is something that would need more investigation on how the conditions in the society were before and how they have changed and all these happen because we do not know how many crimes were occurring, due to no reporting system and no established justice system [15].

Domestic violence is a notable criminal justice and public health concern that women have experienced significantly more violence by their intimate partners than men [16].

Worldwide, women and girls experience various forms of violence by close and extended family members, neighbors, colleagues, and men in positions of power and authority such as police and soldiers [17]. Cases of violence against women are constantly increasing in the country like there is one dowry death in the country every 78 h, one act of sexual harassment every 59 min, one rape every 34 min, one act of torture every 12 min and almost one in every three married women experienced domestic violence, According to the National Crime Record Bureau, India [18].VAW (violence against women) is best understood not as a singular act or form of abuse, but rather as the aggregate of physically, sexually, and psychologically abusive behaviors directed by one partner against another [19]. Violence against women can be labeled through a fundamental rights lens. VAW is a violation of human dignity and, in its worst form, it violates the right to life. It is also an extreme expression of inequality on the ground of sex [20]. Gender-based violence is defined in UNTERM, the United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database, as physical, mental or social abuse (including sexual violence) that is threatened with some type of force (such as violence, threats, harassment, manipulation, fraud, cultural expectations, weapons or economic circumstances) and is directed against a person because of his or her gender roles and expectations in a society or culture [21].

2. EVIDENCE ACQUISITION:

This paper intends to review the crime against women like domestic violence, rape, trafficking in women, sexual harassment, etc, and its impact on the mental health of women. For this paper, more than 20 different studies have been reviewed using the electronic database, i.e. Google Scholar, PubMed, Medline, and Elsevier

RESULT:

A detailed review of studies pointed that crime against women is very common like domestic violence, rape, trafficking in women, sexual harassment, threatening at work, sexual abuse and it occur in all ages of women and social classes, all races, religion.

The vast majority (88% or 92/104) evaluated domestic violence experienced by women age 15–50, with only 11% (11/104) of studies surveying domestic violence suffered by women above age 50 and 1% (1/104) evaluating domestic violence experienced by young adolescents (wed before age 15), this studies specifying age limit. Only one study evaluates domestic violence experienced by women in HIV discordant[1].

Analyses by subgroups with and without comorbidity of an alcohol use disorder, drug use disorder, and personality disorders, we found that the hazard ratio of intimate partner violence(IPV)against women for men with mental disorders was increased with comorbid substance use disorders and personality disorders [5].

Participants reported experiencing various forms of violence like a child witnessing physical or sexual violence in which experience of physical violence before the age of 15, the experience of physical violence after the age of 15 by someone other than an intimate partner[17].

CONCLUSION:

For breaking the cycle of abuse, it will require concerted collaboration and action between governmental and non-

governmental actors including educators, health-care authorities, legislators, the judiciary, and the mass media. To change in attitudes and perceptions, the education of both men and women is very important. It is not easy to eradicate deep-seated cultural value or alter traditions that continue discrimination. Gender violence is a violation of human rights that needs to be tackled more strongly by both men and women who believe in justice for all citizens irrespective of their class, caste, racial, religious, and ethnic backgrounds. For violence prevention, the promotion of gender equality is an important and essential part. School programs are well placed to prevent violence against women since they have the potential to address gender norms and attitudes before they become deeply established.

In changing attitudes towards traditional gender norms, Community programs with male peer groups show assurance, but they require more rigorous outcome evaluations. A module that teach non-violence, conflict resolution, human rights, and gender issues should be included in elementary and secondary schools, universities, professional colleges, and other training settings. When the underlying causes of violence are addressed and cultural norms and attitudes are challenged, violence against women can be prevented and eliminated.

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