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Violence against Men in Modern India

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This article aims to highlight the unseen, untold, unreported, and untouched matters in Indian Society. This article is trying to focus on the violence against men in our country and the fact that there are no legal rights or laws made in the name of a man. The appeal to have gender equal laws in India, besides developing the mindset of the people around while bringing awareness that men have been facing violence too and have been gone unnoticed, with no justice to them in hand.

Keywords: *violence, society, awareness.*

INTRODUCTION

The term violence cannot describe what several people have been through. The term “violence” does not have a one end description, violence in the Indian society and the Indian legal society only focuses on a woman, but has rather stopped thinking that the society is changing and so are the people living in it. Women and men for a long time have changed. The violence that has been stuck in the minds of many is “domestic violence” which if you look around; you will agree that women are not the only victims of crimes like these. In fact, there are various women who commit these crimes who are involved in them and do nothing. Physical, mental, sexual, emotional, and domestic abuses happen with men as well and go

unnoticed due to the famous stereotype, that only men are the dominant ones, the ones who hurt, which stops them to report it, yet there too it is not taken seriously and is made fun off. It has been served and it has come to notice the increase in domestic violence against men. Courts and legal authorities deny this fact and the courts predict that it's a false allegation, that this has been yet setup against women. This article aims to explore the recent scenarios, underrated reports, legal provisions, and reasoning for the cause of the unreported cases and the cause of unresolved cases.

STATISTICS OF INCREASE IN VIOLENCE

The general spousal and intimate partner violence has increased up to 51.5% in the latest Indian study, which was acknowledged to be the highest of domestic abuse in Pakistan, the USA, Canada, and the UK. Which has comparatively very less than India. Within the last 12 months 10.5% at least once in a lifetime. According to the National Family Health Survey, 2004 violence is not always imposed by women on men but also by the spouses' relatives on the man. Taking into consideration that an estimate of almost 3 crore men are dealing with the issue of domestic violence, emotional, and mental violence in India. In a study, it was concluded by the survey mentioned earlier and by the Save Family Foundation (Delhi), that 1650 men who were interviewed stated that the women have been more abusive and dominating. The upper middle class and middle class have been surveyed to be facing violence more than once in their lives. 98% of the surveyed defendants have suffered through the various forms of domestic violence. Though, physically aggressive behavior has always been higher among women; gender symmetry has no take in India for physical violence.

TYPES OF VIOLENCE

Violence can be defined in various ways. There is physical violence, domestic violence, psychological violence, and sexual violence/abuse.

1. Domestic Violation

The most famous type of violence heard from every other person due to the extinction of seriousness of this crime is domestic violence. Most commonly recognized, has a genuinely concerning effect on one's life. In every way possible it creates a barrier for the person

suffering it, including physical, mental, emotional, and psychological. This is a basic violation of human rights.

2. Sexual violence/Abuse

This has unrecognizably been happening and yet nobody knows or validates it. Situations, where women have been forcing their selves upon men or men, have been forcing themselves upon other men, not sexually every time, but also sexually harassed have always been gone unreported.

3. Physical Violence

This term actually speaks mostly for itself, the physically hurting here in this case to a man by his spouse or his parents, relatives by the way of action and intention of harming him bodily. There have been cases seen where these men are being thrown objects at. The most basic and general form of physical violence is slapping which has been at 98.3%, rating it the highest and making it the most common form of physical violence, while the least common at 3.3% by weaponry injury. While one in the tenth of the cases, physical assaults were severe.

4. Psychological Violence

The emotional, and mental abuse as giving constant threats to the man for false allegations, and threatening him to report it to the police and her parents and them further taking an unwanted action for a crime he did not commit. The Indian Constitution support women and have no specific laws for a man, which has them even more stressed to a point that they cannot share it with anyone or report it as people don't tend to trust these men, even while filing a report.

The report according to a survey shows 85% were critics based, 29.7% were the ones who were morally let down and insulted by the public at large, and 3.5% were actually threatened or hurt.

VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN MODERN INDIA

Be it at home or workplace pressure is a stagnant part of a man's life. The pressure men face, of serving their parents, relatives, and siblings, providing the basic necessities of life with extra

luxurious items, and using that man as an ATM card. the pressure of having his own future life settled, having his wife be given a good life ahead, even if she is working, without thinking twice shows the amount of work he does for his loved ones and all we see is the negative parts. Men too have to do things where they have to do things to avoid punishments or get a promotion and get involved in sexual activities by the way of force. False accusations of rape, demanding dowry, violence, harassment, molestation, and abuse. False complaints against men have been reported by women. While women's victimization has come to a mid of a game now and should be looked upon as earlier as possible, for the equal gender rights promised by our constitution and so that the constitution is not violated. Women have been threatening men to falsely accuse them as they for a while now have been portrayed as the weaker section in the society and having all the legal authorities lined up to their rescue.

Since, it is a legal and societal tradition to favor women, which is now hampering the men who are innocent. There have been cases under section 498A¹ that which false dowry cases have been filed and the courts have too expressed this during proceedings.

FACET OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN

The domiciliary environment can be one of the reasons for violence against men

1. Anthropological

Studies show that the causes of violence against men can include the domestic nature of the environment too. Less income, nuclear family setup or a joint family setup, not much education, and alcohol influence can increase the risks too. Two-way, physical violence between both the earning spouses has also come into notice. It has been observed that both the spouses with an equal amount of education or either less amount of education lead to a differential conflict of minds and both the spouses get physically violent against each other.

2. Subliminal

It is nothing new that we have working, educated, literate women in the modern world. Women too go to workplaces and have their own stress to deal with, which includes the

¹ Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 498A

pressure of getting to a position at work and not being able to achieve it, and the amount of work load. the financial restrictions due to husbands' low income lead to having an abusive and violent relationship with the husband. What women have seen since childhood may be a traumatic experience, leading them to be in the same mindset and have the same possible thinking as she has experienced and thus causing an unnecessary negative environment. Even we see in the other context the women who have had a really flourishing, luxurious lifestyle and end up even at a little bit different position than earlier leads them to have irrational thinking and behavior to the person they believe is the reason behind the unnatural cause.

CAUSES OF FOR UNDERREPORTING

There are social as well as legal reasons for the underreporting of violence against men. In a male dominant society, men have been thought that they are the strong ones, may it be emotionally or physically, or mentally, which makes it obvious why men feel ashamed to be beaten up by a woman and think it is going to harm their family's reputation, hence making it obvious for them to not report the violence. The coercion and persuasion used by the family also prevent them from taking any action. While this is the reason the main reason here highlights that the family and the men who have been a victim of violence also get scared of false accusations under section 498A². Men who report domestic abuse, face this standard issue that any man would face if he said it, people do not believe them of being the victim of violence.

Men are ashamed of talking this out and sharing their experiences. It is a foreseeable reason for underreporting that could also include those men who keep utmost believe and trust that things might actually end up well for them with their situation or with their spouses. The predictable cause yet could be the fear of losing one's self-respect, position, love, and protection with the fear of getting blamed and being the false accused. Also, there is the very nature of the Indian society to call out other men's feminine nature in the perceived male dominant society.

² Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 498A

THE REPERCUSSIONS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN

Violence affects any person's life negatively. The person does not remain the same and has a very different state be it emotionally, mentally, or physically. This has adverse effects in the Indian society leading to non-acceptance of the relations with your family and close ones, denial in acceptance of life, depression, stress, anxiety, fear, and suicide in extreme cases.

According to the research by WHO, exposure to violence increases the chance of men indulging in smoking, alcoholism, drugs, mental illness, suicidal thoughts, and chronic disease and social problems. The men who get harassed at the workplace have no one to talk to about their situation and who they are being forced into, causing them anxiety and other mental and self-doubtable issues. Gender paradox, which is the women who think of committing suicide more often by actually the men die out of suicide more frequently known in the society. Making it very undesirable to work anywhere and give up on life or relations. Men are harassing men when they should be the ones helping each other

LEGAL ISSUES MEN FACE AND OTHER LAWS IN FAVOR OF WOMEN

In the face of the knowledge gained, there are no laws governing men and nothing as such is yet to be formed by the legislation. Take for instance domestic violence, this law also is stated for the control of domestic violence with women as victims. Adultery as legal legislation considers man as the offender and the wrongdoer. Noticing bluntly one could notice there are no laws in the name of men or gender-neutral laws we talk about them here. In fact, there is no law in which a man who has been a victim of violence can complain about his in-laws or his wife.

Looking forth at Divorce and Child Custody laws, a woman is looked upon more willingly and empathetically while also being considered the victim. Times have changed and so do the laws have to be. Some fathers love their children but, lose them solely to their mother because the law states so. Moving on, if your eye on the Maintenance laws, where numerous false allegations are put up against men of marital rape and sexual harassment. Anti-dowry Laws, Dowry Prohibition Act, and section 498A³ passed by the Supreme Court of India already show

³ Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 498A

the concern relating to Legal Terrorism in the way that there are misuses of section 498A⁴ and thus therefore the necessary changes that are to be made by the parliament.

NECESSITY OF GENDER-NEUTRAL LAWS

There are cases that we have up until now have noticed, where men have been falsely accused of violence and dowry, in these cases a law that can in script these false allegations is the basic need. Human rights and gender equality should include both men and women, this article is not looking forward to describing men as the sole victim but the ways where men are being treated wrongfully and have not been given justice which has caused them tons of damage be it emotional, economic, reputation loss. Domestic violence should be considered spousal violence and not be differentiated if it's a man or a woman. Studies have shown that men are also victims of violence and hence necessary amendments be made.

CONCLUSION

Society has changed; we cannot expect the same old laws to apply to a society that has changed. Various other laws have been amended time being-ly but not these. Men also get assaulted, harassed, and violated. Therefore, the change in society should lead to a change in the legislation. The laws should further include men in the clauses they have not been indulged in. We are the pillars of society. We which include all of us, not woman, not man, but all of us, and hence laws are to be provided for the protection of both.

⁴ Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 498A