

Violence Against Women

Violence against Women (VAW)

- Most widespread violation of human rights
- Cuts across boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography
- Includes physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse
- Ranges from the most universally prevalent forms of domestic and sexual violence, to harmful practices, abuse during pregnancy, honour killings and other types of femicide
- Can happen anywhere - in the home, on the streets, in schools, the workplace, in farm fields, refugee camps, during conflicts and crises

Statistics on VAW

- Six out of every ten women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime
- WHO study of 24,000 women in 10 countries found that the prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence by a partner varied from 15% in urban Japan to 74% in rural Ethiopia, with most areas being in the 30-60% range
- Afghanistan, Congo, Pakistan, India and Somalia are the most dangerous countries in the world

Indian Statistics on VAW

- UNICEF study shows 7000 female children are being killed everyday in India
- A million female foetuses are selectively aborted in India each year
- In three generations, about 50 million women have been systematically annihilated from India's population
- In Devda village of Jaisalmer district in Rajasthan, there are only 12 girls in the 25,000 population
- It takes a payment of as little as Rs. 100, to a mid-wife to kill a new born girl
- 1 pregnant woman dies every 5 minutes

Indian Statistics on VAW

New Delhi, India, has been dubbed the "rape capital" of South Asia. “

Reported cases of VAW in 2010

- Andhra Pradesh 27,224
- West Bengal 26,125
- Uttar Pradesh 20,168
- Madhya Pradesh 16,468
- Maharashtra 15,739
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India's response to violence

- India ratified the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993
- Rape Laws under the IPC
- Sati Prevention Act 1987
- Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
- Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994
- Vishakha Guidelines against Sexual Harassment in the Workplace 1997
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

Manifestations of VAW in Childhood

Pre-natal stage

- Pre-birth elimination of female foetus
- Physical beating of wife during pregnancy

Infancy

- Female infanticide
- Discrimination in access to care, education, nutrition and health care

Childhood

- Child marriage
- Child sexual abuse
- Child prostitution
- Discrimination in access to care, education, nutrition and health care

Manifestations of VAW in Adolescence and Adulthood

- Molestation/eve teasing
- Rape
- Incest
- Sexual harassment in the workplace
- Forced prostitution and importation of girls
- Torture
- Trafficking & indecent representation of women
- Kidnapping and abduction
- Genital mutilation
- Acid Burns

Manifestations of VAW in Adolescence and Adulthood

- Domestic Violence
- Marital Rape
- Dowry related abuse and murder
- Violence associated with premarital pregnancy
- Forced pregnancy
- Forced abortion
- Discrimination in access to care, education, nutrition and health care

Categories of Violence

Physical abuse includes punching, hitting, beating, choking, kicking and pushing, burns, throwing objects at a person and using weapons such as knife etc. to hurt another person and is used to control another person

Psychological abuse includes criticizing, threatening, insulting, inciting other person to get angry and humiliating the other person that make the person more dependent and frightened of the abuser

Categories of Violence

Sexual coercion includes rape, sexual assault, molestation and forced marriage which are all ways of forcing women to have sex against their desire

Controlling behaviour resulting in restricted mobility, control over resources, monitoring of movements, denial of access to information, denial of job opportunities

Causes of VAW

- Rooted in unequal power relations
- Subordinate social status occupied by women and girls
- Different norms and expectations for the behaviour and roles to be performed by men and women
- Discrimination and unequal treatment in the way boys and girls are reared and cared for
- Denial of education, health care and other rights to girls
- Strong preference for girl children in society

Impact of VAW

Violence is used as a tool to reinforce and maintain gender roles and to punish women who do not follow them

- Overall poor health of women – fatal and non –fatal injuries
- Range of behavioural and emotional disturbances in children
- Perpetration of violence in adulthood
- High social and economic costs

Impact of VAW

- Accepting attitudes of violence and discrimination
- Reinforcement of stereotypical beliefs in family honour and sexual purity
- Perpetuation of skewed Ideologies of male sexual entitlement
- Lack of women's participation in social, economic and political spheres

Break The Cycle of VAW

- Enact legislation and develop policies that protect women; address discrimination; promote gender equality; and move the culture away from violence.
- Education and empowerment of women
- Increase in health and related services
- Opportunities for representation in public spheres of life
- Awareness programmes at all levels from school, homes, colleges, workplaces, families, communities



Stop Violence Against
Women!

Thank you