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

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Stop Violence Against Women!

Thank you