



# Unheard Voices : Unregistered cases of Domestic violence Moral Education may be the solution

Manju  
Associate Professor  
Delhi University

Abstract : In India due to Patriarchy most of the women have faced violence in their life from male member of society, no. of registered cases are very less. Feudal and patriarchal mind set of society do not allow women to raise voice against violence. Perhaps moral education can play positive role to create harmony between both gender.

Keyword: Patriarchal society, Domestic Violence, types of domestic violence, Moral knowledge

India is a Patriarchal society, where women are considered as a object to fulfill sexual desire and a tool to compose new generation. Men have right to take decision in the family and society. In other words we can say that men have all kinds of undeclared rights over women to oppress them physically and mentally. Women have to face violence in many ways. It could be sexual, emotional, financial physical, verbal etc. Women are not safe in their house also. In their life they have faced incidents of domestic violence, and some how they conceived it as the part of married life. Sometime it has seen that if a girl express about her right she has to face physical or verbal violence. In some unregistered cases it has seen that uneducated women believe that this domestic violence is their destiny and they should not protest against this.

In popular words domestic violence is violence or other abuse that occurs in a domestic setting, such as in a marriage. Domestic violence is often used as a synonym for intimate partner violence, which is committed by one of the people in an intimate relationship against the other person, and can take place in either heterosexual or same-sex relationship or between former spouses or partners. In its broadest sense, domestic violence also involves violence against children, parents or the elderly. It can assume multiple forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive or sexual abuse.

In her book, The Battered women, Lenore E. Walker writes about an abuse survivor she interviewed : One women described life threatening physical assaults, one of which resulted in a broken

vertebrae in her neck. She was in physical pain for months following this beating. However, when asked to describe the most painful battering incident, she said it was her husband commanded her to get on her knees and make sound like an animals. This psychological degradation was for more humiliating and painful than the physical abuse she suffered. There are many ways to degrade someone or to humiliate someone, like emotional abuse is sometimes harder than physical abuse to define and recognize. A bruise will heal but the damage to a person's self esteem can last forever. This can be some examples of emotional abuse like- Ignoring partner's feeling, insulting women as a group, continually criticizing, humiliating partners in private or public, refusing to socialize with people who are important to partners, regularly threatening to leave or told to leave, taking means of communication away etc, manipulating partners with lies and contradictions harassing partners about imagined affairs, abusing torturing or killing pets etc.

**Physical Abuse:** In a popular notion physical violence is the first form of violence when people hear the words domestic violence. Physical violence means, pushing, kicking, slapping, punching, scratching pulling hair, spitting or throwing object near partner, abuse that result in lacerations, broken bones, internal injuries or miscarriage, murder. In lower class society, physical abuse has been a normal thing. Husband can beat his wife with or without any reason, if he is bibber or an alcoholic.

As we knows that sexual relation is a essential part to the complete marriage, but in some cases it becomes the reason of abuse. Sexual abuse is a difficult aspect of domestic violence. Sexual violence is used in the same way that physical violence is used to make control over women or partner. There are many way to sexual abuse, which can discuss and shared by some victims like: Reproductive coercion, Birth control sabotage, forcing a partner to strip, to become a sex worker or prostitute, to watch pornography, to participate in any form of unwanted sexual activity, Biting pinching or hurting a partner with object during sex.

It is very difficult to share with anyone by a woman about sexual abuse. As sex has been a taboo in Indian culture. We never focused on sex education or a sophisticated behaviour in sexual relation. Some times patriarchal behaviour can see in the intimate relation also, which might be very painful for the victim.

A society with patriarchal mind set never want to give financial independence to women. Men want that women should economically dependent on them. Women should ask for every peny. This behaviour satisfy their ego that we are the master and women are our subordinate not equals. Financial abuse is also one form of Domestic Violence.

Financial Abuse – When one partner is controlling the financial independence of the other partner.

financial abuse. These things can be listed in the name of financial abuse –

Having all bank accounts in the abuser's name, controlling how, when and where money is spent, denying a partner the right to work outside the home or make any financial contribution to the family, misusing a partner's name for financial reasons.

A society where a boy gets more appreciations, more acknowledgement in comparison to his sister or girl in the family. He grows up with the idea that being a boy is very good and he is obliging everyone. This mind set makes him an insensitive person and he uses bad words and abusive language for women. Even when two men fight each other, reason may be anything, but they both abuse the female members of the family.

**Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act 2005:-** This is an act of the parliament of India enacted to protect women from domestic violence. It was brought into force by the Indian government and Ministry of women and Child Development on 26 October 2006. It shows that now Indian women have the right to protect themselves from domestic violence.

Here, this paper (Article) is going to draw attention to a few cases which have never been registered. As we are aware that there are many types of domestic violence and most of the women have faced any one type in their entire life. Some unregistered cases can be discussed here for reference –

1. Poonam is a 38<sup>th</sup> year old married woman, belongs to Mathura (U.P.). She got married at the age of 15 and now has three children aged 22, 20, 14. She has been facing physical and verbal violence. Her husband is an alcoholic. He always puts allegations on her character. She was not financially independent so this dependency is making her vulnerable. Now she has started working as a home-maid, as her husband left her and her children. He is living in his native place and enjoying his life with liquor. Poonam's married life was full of torture and violence. She did not have the courage to lodge a complaint against her husband. There was physical, emotional, verbal and financial violence, from which she was going through.

2. Surabhi is a 37 year Graduate with M.B.A. lady, belongs to Rajasthan (state of colour and culture). She has been married for 13 years and facing a problem related to emotional violence in her family life. As she shared that because Surabhi's family was facing a problem in searching for a groom for her as she is not as attractive as per society norms. She got engaged at the age of 26 and she was told by her husband that she will have to keep quiet with down eyes in her entire life, means she

will not have right to express herself and she will not take any decision. Her husband uses her as a object and as bondage labour.

Further she shared that her husband behaves like a dictator like order her to cook food for many guests without prior information, her parent's in law forced her for veil. Her father in law demanded dowry. She share that starting few years was very painful, so she decided that she will never oppose for any wrong action of her husband. Surabhi's case shows that if a girl with high qualification can not live freely so what would be status of an uneducated women.

3. Third case is related to Seema. Seema is a graduate 48 year high caste girl. She got married before 22 years. She has two sons, but her husband is not loyal to her He has done adultery so many times and tried to do emotional abuse regularly. She did not registered any complaint but left his house to protest. Her husband was not agree to resolve that issue means did not want to stop his extra marrital life. Seema's parents has become old, they can not take care their daughter so they send her back to her husband house with the statement that Seema will not do so again, give her another chance. In Seema case she is a victim of domestic violence but society norms and patriarchal mind set projects that she did something wrong by doing protest.

4. Guddi – Guddi is a 45 year old, 8<sup>th</sup> pass lady, lives in haryan's village. Her husband is a Sipahi (solider) in B.S.F. As per requirement of job, he have to stay at his positing centre and come back home in holidays only. She is a fair beautiful girl.

5. Guddi has been tortured physically, mentally emotional by her husband. Her husband harassed her by blaming her character with some imagined affairs. As she is financial dependent on her husband and her parents are not economically sound, she has no other way instead of live with it. The worst part in it is her sons do not keep soft heart for mother but they think her as a culprit.

Moiteri – Moiteri is a 42 year highly educated lady, she did intercaste marriage with her parents approval, but she faced physical, emotional, financial abusive violence in her married life. As she shared that her parents financial and educational background is high in comparison to in law's. So moiteri was considered as a servant in her in-law's house and her husband was one of them who treated bad to her. She did inter caste marriage so she has no right (as per social norms) to take steps back from married life.

6. Madhu – Madhu is a 30 year uneducated girl. She works as a house maid in many house. Her husband is a alcoholic. He used to beat her regularly. He does not do any job. Madhu works for her family and for his liquor also. If she does not do so, she have to face consequences. Marks of

domestic violence easily can see in her face or body. She is an uneducated girl, she does not know about the law. She thinks about her poor status that this is her destiny.

7. Gitika – Gitika is a highly educated lady, working as a vice principal in government school in Haryana, have been married for 22 years. Her husband is also educated but less successful. Gitika is a beautiful smart and attractive lady. Her personality makes her husband insecure. She did love marriage as she shared her parents were not in favour of this match initially, but after long persual they had to agree. Now problem is insecurity of Gitika's husband, emotional violence has become part of their married life and the worst part is that Gitika can not raise voice against it. Marriage of her choice became suffering for her. She shared that her husband does not want that there should be not any communication from any men in her life. If she talks to any man except her brother and father, he become rude, abusive and uncultured.

8. Mamta – Mamta is a 70 year old lady, has been continuous facing physical, mental and emotional torture from her husband in her 52 year married life. Her husband is a retired officer while she is an uneducated comparison to her husband Mamta shared that her husband used to call her Ganwar Orat (uneducated lady) in front of others publically which is very humalating. She shared that she never asked for good clothes and jewellery to her husband as other ladies demands. She always look after house, kids, his relatives and other necessary things but her husband never acknowledged and he behaves as a master to her.

In idealist thought or in Indian culture husband and wife are considered as two wheels of life cart, but if someone is considered himself a master of other, then how it will be a good relation and the bitter part is that Mamta can not asked for a justice. Patriarchy makes society like this only.

Renuka – Renuka is a 34 year an ambitious girl, she is educated and wish to work and make her own sky but her parents in law do not allow her to do so and her husband wish was the same. She left his house with her two year son and got job, but due to society pressure she had to come back to her husband houses. We can see many examples like Renuka where girls are not allowed to do jobs or study (Denial of constitutional rights). Who will do the house hold cores, if daughter-in-law will go to job? That is the basic reason in many families, who do not allow their girls to do jobs.

These are some glimpses of patriarchal behaviour of India society. Women face this attitude in their routine life. Uneducated woman take this as their destiny and educated wanted to change and armed this but some get success and some get failure. Until the mind-set of society will not change nothing will change. Education, equal distribution of physical work and most important role to make a peaceful life.

As per contemporary hazard environment conditions, environmental studies has become compulsory part as EVS students are studying EVS at their school and graduation level, same like that moral education should be the essential part from primary to higher education. A curricular should design according to class so that step by step student may know about the good value. It should be a compulsory subject.

it has seen that cases of domestic violence are very less in educated regions. A house where kids are taught about respect of all individuals become good human beings and good citizen. Now it has become a necessary to portrait women as human, as individual who has equally right to get respect from society. It should not be portrait as a sex symbol only, or as a entertainment tool. All media way like television, OTT, films, magazines etc, should be censored for vulgarity. Women should portrait as a National builder, as a home builder as a society builder. So that they also can enjoy their life without any pressure and threat. Women are needed to design themself different from their conventional role of mother and home maker.

## References

1. Brewster. M (2002) Domestic Violence Theories, Research and Practice in A. Robert (ed.) Handbook of Domestic violence intervention strategies. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Brookoffi, D.K. O' Brein, C Cook T Thompson, and C. William (1997) "Characterisation of participant in Domestic violence: Assessment at the scene of Domestic Assault" JAMA : The Journal of the American Medical Association 277 (17): 1369-1373.
3. Fagan. J (1996). The Criminalization of Domestic Violence: Promises and limit National Institute of Justice Research Report.
4. Sexual violence and Rape in India Lancet, vol 383, 8 March 2012.
5. National Family Health Survey 3 – Domestic Violence.
6. BBC, INCRB 100 women 2014 : Violence at home is Indian family.
7. Status of Indian Women – Dr. Saraswati Mishra.
8. Indian Social- Legal Journal 1988, 1991