



VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract : Human rights acknowledge and shield the nobility of each and every person. Human rights are intrinsic to all human beings, irrespective of their nationality, sex, race, religion, language, or any kind of status. The world can develop only and only when women get equal rights. Violence against women has been a great issue from a long time. This violence can take place anywhere, maybe at home, on roads, in shopping malls, or at the workplace. On record, very rare number of crime cases are reported and moreover, very less number of accused are punished. There is a need for the safety of half of the population of the globe. This paper aims to deal with various forms of violence that are done towards women.

IndexTerms - Human rights, violence, crime, women, safety.

I. INTRODUCTION

“There cannot be true democracy unless women’s voices are heard. There cannot be true democracy unless women are given the opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives. There cannot be true democracy unless all citizens are able to participate fully in the lives of their country.”

---Hillary Clinton, a former First Lady of the United States

The International Human Rights rely on the fact that each and every human being has specific human rights, constraint being they are simply human. These rights are universal, equal and non-discriminatory. Each human being all across the globe irrespective of gender, language, religion, race or nationality is compulsory bounded to follow these human rights [1]. However, rights of women are frequently violated by family members as well as in the public places. Violation of human rights of women incorporates female foeticide, dowry demand, domestic violence, sexual harassment and eve teasing.

II. MEANING OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The term violence against women means adverse behavior committed against women because of just being women. It is rooted in gender inequality. Violence committed against a woman can be physical, mental or sexual and it is typically by a man. Abusing women in India has its long past history. The women of India never get the same status and opportunities as enjoyed by men. Looking through the history of India, we can see that the tradition of Devadasi, practice of Sati, Practice of Jauhar, child marriage and restriction of widow marriage were humiliating against women. They were not given their rights and treated as they were not human being. They were treated as burden in the family.

In present scenario, despite of various laws the attitude of Indian society is same [2]. These laws were formulated to motivate women so that they can give their best in every walk of life. Despite such efforts, women are still not given equal status as men. They have to face violence during their whole life span, even before birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood to old age. Violence against women is a violation of human rights. While investigating about the violence against women in India there are various issues that can be discussed. The problem being that exact differentiation cannot be made that what should be counted as violence and what should not be. There is no definite discrimination where to draw a line. Women of independent country India are facing violation of following rights:

1. Violation of right to equality that is Gender discrimination

“Our very existence begins in a woman's body. If a woman, out of whom a man is born, is inferior, then how the man can be superior”, writes Sadhguru.

In Indian society there exit a large discrimination between a men and women. Men are regarded superior than women. Beginning of this discrimination starts from her conception into the mother’s womb. Illegal sex determination test leads to foeticide, if there is a girl child. Laws regarding this must be improvised so that such wrong action should be completely stopped. There is a very drastic fall in the boy to girl ratio because of these illegal sex determination tests. If anyhow she survives, she has to suffer exploitation and violence

from her so called own family members. Whereas, in the same atmosphere men will live as they are on the top of the world. The human right “Right to life” of women is totally violated.

2. Violation of Right to live with human dignity

Exploitation of women is now a days increasing day by day. Every day newspaper and news channels on Television are presenting coverage of violence against women. Incidents of eve teasing, rape and sexual harassment are uncontrollable despite various laws.

(i) Eve teasing-Eve teasing means annoying or irritating women. Men exploit women for their pleasure; this violates the self-respect of women. Making unpleasant comments on her looks, any sexual remark, touching any part of her body, a gesture which is vulgar, all these actions are violation of her human right to live with human dignity. The first woman that God is supposed to made on earth was ‘Eve’, thus the terminology eve –teasing. In India, almost every woman who steps outside their home has to face eve teasing. Women are tortured anywhere, may be on roads, shopping mall, cinema halls, in public transport, even at their own residence.

(ii)Rape-Rape is one of worst crime committed against women. Many girls are brutally assaulted and raped. It’s very miserable that victim has to prove that she has been raped. She has to undergo various medical tests and moreover, some of these tests are against her dignity. Victim’s family are also not in a situation to file first information report due to reputation of family status and lengthy process. Rape spoils the whole life of victim. There are many cases which are not even reported. India has very high crime rate.

3. Violation of Right to Liberty

Indian constitution allows right to liberty to each and every citizen of India, including women of India [3]. But most of Indian women have to suffer domestic violence and dowry demand incidents. These circumstances are against the right to liberty of a women and its dignity and self-respect is largely suffered.

(i) Demand of dowry and bride burning- From ancient times in Indian marriage money or gifts are given to groom and his parents from bride parents. The demand of dowry with large open mouth by groom or its family members from a bride is very common in India. Despite, various laws regarding this, number of such cases are increasing day by day. If bride parents are not able to give sufficient dowry as demanded by groom parents, then after the marriage she is not treated well and sometimes she is even burnt alive. So, regarding safety it can be stated that she is not even safe at her own home.

(ii) Domestic violence-Domestic violence means any form of violence committed in home. It incorporates various forms; it can be emotional, sexual or physical. The major reason behind the domestic violence is the need of money for drinking from the money earned by wife. Most of the Indian women never complaint because they feel ashamed of talking about this.

4. Violation of Right to Education

Looking back from a long period of time in India there has been a lot of difference on the aspect of education of girl and boy. There is a large gap between the literacy level of girl and boy. Education is really important for women as it not only develops her personality but also contribute to flourish her family. In many families in India girls are treated as they are simply born to do household work, education is of no use for them [4].

5. Violation of Right to Equal Opportunity of Employment and Equal Pay for Equal Work

In India, women are getting lesser wages as man for the same work. This wider pay gap is because of dirty thinking of man in Indian society, who thinks women inferior. This gender disparity in India should be removed by taking accelerating and bold action.

6. Violation of Right to Health

In Indian family, women eat food after when man has their proper food. Women used to eat leftover food. Moreover, men used to have nutritive food like milk, fruit, vegetables, butter, ghee whereas women is deprived of nutritive elements. Due to this, women are more vulnerable to infections and diseases. Human right, right to health must be enjoyed by each and every one irrespective of their gender.

III. WOMEN SAFETY IN INDIA

There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.” -Swami Vivekananda

Women have a very key role in our society without them life is nothing. They are part of our life as mother, sister, wife and daughter. In social scenario they deserve equality and respect as enjoyed by men. But the behaviour of society, negligible attention from family and fear of disrespect are the major factors of violations of women’s human right. Various laws in India are framed to secure rights of

women but it is clear in the present structure that are restricted as 'Act' rather than 'Action'. Women have the power to change the world. Women should not keep silence; however, they should raise voice for their human rights. Crime against women leads to physical as well as mental influence on women.

In India women safety is major issue and therefore should be discussed in direction so that crimes committed against her should be stopped as soon as possible. India is a country where she is worshipped as Durga, Laxmi and Kali. We should seriously look into the matter of her safety. For the advancement of the country attempts must be made to enhance women's safety. Schematic, constructive and simple laws must be recognised and spread extensively. Numerous numbers of women activists, NGOs and government agencies are contributing to spread awareness regarding safety measure. Along with these effective adopted measures, women themselves have to show their strength for their self-respect [5].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Crime against women is a global phenomenon and there is a strong need for its safety so that she can also avail the opportunities of human rights and live with dignity. It is liability of every person to make women feel safe. Women are architects of the society. Imparting education to women is of great need so that they can speak up for themselves and never be victim of injustice. Women equality is the need of an hour so that they can live with pride in fearless society.

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