



Violence Against Women at Home and the Role of DV Act in Women's Empowerment

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Abstract- Violence in the home, against women is a cruel practice. Domestic violence is defined as ‘any act of physical. mental, verbal harassment which causes a danger to the life of a person in the house by the person or persons in the same house. Women are major victims and are badly affected by domestic violence. The economic and social implications are wide and harm the health of women and victims. There were enormous reasons for violence against women including social, gender, mental and behavioural. The Protection of women against violence Act 2005 is preventive for women and ensures the way to women’s empowerment. The help of society, judiciary, and executive bodies is empirical for this. The paper studies the role of PWDVA 2005 in the empowerment of women against domestic violence.

Keywords: domestic violence, Women empowerment, behavioural abuse, Physical, mental.

Introduction

Domestic violence is the act of beating, abusing, harming physically and mentally to the person in the house, that is the member of the family.

The Domestic Violence Act 2005, Section 3 defines that, “any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case if: -

1. harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or
2. harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or
3. has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b);
4. otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person.

1. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study ‘Role of Domestic Violence Law in Empowering Women in India’ are as under: -

1. To study the different causes of domestic violence against women.
2. To analyze the role of PWDVA 2005 in the empowerment of women of India.

2. Methodology

The proposed study is conceptual. The earlier research and findings are referred to find the causes of Domestic violence and the author has incorporated his suggestions and purview on the role of PWDV Act 2005 in the empowerment of women in India.

Literature Review

The brief literature review has covered the aspects of women empowerment in India against the existence of domestic violence against women in India and role of Protection of Women Domestic Violence Act 2005. Various research Papers, Articles, Thesis, Reports from World Bank, NBER, Five year Plan, and the PWDV Act 2005 with the other legislative notification are scrutinized.

The brief of the review is classified under three broad categories.

Women Empowerment

In the working paper of NBER Duflo (2011) said that economic development and women's empowerment are correlated, both would be manifested in improving the ability of women to access the constituents of development viz. health, education, earning opportunities, rights, and political participation.

World Bank report (2014) concludes the words of a woman for women empowerment that 'free space to decide for herself with no dependence on others is empowerment. When the husband asked her advice, they decided together with mutual respect, was the source of pride. Further, the report defines the empowerment of women as removing constraints and unleashing women's full productive potential that can yield enormous dividends that make whole societies more resilient and more prosperous.

Thus, empowerment of women and prosperity would be reflected through 1. Delays in marriage with greater educational achievement, lower fertility. Lower fertility can increase Life expectancy and that would benefit children health and education. 2. More women would work in office, policy making and that would reflect in the priorities of families and women. 3. Ownership of property would increase social status of women, amplifying their voice, and increased bargaining power within the household.

Domestic violence is a behavioural abuse, as the WHO report (2013) says that mental disorders are one of the causes of domestic violence.

Women's empowerment is essential for the development of the economy and prosperity of the country.

The domestic violence or violence against women also differ in line with various perspectives and orientations, Pickup, William & Sweetman (2001) explained as, various theoretical, political, and policy responses of human rights and developmental organisations. as well as the various local, national and time-specific perspectives shaping and influencing the definition. Hearn (1998) added, that definition of violence is different in one situation to another situation or time.

Domestic Violence and Causes

It is difficult to define domestic violence, as it has varied activities and actions against a person in general, and women, in particular, are covered. Khan (2015) asserted that studying domestic violence is a difficult issue as it is unpredictable. And not stable. Kalokhe et. al. (2017) reviewed more than 3843 research articles on domestic violence from India and found the different terms used for domestic violence as 'spouse abuse', 'intimate partner violence', 'sexual violence', 'physical violence', 'gender-based violence', 'wife battering'. 'Domestic abuse.' The researchers are focusing on finding the reasons and or presence of domestic violence but not the legal remedies and efforts of empowerment of women with the law.

Studies reveal that Domestic violence against women is in every part of the world. Yoshikawa et.al (2012) found that there were 40% of women experience abuse by their life partner. Visaria (2000) propagated the causes of high domestic violence in India are the deep-rooted male patriarchal roles in society. Fernandez (1997) and Gundappa & Rathod (2012) found that women are viewed as subordinates in the family due to long standing cultural norms.

The society, legal and political system and the government has pronounced on all stages for equal status and empowerment to women.

Mehta (2015) found that domestic violence caused severe health issues in victim women and the cases were silently treated in government hospitals without any legal action in the Domestic violence Act 2005.

Gabriel (2017) found that the males are major perpetrators of domestic violence and the physical, verbal, emotional abuse were same against the women of all religions.

Deshmukh (2015) concluded that there is no protection for women against domestic violence and extra marital affair, polygamy, desire of producing a son are the reasons of violence against women.

Amitha (2019) in her study on 'Impact of Domestic violence on Adolescent children' found that 80% adolescents were exposed to the domestic violence, and she helped to develop a intervention program for children.

Lajvanti (2020) found that the implementation of the Act needed public support and execution machinery. Education could awaken the society against the violence and prevention of the rights of women.

Gupta (2020) concluded in her study on 'working and effectiveness of law on domestic violence in India', that economic independence of women and education with the positive role of family could curb the domestic violence against women.

Role of Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2005

Shettar (2015) in her study asserted. that despite of many efforts undertaken by government of India, women of India are relatively disempowered and experience lower status than men. She suggests strict implementation of Act to curb the mal practices against empowerment of women.

The domestic violence should be stopped and women's must be given to due respect and opportunity to empower herself as an entrepreneur, Management and Technical expert . so as to serve society in better ways.

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