



Empower, Prevent, Protect: A Blueprint Against Gender Violence

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ABSTRACT

Violence against women is a spectrum of psychological issues. We need a comprehensive planning of prevention and response of this global issue. The major root cause of this problem is gender inequality and harmful social norms. The prevention could be done by some approaches like there should be more focus on education, promoting women's economic empowerment, community engagement and challenging patriarchal structures. There should be a co-ordinated efforts among the government, healthcare system, civil society and law enforcement.

Introduction

In his address to the nation on India's 75th birthday, prime minister Shri Narendra Modi called for “change in the mentality” towards women and asked citizens to fight misogyny. According to a McKinsey Global Institute Report, if India provides opportunities to women India's GDP will get an additional 770 million dollars. United nations termed the period from 1975- 1985 the decade for women. Additionally 2001 was considered the international year for women's empowerment which was also adopted in India. Violence against women has an effect on women of any age group, irrespective of their culture and background.

At present, this gender inequality apparent in various forms such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, human trafficking, and femicide. This paper examines both prevention and response strategies

to address the violence against women. There is a major need to raise awareness about this issue to ensure that women should be treated with dignity and respect. The numbers show a consistent year on year rise in crime against women . In the year 2021 , India recorded the highest number of crimes against women ever. It is an alarming situation for the government to take strict actions against this major problem.

Root cause of violence against women

The root cause of violence against women is deeply rooted. Violence against women is not very new in our society, its roots are very primitive. In ancient times , collecting food was a very difficult task. So because of menstruation, women used to stay at home for rest . So men and women divided the work like men use to collect food and women do house chores. So the concept of superiority and inferiority came and men started to take control of resources . So gradually division of labour converted into gender inequality.

Negative consequences of violence against women in a country :-

The census 2011 counts the women population at 48.5 % of the total population. It is known that women are half of the population of any country, but they contribute only 10% of a nation's income . Because in many countries, they are not allowed to go to work , or if they go , they have to face a lot of restrictions from family first and then in workplace , as there are many cases of violence against women seen ,so the family restrict women to go out and if they go , they have to face restrictions. There is biasness in holding positions as well . They are not getting equal pay for equal work .

Prevention strategies

There are many strategies to prevent the violation against women some of them are :-

Role of education

According to NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION'S SURVEY 2018 - The literacy rate in India is 77. 7%, While female literacy is still below 70% and 30 crore people in India are illiterate. On comparing the major developed countries, Finland has a 100% literacy rate. The UK has 99.3%. Education plays a very important role in changing behaviour and attitudes that perpetuate gender based violence. Schools are on top to promote gender equality from the root and could become a non - violent conflict resolution.

Raising awareness is also pivotal and for that , public campaigns could be helpful. There should be equity in the education of boys and girls . If the people of society will be educated then the awareness will also increase .Challenging gender forms and stereotypes, by teaching students about gender equality from a young age will be beneficial. By showing positive role models in schools like showcasing women in leadership roles.Education can also become a tool to prevent early marriages , especially in regions where early marriages and harmful traditional practices are prevalent.

Role of national commission for women

It is very important to have policies and strong laws that protect women from violence. National commission for women is a statutory body of government of India that was established in 1992 to protect and promote women's rights. It is a well defended body which is working for womens. But there should be some changes required, to make it more powerful. Firstly the constitutional status should be given to the national commission for women .Currently this is an apex level body its structure and power can be easily changed by amending the laws .

Constitutional bodies have greater legal authority as they are the part of fundamental law of the land. Apex level body is generally less independent and can be influenced by government policies and has limited authority by statutory framework. Constitutional bodies are more independent, enjoys constitutional protections. They have higher authority due to constitutional backing. This is the reason why the national commission for women enjoys less power .

If the national commission for women gets quasi judicial power , it is possible that justice could be served early . The National Commission for Women acts as a bridge between victims and law enforcement, so it should act as a quasi judicial body . Remember justice is justice denied . Rather than working as a bridge , the recommendation should be made to make the national commission for women a constitutional body with quasi judicial power.

Economic empowerment of women

Financial independence plays a very crucial role in moving from the trap of abusive relationships. Empowering women financially can help to reduce their vulnerability to violence. Women empowerment is a moment that strives to eliminate the social , economic, and political divide between men and women . Which helps to reduce their vulnerability to violence.

According to the labour force participation rate (LFPR) , released by Centre for Monitoring Indian economy (CMIE) , States as of December 2021', the male LFPR was as low as 9.4% . Only 1% of women globally live in countries with high women empowerment and gender parity. According to the dimension of Economic participation and opportunity of the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index India is 143rd rank. Around 1/3rd of Indian women are not literate as per the census 2011. Women in India contribute just 18% of GDP.

Community and cultural change

There are different cultural norms which lead to increased violence against women. One of them is child marriage . According to National family health survey 5, 23.3% of girls were married before 18 years, which leads to marital rape and abusive relationships. Dowry is also one of the major problems of abusive relationships. Some other cultural norms like FGM female genital mutilation which is violation of human rights and women dignity. There is a major need to prevent these cultural norms which are played in villages and some cities as well .

Other safety measures

A host of safety measures should be made to prevent the violence against women . Along with the National Commission for Women, a State Commission for Women should also be formed in every state so that justice can be provided as soon as possible. Self defense classes should be compulsory in every school. No doubt, the punishment for rape and violence against women should be increased because there are some loopholes in the law due to which this crime is increasing day by day despite such an strict punishment against them. We have to build our nation together, this country will not be able to develop with just half of the population. If India wants to achieve the status of a developed country, then the condition of women needs to be improved.

Conclusion

Despite all the progress that has been made in the field of development, the condition of women remained unchanged. Violence against women is a universal issue that erodes human dignity and societal progress. Addressing this challenge requires a multidimensional view that includes community education, legal reform, economic empowerment, and the functional participation of all societal stakeholders. Preventive actions must be a focal point on changing patriarchal mindsets, promoting gender equality, and ensuring accountability for offenders. By encouraging a culture of respect and

security, we can smash the cycle of violence and design an environment where women can bloom as equal and valued members of society. Ending violence against women is not just a target—it is a prerequisite for sustainable development and social justice.

JAB HUM EK DEVELOPED COUNTRY BANNE KI IS LADAI ME APNI AADHI SENA KE SAATH HI UTRENGE TO HAM YE YUDDH KAISE JEET PAENGE?

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