

An Analysis of Domestic Violence Against Women – A Case Study in Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu, India

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Abstract

“Domestic violence as it is generally understood in its broader sense is violence among members of a family or members of a household. Domestic violence implies the misuse of power by one adult in a relationship to control another.” But the truth is no one is controlled by anybody in this world. The most serious and vulnerable domestic violence is sexual violence. This is common in India. The home is a place where every human being seeks love, safety, security and shelter but for some women, the home is a place that harms lives. Some of the most drastic forms of violence perpetrated against women. Women must also come forward to learn the skill to fend them in case they face any difficulties. The individuals and Government must both come together to make women Empowerment happen.

Keywords: Domestic violence, City, Muffusil.

1. Introduction

Right from the Adam and Eve period women is not equal to men in terms of their power. There is a myth in almost all the countries women have a lower status than men. There is a strong belief that men are holding higher in rank when compared to women. So the society provides dominant position to women. Number of violence's against women was in the society; women are treated as poorly. The violence against women that live in the society is numerous; the most painful violence is Domestic Violence. The violence is created by their own family members, and relatives. The reports given by colorful countries said the same as Accord of 1994 and the Beijing Declaration and the platform of Action of 1995.

According to the society of each and every nation, domestic violence is a serious issue of human rights for the development. But in India, it has come a normal practice to abuse women. In the society demarcation of coitus, distribution of power and male chauvinism are witnessed the causes for being domestic violence. In India the domestic violence is seen each and every state. This paper focuses on the domestic violence that exists in Tamilnadu state. There is plenitude of acts passed for the protection of women from domestic violence. In Tamilnadu each quarter has established a special department for the welfare of the women in the name of ‘District Social Welfare Department’. The present study highlights Tirunelveli district Social Welfare Department and its role played for the protection of women from the domestic violence.

DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT:

After independence, to apply the welfare policy for women, Government appointed a separate ministry in the name of Social Welfare department. This social welfare department includes a large number of benefits related with the welfare of the people. The social welfare department focuses on the weaker section of the society. Especially in Tirunelveli district social welfare office was established in the time 2001.

In each sections, protection officer were appointed by the District Social Welfare Department to prevent women from the domestic violence¹. The personnel's involved are Protection officer, service provider, Magistrate, Police officer and person in charge. The duty of the protection officer is an important one, for preparing a Domestic Incident Report (DIR) in an authorized format and a due encouragement to original police officer and service providers. The role of protection officer is to register a complaint before the justice on behalf of the offended person. The service provider should record the domestic violence incident in a prescribed format to get the offended person medically examined and informed within 3 days of the damage of the operation in the court, the Magistrate will fix the first date of trial.

DESCRIPTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

The universal accepted description of Domestic Violence² is “Domestic violence as it is generally understood in its broader sense, is violence among members of a family or members of a household. Domestic violence implies the misuse of power by one adult in a relationship to control another.” But the truth is no one is controlled by anybody in this world.

FORMS OF VIOLENCE

The meaning for Domestic Violence³ is not just a frequent argument fighting, or hitting only. It inculcates Beating, hanging, and stalking or other forms of suggestion, and emotional, mental or psychological and sexual abuse. Physical violence occurs due to the strength of man. The most important visible form of domestic violence is Physical injury. The forms of physical domestic or intimate partner violence includes slapping, pushing, remonstrating, biting, hitting, throwing objects, strangling, beating, hanging with any form of armament. The most serious and vulnerable domestic violence is sexual violence. This is common in India. Sexual violence can include unwanted kissing, touching, rape; and marital rape. Extramarital affairs are common among men in the form of sexual abuse.

In the private home, the common form of domestic violence is emotional abuse. It includes harassment; threats; verbal abuse, declination and condemning; and isolation. In our society the common styles used for inflicting psychological violence are through threat to kill, torture the person or her family members or friends. Controlling victim's plutocrat and other economic resources is another form of economic abuse of the domestic violence in the society. The social abuse of domestic violence is preventing victim from seeking friends and relatives and actively damage a person harmed social relationships and isolating them from social contacts. Like these, numerous violence occurred in the society. Indian Government wanted to prevent women from this domestic violence. Some legal provisions to protect women from the issues faced by them are listed below.

¹ <https://www.thehotline.org/>

² <https://www.thehotline.org/>

³ <https://www.thehotline.org/>

PROTECTION OF WOMEN BY CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS:

With expedient to Composition 253 of the Constitution an enactment was passed by the Parliament⁴. This provision grant on the Parliament the power to make laws in pursuance of international treaties, conventions. The Domestic Violence Act was passed in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the CEDAW. The Act encompasses all the provisions of the Specific Recommendations which form a part of General Recommendation no.19, 1992⁵.

SIGNIFICANT ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005

The Act 2005 is an act to give further effective protection of the rights of women given under the Constitution who are affected persons of any kind being within the family and for matters connected therewith. Currently, domestic violence is defined by the protection of women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005 in India⁶.

CASES RECORDED BY THE TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT⁷:

Tirunelveli city has been divided into two categories such as Tirunelveli City and Tirunelveli Muffusil. Domestic violence cases against women dealt under these areas. Tirunelveli Muffusil refers to provincial or rural districts. The present paper throws its light on domestic violence against women. The following table vividly presents the data registered during the year 2009-2010 to 2022-2023. The source of the data has been collected from District Handbook of Tirunelveli as secondary source for statistical survey.

Cases registered under Domestic violence against women

Year	Tirunelveli City	Tirunelveli Muffusil
2009-2010	96	168
2010-2011	96	248
2011-2012	80	420
2012-2013	120	857
2013-2014	242	1142
2014-2015	146	864
2015-2016	127	1079
2016-2017	200	902
2017-2018	166	60
2018-2019	111	949
2019-2020	---	493
2020-2021	64	589
2021-2022	114	922

⁴ http://chdsla.gov.in/right_menu/act/pdf/domviolence.pdf

⁵ https://www.bcasonline.org/Referencer2015-16/OtherLaws/protection_of_women_from_domestic_violence_act_2005.html/

⁶ www.tnsocialwelfare.org/pages/view/protection-of-women-from-domestic-violence-act-2005

⁷ <https://www.tnsocialwelfare.org/>

Source: District Handbook of Tirunelveli District.

For the past 14 years the number of cases increased gradually. The detailed analytical study explores that Muffusil area ranks high as more number of cases registered compared to Tirunelveli city side. The statistical data analysis of the table states a vast difference during the year 2012-2013 to 2016-2017. In Muffusil area more than 5 times increased. But during the year 2017-18 it is a just opposition, that city limits cases were higher. Again back to pavilion it reached the old trend where cases low in Tirunelveli city and high in Muffusil area. But a sudden surprise during the year 2019-2020, not even a single case has been registered in Tirunelveli city limits. In Muffusil limit 493 cases were registered. After COVID in Tirunelveli city and Muffusil raised number of cases registered. During COVID no case registered in tirunelveli city. But in the subsequent years in Tirunelveli city number of cases registered double the time every year. In Muffusil the subsequent year of COVID registered high number of cases but in the next year i.e., 2022-2023 the number of cases has been reduced fifty percentage. Altogether, in the Muffusil area, people are more vulnerable in the progress of women empowerment. Being most of the women are illiterate male chauvinism prevailed everywhere in rural areas. Without man woman is incomplete and without women man is also incomplete. But the society creates mental trauma towards women through domestic violence and exploited them well.

2. CONCLUSION

The home is a place where every human being seeks love, safety, security and shelter but for some women, the home is a place that harms lives. Some of the most drastic forms of violence perpetrated against women. The Tamilnadu District social welfare department plays crucial role in addressing the domestic violence cases against women. This department not only finding the cases but also makes great efforts to achieve in a fruitful manner. Women must also come forward to learn the skill to fend them in case they face any difficulties. The individuals and Government must both come together to make women Empowerment happen.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Dr. C. Guna Sundari is currently serving as Assistant Professor of Economics at Sri Kumara Gurupara Swamigal Arts College, Srivaikuntam, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. She holds a Ph.D. from Madurai Kamaraj University with research specialization in women's health status and socio-economic issues. Her research interests include gender studies, domestic violence, industrial economics, and rural development in South India. She has published 24 papers in various journals which includes peer-reviewed journals and presented at 36+ national/international conferences.

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