



Study of violence against women, its specific forms and legal responses in India

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Abstract : Women are docile, meek and subservient and are subjected to humiliation, physical violence, sexual violence, exploitation, psychological violence, physical assault, emotional violence, sexual abuse, spiritual violence, cultural violence, mental trauma, neglect, financial abuse, verbal abuse etc. Due to unavailability of detailed studies on violence against women it is onerous to come up with proposal to reduce if not abolish such violence. There is exigency for

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more studies on this violence to understand the psychology of the perpetrators. It is the ominous verity of the society that the women's dignity is always dilapidated. Women have always been reliant on men for their subsistence and confined only to certain places, mainly involved in domestic chore's since ages but now in the era of globalization, the sphere of women has expanded and women are now well educated, working in all spheres of life and demanding equal status to men. Even in this era of globalization women are facing violence at every step inside their home as well as at their work place. They are often subjugated by men in the society and therefore violence against women has augmented.

Key Words : Violence, women, Physical, sexual and psychological violence etc.

Meaning of violence : The term violence means “action using physical force and intended to hurt or kill someone to cause damage”. Violence is defined in **WHO's World Report on Violence and Health** as: “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation”. Violence is the belligerent deportment showcased by an individual. This is a comprehensive definition of violence and very well describes all the related aspects of violence.

Definition of violence against women : Violence against women is defined in Article 1 of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as:

“Any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”.

Article 2 of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women provides that Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: