

Prof. Snehal Khandekar: Domestic Violence in India

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Domestic Violence in India

- Prof. Snehal Khandekar

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INTRODUCTION-

Man and woman are two halves of the society, so, society cannot prosper in true sense without the upliftment of and cooperation from women. She occupies unique position in human society because of her natural ability of procreation. However, patriarchy, traditional customs, bias has relegated her to a position of insignificance. Women have been subjected to untold miseries outside and inside the home. The gender based bias haunts her at all stages of her life. A recent study has concluded that violence against women is the fastest-growing crime in India. According to a latest report prepared by India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a crime has been recorded against women in every three minutes in India. Every 60 minutes, two women are raped in this country. Every six hours, a young married woman is found beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide.

However, of all types of violence against women, the violence within the four walls of the house- domestic violence is of serious type as it occurs silently and more often she cannot raise her voice because of fear of breaking of family. She cannot leave the home as the fear of leaving is greater than the fear of staying. According to United Nation Population Fund Report, around two-third of married Indian women are victims of domestic violence and as many as 70 per cent of married women in India between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or forced sex. In India, more than 55 percent of the women suffer from domestic violence, especially in the states of Bihar, U.P., M.P. and other northern states.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY-

Hence, the researcher in this paper attempt to analyzes the position of Indian women from historical perspectives and also legislative response towards this serious menace paralyzing half of the country's population. The researcher also undertakes to evaluate the causes of the problem and considers to suggest possible reformation in existing position.

STATUS OF WOMEN-

A] Early Indian Society-

A cursory glance of Indian history reveals that during Vedic period women enjoyed considerable freedom and equality. After that her position started declining in coming period. During Buddhism some sort of freedom was allowed to be educated and to travel as missionaries'. In Muslim era position of women was further deteriorated. At the time of British rule [around 18th century], her position reached to the maximum state of misery. It was towards 19th century onwards voices were raised by social reformers against the evils like sati, paradah, child marriages which led to passing of statutes during British period.

B] After Independence-