

PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTIONS IN ORDER TO END INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN ASSAM

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a severe issue in the majority of Assamese households and in society as a whole, and there is a continual upward tendency in this regard. This becomes clear when one reflects on the primary topic of this article and the study that was carried out thereafter. The primary goals of the current research were to obtain a knowledge of the nature and the factors that contribute to domestic violence in Assam, as well as to determine the extent to which women are subjected to this type of abuse. An investigation of the definition of the phrase "domestic violence" led researchers to discover that the majority of violent acts against family members take the form of gender-based crimes that are committed in private within households. This disproves the commonly held but inaccurate belief that a person's family provides the safest environment for them to thrive in. This is not the case for the vast majority of women. Inequalities between the sexes, as well as rigid patriarchal standards of conduct, conventional gender roles, and outmoded cultural traditions, have all contributed to making the lives of women in many families and communities throughout a wide range of civilizations extremely difficult. The sheer definition of the term "violence" suggests that its use is on purpose.

keywords: domestic violence, women,

Introduction

Many people believe that the family may provide its members with a haven where they can find love, tranquilly, and safety. This is a view that is shared by people of all different cultural backgrounds and historical eras. Sadly, the majority of the families find that their long-held conviction is nothing more than a "myth." According to the well-known researcher on family violence, Gelles, "the family, with the exception of the military in times of war and the police, is society's most violent institution." It is often believed that the family is not a "social fabrication whose configurations vary historically and culturally," but rather that it is an institution that is natural, biological, or has a practical purpose for society. It is considered to be an institution that is responsible for the upbringing of the children and the maintenance of the worship of the parents and ancestors.

According to one school of thought, its roots may be traced back to private property that was organised for the purpose of inheritance. It is regarded as a one-of-a-kind establishment due to the fact that it is both public and private at the same time, despite the fact that its existence is quite obvious and commonplace. The concept

of the family as an organisation that works together to make a life by pooling resources, providing for each other, and being bound together by blood connections is the foundation for most conventional conceptions of the family. These conceptions are founded on a constructive worldview. Sociologists are of the opinion that the "uncritical faith" that individuals have in their families, along with the intrusive concerns that make families overly sensitive to critical inquiry, is a matter for concern in the modern day world. "When we look at families, we need to acknowledge that there is a significant gap between the ideas that the general public has about what families are and the way families really function. The concept of a family is often predicated on the notion that members of the family should care for one another and work together. In point of fact, life inside any and all families is frequently a contradictory mix of love, camaraderie, and support along with competition, dominance, and even cruelty.

There are moments when the domestic sphere, which often includes the family unit, takes on the role of a dangerous and victimising environment. Women and children are frequently put in extremely hazardous situations in the very environments in which they should feel the safest: their own homes. A prominent researcher on family violence named Gelles tries to present this 'myth of the family' in his definition by portraying the family as the most violent institution in society. By doing so, he exposes the harsh reality that is present in many families around the world: the reality of domestic violence. speaks of a second myth that goes along with the idea that the family unit is an institution that is exempt from arguments and disagreements. The elder male head of the home who looks out for everyone's best interests at all times is a fiction, according to this urban legend. The family is not a homogeneous group in which all members hold equal positions and get equal advantages in terms of resources, opportunities, and rights. Instead, the family is a collection of individuals who share a common bond. Inequalities based on gender are a reality in most households across the world, not just now but also in ancient times.

These inequalities have been there for a very long time. Women are kept under control by the many social conventions that revolve around marriage and faithfulness. Some traditional norms that define women's identities in patriarchal societies through their relationships to their fathers and later to their husbands include changing their surnames after marriage and moving in with their husbands away from their birth families. Other examples of these types of norms include the practise of arranged marriages. Even in situations in which there are no overt signs of anti-female bias in, say, survival, son-preference, or education, or even in promotion to higher executive positions, the family arrangements can be quite unequal in terms of sharing the burden of housework and child care responsibilities. For example, a mother may be expected to do more of the housework and be responsible for more of the child care responsibilities. For instance, it is quite common in many societies to take it as a given that while men will naturally work outside the home, women are only able to work outside the home if and only if they are able to combine it with a variety of unavoidable and unequally shared household responsibilities. This is a common misconception that needs to be addressed. The phrase "division of labour" is occasionally used to refer to this, although women may be excused for thinking of it as "accumulation of labour." Therefore, the family is the first organisation in which the renowned observation made by Simone de Beauvoir that "one does not become a man but rather a woman" is put into practise.

The significance of the 'home' in a women's life and the paradox that surrounds it is aptly reflected in the words:

The "Home" is ideologically understood as a place of safety and refuge. Such an account cloaks violence against women. The voices of battered women can disrupt That dominant construction of the space of the

home, A construction typified by the work of Gaston Bachelard. The space that Bachelard presupposes and theorizes as Given is in fact being-produced, cleaned, and organized by people who themselves may not find in it any solace or respite.

According to Joshua Price, the ideological framing of the house as a place that is private and secure makes it harder to recognise instances of abuse against women. It is made even more challenging when one becomes emotionally invested in the desire for a home because of the sense of security and comfort that a home is thought to provide. Countenancing violence may at first appear intolerable; it may indicate a profound form of failure or a breakdown; yet, even if violence is at the centre of the creation of the house, it may appear insufferable. The process through which members of the family, particularly girls, are socialised in the family ultimately results in the women's acceptance of their subordinate status in the family. It is important to keep in mind, as LeelaDubey points out in this context, that gender disparities that are the result of cultural production are nearly always regarded as having their origins in biology and as being a fundamental component of the natural order of things. On the other hand, gender roles are thought of, enacted, and learned within a web of interconnected connections. Inequalities between men and women, as well as the exploitation of women inside their own families as a direct result of such inequalities, were regarded as a subject that belonged in the realm of the private sphere. Not only does the presumption that the house is a safe haven disguise the reality of violence, but it also obscures the work that goes into producing the home. It is difficult to recognise violence against women in the house when the home is portrayed as a haven of safety, and this description is one factor that contributes to this difficulty.

The perpetration of violence against women in the context of the home is a major issue that society must address. Since the beginning of time, women have been subjected to oppression. Since the later Vedic periods, the standing of women in India has experienced a decrease, both inside the home and in the outer world. This is true in both the domestic and the public spheres. The issue of violence against women in intimate relationships came to the forefront during the Indian women's movement of the 1970s. The struggle against domestic violence, which was first thought to be limited to dowry violence, has gathered steam over the course of the past several years. Unfortunately, with an expansion in the meaning and definition of domestic violence to include physical, sexual, psychological, and verbal abuse, a continuous increase in the incidence of domestic violence also seems to be visible in society. This is the case despite the fact that the meaning and definition of domestic violence have been expanded. Abuse on a physical, sexual, emotional, or financial level, as well as harassment or intimidation, can all be classified as kinds of "domestic violence," "family violence," or "intimate partner violence," three of the many names that have been given to this type of conflict. It is commonly accepted that women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence, despite the fact that there is no one specific profile of a victim of domestic abuse. According to the findings of several studies, women make up over 95 percent of all victims of physical abuse in the home. It is believed that one in every three women throughout the world has experienced violence in an intimate relationship or within the context of their family.

It wasn't until the 1960s that domestic violence was recognised as a serious issue worthy of concern and discussion on a global scale. This issue has gained even more traction since the Battered Women's Movement emerged in the 1980s. Both the World Conference on Human Rights, which took place in Vienna in 1993 and the Beijing Conference, which took place in 1995, brought up this issue more forcefully and brought attention to the urgent need for systematic research and documentation of the multiple dimensions of domestic violence across countries and regions.

In the 1980s, the subject of domestic violence came into sharp light in India as a result of the increased occurrence of torture of brides, fatalities caused by dowry, and localised mass protests against these practises. The Dowry Prohibition Act was initially passed by Congress in 1961, and subsequent versions of the law were revised in 1984 and 1986. By adding Sections 498A and 304B to the Indian Penal Code and making corresponding amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, the government of India aimed to make the legal framework more robust in order to combat the pernicious practise of dowry. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which came into effect on October 26, 2006, is a ground-breaking piece of legislation that aims to provide women with the protection they require in the event that they are victims of violence in the home. The previous provisions were not sensitive enough to the fact that violence against women occurs within the context of families. This legislation has widened people's understanding of what domestic violence is and defines it in terms of physical, verbal or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and economic abuse as well as other forms of abuse. However, similar to other crimes, domestic violence has very little chance of being eradicated from the social fabric of the country until a good knowledge of the social, economic, and cultural elements that contribute to the perpetration of such types of torture on the women is achieved.

Defining Violence

In the context of defining violence, Judith Herman explains that "the methods that enable one human being to enslave another are remarkably consistent," regardless of whether the victim is a hostage, a political prisoner, a sex slave, or a subjugated woman in an abusive relationship. "The methods that enable one human being to enslave another are remarkably consistent," Judith Herman explains. Herman continues his explanation by outlining the pattern as follows: The use of psychological trauma in a methodical and persistent manner is the foundation for the strategies that are used to gain control over another individual. They are the systematically organised techniques of disconnection and disempowerment. .. Although the use of physical force is the primary tactic for instilling fear in victims, it is not essential to resort to such tactics on a regular basis in order to accomplish this goal. Inconsistent and unexpected outbreaks of violence, as well as the arbitrary execution of minor regulations, both contribute to a rise in levels of fear. The ultimate goal of these tactics is to persuade the victim that the offender is all-powerful, that it is pointless to put up a fight, and that her survival depends on gaining his indulgence via complete obedience... In addition to instilling a sense of terror in the victim, the offender strives to undermine her or his sense of independence. This is accomplished by carefully monitoring and manipulating the victim's body and the operations of that body. This assault on the victim's body anatomy makes her feel ashamed and demoralised, and it doesn't matter what she eats, when she sleeps, when she uses the restroom, or what she wears.

Not only do the particulars of any given circumstance play a role in determining how violence is defined, but also who holds the power to determine both the identity of a group and the social context in which it occurs.

It is not easy to come up with a succinct and accurate description of what is meant by the word "violence." It has been defined in a variety of ways from a wide range of perspectives, each of which takes into account the myriad of meanings that can be attached to the term. The use of unlawful physical force is what the Concise Oxford Dictionary means when it refers to "violence."

Defining Domestic Violence;

As a result of the fact that domestic violence can take place in a range of settings and be inflicted in a number of distinct ways, it is exceedingly challenging to definitively arrive at a single definition of the term that is widely acknowledged. It is possible for the definition to shift over time in response to shifting conditions, factors, and methods of offence. It refers to any type of violence that takes place within an intimate relationship no matter where or when it takes place. The violence may take the shape of physical violence, sexual violence, mental violence, or financial violence, among other possible manifestations. It is commonly accepted that women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence, despite the fact that there is no set description of a victim of domestic abuse. In her lifetime, at least one woman out of every three has been subjected to physical violence, sexual coercion, or other forms of abuse somewhere in the world. The victim's own family member is the perpetrator of the abuse in the vast majority of cases. It is becoming more widely acknowledged that gender-based violence is a serious threat to public health as well as a violation of human rights. Domestic violence is defined by the World Health Organization as "the range of physically, mentally, and sexually coercive behaviors used against adult or adolescent women by current or previous male intimate partners." These acts can be committed by current or former male intimate partners.

The foundation for model legislation against domestic abuse that has been developed by the United Nations. "All acts of gender-based physical and psychological abuse committed by a family member against women who are members of that family, ranging from simple assault to aggravated physical battery, kidnapping, threats, intimidation, coercion, stalking, humiliating verbal use, forcible on unlawful entry, arson, destruction of property, sexual violence, marital rape, dowry or related violence, female genital mutilation, violence, related to exploitation through prostitution, violence against household Sue Peckover has presented an all-encompassing definition of domestic violence through her statement that "Domestic abuse is becoming a frequently used word to represent a spectrum of assaults, mostly suffered by women, from their current or former partners." This encompasses abuse on an emotional, sexual, or financial level, in addition to physical assault, intimidation, or threats. The term "domestic violence" refers to any act of physical, verbal, psychological, or symbolic abuse committed against an intimate partner or partner's family or household members and often taking place within the home According to Zimmerman, "domestic violence is a burden on numerous sectors of the social system and quietly yet dramatically affects the development of a nation." Zimmerman further notes that "batterers cost nations fortunes in terms of law enforcement, health care, lost labour, and general progress in development." The current generation is not the only one that will be impacted by these expenses; what starts out as an attack by one person on another will have repercussions across the family and the community well into the future.

According to a perspective that is gendered, the problem known as domestic violence may be understood as the "product of gender divides in society." It is gendered via societal and cultural norms that favour males in confrontations involving violence against women. According to the same authors, Dobash and Dobash, in the same context, the economic and social processes operate directly and indirectly to support a patriarchal social order and family structure. This, in turn, leads to the subordination of women and contributes to a historical pattern of systematic violence directed against wives The sexual symmetry thesis in domestic or intimate partner violence, which was proposed by Strauss in 1980, is called into question by the construction of domestic violence as a gendered crime. The 'systematic and intentional nature' of this form of violence is maintained by referring to it as 'Patriarchal Terrorism,' which is defined as a form of terroristic control of wives by their husbands that involves the systematic use of violence in addition to economic subordination, threats, isolation, and other forms of control. Patriarchal Terrorism is defined as a form of terroristic control

of wives by their husbands that involves the systematic use of violence in addition to economic subordination, threats As a result, there is no universally agreed-upon definition of what constitutes domestic violence.

Domestic violence against women is defined by feminist literature in India as any form of coercion, power, or control perpetrated against a woman by her intimate partner or his extended kin. This form of violence includes physical, sexual, verbal, and mental abuse, as well as actions such as sex-selective feticide, female infanticide, and discrimination against women. Other forms of violence against women, such as sex-selective feticide, are also included in this definition According to Rinki Bhattacharya, it is a societal problem that is also recognised by various names, such as wife battering, family violence, spouse abuse, wife bashing, or the phrase "silent crime," which is more subtle. This is an oversimplification of an issue that is highly complicated on a global scale. A more all-encompassing perspective on domestic violence can be found in the words of Del Martin, who stated that "wife beating is a complex problem that involves much more than the act itself or the personal interaction between the husband and the wife." One can find these words in a more comprehensive view of domestic violence on this website.

The historical treatment of women and the institution of marriage are the two primary factors that contributed to the rise of domestic violence. The complexities of criminal and civil law, as well as the delivery system utilised by social assistance organisations, all contribute to the perpetuation of this type of violent behaviour On the other hand, definitions of domestic violence have been criticised due to the construction of domestic violence as a problem that is the product of a cultural and structural system of gender discrimination, namely a patriarchal system. This construction has led to the objections. Local communities and government institutions that did not feel comfortable with the political argument that wife beating was a product of patriarchal culture made the definition of domestic violence that adhered to the 'battered-women movements' the focal point of their attention. The dominating focus was on victims, not abusers, and experts presented explanations why abused women were eager to be beaten. The primary issue was "degendering the problem and gendering the responsibility," which means "degendering the problem while gendering the guilt."

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the prevalence and nature of domestic violence against women in the rural areas
2. To understand the causative factors of domestic violence in ^Assam.

LOWER

Impact of Domestic violence

Domestic violence has a detrimental effect not only on the physical and mental health of the women who experience it, but also on the health and well-being of their children and, by extension, on the society as a whole. According to the findings of a research conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) on domestic violence, the physical and sexual abuse perpetrated by spouses or partners has a significant impact on the health and well-being of women all over the world. Women who had been abused were more likely than other women to have poor health and difficulties connected to their health, some of which might also be psychological or mental in character. Women may experience thoughts or attempts of suicide, as well as mental anguish or physical symptoms such as pain, dizziness, and other such things (www.who.org). "the degree to which the health repercussions of partner violence in the WHO research are similar across locations, both within and between nations is startling," said Charlotte Watts, who works at the London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It does not appear to matter where a woman lives, how prevalent violence is

in her environment, or her cultural or economic background; partner violence appears to have the same effect on a woman's health and well-being regardless of these factors.

Therefore, just as the issue of domestic violence is present in a variety of countries, in women of all ages, its effects are also felt in the same way regardless of the location or the structural setting of the women upon whom it is perpetrated. This is true even when taking into account women of different ages. The effects of psychological abuse on a woman's general psychological well-being may be comparable to those of physical violence or battering in certain cases. In spite of the fact that the private nature of the issue makes it impossible to define the term "psychological abuse," several studies conducted all around the world have established that it has long-term detrimental effects on the psychological well-being of the women who are the victims of violence. It has been shown that women who have experienced psychological abuse had lower levels of self-efficacy, greater levels of despair, and worse levels of self-esteem. In addition, it was discovered that the intensity of the abuse had a direct and positive correlation with levels of depression. It was discovered that those who had been victims of psychological abuse had emotional depletion, objectification, and a distortion of their own subjective world. Abuse of a psychological kind is a reliable indicator of a woman's level of confidence in her ability to solve problems, as well as her level of sadness, anxiety, and somatization. While investigating the relative impact of psychological and physical abuse to the development of psychological symptoms, Baldry (2003) also arrived at the same conclusion. He was trying to determine which factor was more important. Abuse of a psychological kind not only has a detrimental effect on the mental health of women and the accompanying difficulties, but it also has a severe influence on their physical health and well-being. It is a reliable indicator of participation in illegal drug use, a pessimistic outlook on one's health, and cognitive decline. Complex traumatic syndrome can be caused by interpersonal or domestic violence. This syndrome includes post-traumatic stress disorders as well as symptoms caused by the long-term nature of the trauma, which manifest as symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and character changes caused by living in constant fear.

In addition, studies have shown that the duration, severity, and kind of abuse have a significant impact on the severity of post-traumatic stress disorder in women, and that psychological violence may inflict just as much harm as physical abuse (Jones, Hughes, & Unterstaller, 2001). A study conducted in India on 6632 married men led to the discovery that men who were physically or sexually abusive towards their spouses were more likely to engage in extra-marital sex and have sexually transmitted diseases, both of which put the life of the women at risk. The study found that men who were physically or sexually abusive towards their spouses were more likely to have sexually transmitted diseases. Unwanted pregnancies were more likely among women who were married to physically or sexually abusive males, especially those who were physically violent.

Intimate partner violence that takes the form of physical abuse during pregnancy may result in abdominal trauma, which in turn may lead to placental abruption, the death of the foetus, early labour, or the delivery of a baby with a low birth weight. A person may experience panic and dissociation as a result of memories of the humiliation and loss of control they felt as a result of the abuse. The presence of factors such as threatened or actual harm with a weapon, presence of guns or knives in the home, sexual abuse, prior criminal conviction of the partner, threats of homicide or suicide, and an abusive partner who is not the biological father of the baby has been seen to increase the chances of maternal homicide. Domestic violence during pregnancy has also been seen to be associated with maternal homicide. In addition to the physical effects, pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence often display psychological issues such as depression, general

psychological distress, hostility, depression, anxiety, interpersonal sensitivity, and somatization. These issues can be exacerbated by the fact that the victim is pregnant.

According to India's National Human Development Report, data on female suicide reveals some of the aspects of psychological and emotional abuse, particularly in cases where women see suicide as a means to escape the tribulations of their lives. In particular, this is the case when women view suicide as a means to end their suffering (HDR, 2001).

The repercussions of domestic abuse may be seen not only on a woman's physical health but also on their ability to hold a job and their overall financial situation. "Women who have been abused encounter a number of obstacles while attempting to find work, keep employment, or be safe while on the job." In particular, abused women may be fired from their employment as a result of the short or long-term impacts of violence, abandon their careers owing to worries about their own safety, or be forbidden from working by their abusive husbands. Because of domestic violence, women are unable to look for employment; they also struggle with emotional injury to employment and their employment is also affected due to abuse-induced Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, drug or alcohol addiction. Women are unable to look for employment because domestic violence prevents them from doing so. In addition, women's positions in the workforce might be negatively impacted when they are the targets of stalking, when their children are threatened, or when work records are destroyed (Moe & Bell, 2004). Employers of beaten or abused women feel the burden as well since it implies higher expenditures in employee sponsored health care plans, less productivity, increased turnover rates, and increased security costs. It has also been discovered that the experiences of violence that abused women have might victimise other employees, causing them to suffer prolonged physical or psychological suffering, decreased productivity, absenteeism, and turnover (Brownell, 1996).

Women who are victims of domestic abuse may experience a loss of control over their own lives, as well as temporary or permanent shifts in their physical health and mental makeup. "experiencing physical or emotional assaults at the hands of a family member significantly reduces a victim's sense of personal control" is what Leonore Walker refers to as the "battered women syndrome." This is a condition in which repeated victimisation causes a woman to believe that she cannot predict the outcome of her behaviour, which is a process known as "learned helplessness." Studies have shown that this phenomenon occurs. Walker, on the basis of this theory, and upon further observation, came to the conclusion that this loss of personal control has severe psychological and emotional consequences, such as the presence of flashbacks and dissociative experiences among women who have been the victims of domestic violence.

The impacts of domestic violence are not only felt while the women continue to reside in the violent family where the abuse is taking place, but also in other situations. However, this results in additional challenges even after the woman has left the home, as "after leaving, mothers and their children are undifferentiated from other single-parent families and are broadly viewed as high risk, deficient, ineffective, temporary structures where children are susceptible to multiple health and social problems" (after leaving, mothers and their children are "undifferentiated from other single-parent families and are broadly viewed as high risk, deficient, ineffective, temporary structures where children are susceptible. Women who are victims of domestic abuse have a risk of attempted suicide that is twelve times higher than the risk faced by women who are not victims of such violence (UNIFEM Gender Fact Sheet-5, Masculinity and Gender Based Violence).

Children who witness or experience abuse are more likely to exhibit a variety of behavioural symptoms, including sleep disturbances, poor performance at school, emotional detachment, stammering, being taken into care, and attempts at suicide. Children who witness or experience abuse are also more likely to stammer. In the city of Leon, Nicaragua, children who were born to mothers who had been subjected to both physical and sexual abuse by their partners had a six times increased risk of passing away before the age of five in comparison to children born to other parents. A research that was carried out in the states of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh indicated that women who had been beaten were substantially more likely than women who had not been abused to have experienced the death of a baby or the loss of a pregnancy due to abortion, miscarriage, or still birth. Another study conducted in Maharashtra discovered that children whose mothers were beaten received less food than other children, leading the researchers to conclude that the abused moms were unable to negotiate with their husbands on behalf of their children.

In addition to the incalculable human costs, there are also monetary costs to society that are associated with the utilisation of resources such as medical care, housing, legal aid, counselling, and days of work lost due to illness. These expenses are referred to as "economic costs." According to the findings of a study that looked into the economic effects of domestic violence, the costs of certain medical services for an entire year in one London borough were estimated to be greater than £580,000. This figure included visits to general practitioners, health visitors, and emergency and accident services, but did not take into account hospitalizations or prescriptions.

Conclusion

Domestic Violence against Women: A Study in the Kokrajhar District of Assam comes to a close with this chapter, which serves as the study's conclusion chapter. This chapter's topic is broken up into two distinct parts: part one and part two. The first section provides a brief overview of the research along with the primary results. The current research investigated not only the seriousness of the issue of domestic violence but also the potential for its reduction and, ultimately, its elimination from society as a whole. It did this by observing the magnitude of the problem as well as the opportunities for doing so. As a result, the second section of the chapter is made up of a few proposals that might be helpful in the eradication of crimes of domestic violence by means of appropriate organisation. The primary purpose of this study was to investigate the prevalence of domestic violence against women as well as its characteristics and the factors that contribute to its occurrence. For the aim of the empirical research, a total of six villages were chosen from two different blocks located inside the Kokrajhar district. The information was gathered through the use of a semi-structured interview schedule that was conducted in the native Assamese language.

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