

Delinquency Hostile to Women – a Hurdle for Sustainable Development in Multidimensional Outlook

Przemoc wobec kobiet – wyzwaniem dla zrównoważonego rozwoju

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Abstract

Violence against women is partly a result of gender relations that assumes men to be superior to women. Given the subordinate status of women, much of gender violence is considered normal and enjoys social sanction. Violence against women has been clearly defined as a form of discrimination in numerous documents. Cultural and social factors are interlinked with the development and propagation of violent behaviour. With different processes of socialization that men and women undergo, men take up stereotyped gender roles of domination and control, whereas women take up that of submission, dependence and respect for authority. A female child grows up with a constant sense of being weak and in need of protection, whether physical social or economic. This helplessness has led to her exploitation at almost every stage of life which remains a hurdle for the sustainable development of the nation. With almost half the population feeling insecure can a nation really progress towards development? Can women be called safe in any part of the world? Be it within the boundaries of the State or beyond? Cross-border crimes not just affect the women of the particular Nations at war but it travels beyond the borders and becomes an issue of global concern.

This paper discusses the crime against women comparing and relating it with various aspects of sustainable development like literacy rate, political participation of women, unemployment and sex ratio with solutions to bring a change and development towards a better tomorrow.

Key words: violence, women, sustainability, literacy, politics, unemployment

Streszczenie

Przemoc wobec kobiet poniekąd wynika z tradycyjnego podejścia do płci, które zakłada że mężczyzna dominuje nad kobietą. Wobec statusu podrzędności przemoc często uznawana jest za normę i nie spotyka się ze sprzeciwem. Tymczasem przemoc wobec kobiet w wielu dokumentach jednoznacznie określono jako dyskryminację. Czynniki kulturowe i społeczne mają bezpośredni związek z narastaniem problemu agresywnego zachowania. W ramach procesów socjalizacji mężczyźni podejmują stereotypową rolę dominatora i władcy, podczas gdy kobiety charakteryzuje uległość, zależność i szacunek. Dziewczynki dorastają w poczuciu bycia słabymi, którym potrzebna jest ochrona fizyczna, społeczna i ekonomiczna. W istocie to postawa bezsilności, która sprzyja ich wykorzystywaniu na niemal każdym etapie życia, co jest istotną przeszkodą na drodze do zrównoważonego rozwoju społecznego. Czy w sytuacji, gdy niemal połowa populacji nie czuje się bezpiecznie, możemy mówić o jakimkolwiek prawdziwym rozwoju? Czy kobiety mogą czuć się bezpiecznie? Tak w granicach swego kraju, jak i poza nimi? Przestępstwa dokonywane przez międzynarodowe mafie odnoszą się nie tylko do poszczególnych krajów, ale stają się problemem globalnym.

Ten artykuł podejmuje kwestię przemocy wobec kobiet w powiązaniu z problematyką rozwoju zrównoważonego, uwzględniając zagadnienia takie, jak: poziom analfabetyzmu, udział w procesach politycznych czy poziom bezrobocia w ramach obu płci. Celem jest poszukiwanie rozwiązań prowadzących w kierunku poprawy sytuacji dla lepszego jutra.

Słowa kluczowe: przemoc, równowaga, umiejętność czytania i pisanie, polityka, bezrobocie

Introduction

The UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability once pointed out the lack of success on the road to sustainable development. The two main reasons cited were: first, lack of access to resources and energy, and secondly, discrimination against women. The link between women's rights and the planet's future is too often elapsing.

India's current model of development which focuses on growth is incapable of solving the problems of poverty, inequality and sustainability. In times of peace and war there have been articles in magazines and newspaper about the violence against women in India. Crimes and violence against women were being perpetuated right from time immemorial. Female-foeticide, Satipratha, child marriage, dowry, social boycott of the widows, etc. are just a few examples of these atrocities. Right from their womb to the tomb, women are made to pay extreme for the only reason that they are women.

Development of the society cannot be constrained to a particular segment of the society and the country has age old histories witnessing vast gender inequalities. Development and progress come hand in hand, which includes the society as a whole i.e. both men and women. Economic progress and growth of a nation is directly related to the course of revolution of a society heading to its advancement.

Religion, customs, age-old prejudices, etc. have put Indian women in an acquiescent and vulnerable position in many domains of life. Low rates of participation in education, lack of economic independence, value biases operating against them, etc., have resulted in the women being dependent on men folk and other institutions of authority like the family, neighbourhood and the society. They are usually ignorant of their rights and even if they are not, they do not have easy access to justice. The rate of human rights violation is increasing day-by-day. The people are besieged by human rights violation in all fields, both internal and external (Shamsi, 2004).

The human race is most inequitable for women and girls; they are beaten, tortured and raped at the hands of male chauvinism. And sadly it not only exists within the boundaries of the nation rather it is in its most brutal form in the *no man's land*. In a country like India where the present-modern society is still under the control of patriarchal male supremacy, focusing only on laws protecting women within the territorial boundaries of the State is not sufficient to aim towards global sustainability and development. The most atrocious crimes against women take place where the State boundaries end.

The issues related to women are being raised and discussed in various forums, in the recent times. Of these, *violence against women* is gaining more and more support and recognition, the world over. But

despite the enactment of laws, formulation of reformative legal processes, provision of legal aid to the needy, extensive use of the provision of Public Interest Litigation, conduct of Family Courts, Women/Family counselling centres etc., women in India have a long way to go in concretizing their Constitutional Goals into reality.

Sustainable human development is the key to fulfilling social and economic progress. Social sustainability includes social environment. It also includes individual freedom, participation, community cohesion, healthcare, and maintenance of law and order. In India, there has been a continuous rise in the total incidence of crimes committed against women over the years. Incidence of torture and molestation top the list, followed by the cases of kidnapping/abduction and rape. Violence against women is extremely common. Kaur (2011) has commented that *violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It can include physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, and it cuts across boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography* a statement that is amply justified by the events taking place in India every day. It takes place everywhere in the home, on the streets, in schools, the workplace, in farm fields, refugee camps, and in some places such as red light areas and prisons it is exceedingly common (Golden, 2004). The semantic meaning of *crime against women* is direct or indirect physical or mental cruelty to women. Crimes which are *directed specifically against women* and in which *only women are victims* are characterized as *crime against Women*. It is equally important to clarify the concept of *violence against women*. Violence is also known as abuse and include any sort of physical aggression or misbehave. When violence is committed at home it becomes domestic violence and involves family members such as children, spouse, parents or servants.

Women's active participation in cities through their inclusion in the economy, their safe and unrestricted right to movement, and access to all forms of mobilities and urban public spaces are important indicators of sustainable cities for women (Narayanan, 2012). Domestic violence may involve different means such as hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining and throwing objects. In broad terms, it includes threats, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, controlling or domineering, intimidation, stalking, passive/covert abuse and economic deprivation, rape, abduction, kidnapping, murder (all cases of criminal violence, dowry death, wife battering, sexual abuse, maltreatment of a widow and for an elderly women (all cases of domestic violence) and eve-teasing, forcing wife/daughter-in-law to go for foeticide, forcing a young widow to commit sati, etc. (all cases of social violence), are issues which affect a large section of

society. Literature on Violence against women in India has focused on spousal violence and familial violence, with some attention to political and communal violence. There are three aspects of this crime which the society needs to take care of, the first being prevention of rape. The second important responsibility of the society is sensitive management of victim after the crime (Azikiwe, Wright, Cheng and D'Angelo, 2005), and lastly punishment of the perpetrator of the crime.

Violence against women remains as a chief hindrance in achieving the sustainability. When one half of the population is incapacitated by the circumstances, baffling the administrative and executive functions of a state, the achievement of sustainability becomes a question. Women possess potential to be as a driver for a sustainable development. Hence it is the mindset of the people that has to be balanced providing the gender equality.

Following the rape and murder of the Delhi student on December 16, 2012, there have been debates and discussions on the causes, remedies and punishments for crimes against women. For weeks, news concerning the rape and agitations that followed reigned supreme on the country's news channels. Active in these debates were law makers, lawyers, jurists, police officers, celebrities, and women's activists, but striking by their absence were criminal psychologists who have studied rape as a phenomenon and examined the methods or modus operandi of rapists. The debates were fuelled more by passion, emotion and law, but what was lacking was expertise on criminal behaviour or psychology. Rape of women by men has occurred throughout recorded history and across cultures. McKibbin, Shackelford, Goetz and Starratt (2007) have studied rape from an evolutionary psychological perspective. Evolutionary psychology is a powerful heuristic that allows researchers to develop and test novel hypotheses about complex behaviours such as rape. And the focus has now shifted to reevaluating and reframing protection of women under present laws.

Methodology

Due to the difficulties involved in obtaining data, especially on a nation-wide basis, statistical studies of domestic violence have been limited. This is particularly true for developing countries, including India, where gender discrimination is deeply entrenched. The study is based on the number of crime cases and incidents reported as violence against women in various states, political participation of women in the states and the economic background of the states. This study draws on data from one of the only current sources of nationwide information about violence against women in India, the Indian National Crime Records Bureau, Census survey 2011, Electoral Statistics 2014, from election commission of India. For the state wise analysis, the sample states

are selected based on the rate of crime against women in the states. The states are selected and respective socio-economic grounds are analysed and discussed.

Data Analysis

As per the National Crime Records Bureau, West Bengal tops the chart in reporting 12.7% of Crime rate of total such cases in the country (30942 out of 2,44277). Kolkata is the third most unsafe metropolis for women, while Delhi and Bangalore engaging the first and second position.

The table values reveals that only women political participation has the distribution sharper than a normal distribution with values concentrated around the mean. All the other factors are flatter than the normal distribution since the values are wider spread around the mean which shows there is more difference in the distribution of the rates in crime, literacy, unemployment and sex ratio in different states.

State-wise analysis and discussions

Bihar

Cultural discrimination, isolation and disempowerment are the shared experience of the women of Bihar. According to 2011 census Bihar has the lowest literacy rate in India which rates to 63.82%, It is also one of the state which has the female literacy rate (53.33) which is almost 12% lower than the nation's average female literacy rate. The state has 11,229 incidences of crime against women which rates to 4.60% contribution to All-India total. It is to be noted that the state stands second in total female population (479.59 lakhs) next to Uttar Pradesh. The figures look depressing. Number of cases of gang-rape, sexual assault and eve-teasing are reported now and then. The crime rates have been constantly increasing in the state from 6186 cases in 2008 to 10231 cases in 2011 and to 11229 cases in 2012. It has recorded almost 82 percentage point increase in just four years. It has been reported that totally 4456882 women are missing in the state owing to its sex-ratio of 918. Whereas political participation of women contested in general election to legislative assembly is 8.71% and percentage of seats won by women is 14% which is the highest percentage of seats among the states of nation, but the state has poorest women voters polled as percentage of registered women electors which is 54.5% which is lower than the nation's average. Though the women contestants and women winners in politics are high the crime rate against women still stands high in the state which is substantiated by the poor percentage of women voters polled against the registered women electors. Considering the economic situation, the state has the lowest *per capita* income in the country which accounts to Rs. 24,681 at current prices and Rs. 15268 at constant prices. The gross state domestic product

Table 1. Descriptive analysis, source: *National Crime Records Bureau 2012, Census survey 2011, Electoral Statistics 2014*

State	Rate of Crime 2012	Literacy rate 2011	Female literacy rate 2011	Women political participation rate	Unemployment rate	Sex ratio
Andhra Pradesh	66.05	67.66	59.74	11.6	30	993
Arunachal Pradesh	33.67	66.95	59.57	3.3	65	938
Assam	89.54	73.18	67.27	33.1	63	958
Bihar	23.41	63.82	53.33	14	83	918
Chhattisgarh	34.38	71.04	60.59	11.1	12	991
Goa	23.01	87.4	87.4	2.5	179	973
Gujarat	33.58	79.31	70.73	8.8	10	919
Haryana	50.31	76.64	66.77	10	32	879
Himachal Pradesh	27.13	83.78	76.6	4.4	31	972
Jammu & Kashmir	58.6	68.74	58.01	3.4	56	889
Jharkhand	29.16	67.63	56.21	9.9	48	948
Karnataka	34.92	75.6	75.6	2.7	25	973
Kerala	61.21	93.91	93.91	5	99	1084
Madhya Pradesh	47.75	70.63	60.02	13	27	931
Maharashtra	29.87	82.91	82.91	3.8	28	929
Manipur	24.64	79.85	73.17	5	37	992
Meghalaya	19.38	75.48	73.78	6.7	36	989
Mizoram	40.2	91.58	89.4	0	19	976
Nagaland	4.7	80.11	76.69	0	60	931
Orissa	58.79	73.45	64.36	4.8	30	979
Punjab	24.98	76.68	71.34	12	18	895
Rajasthan	63.75	67.06	52.66	14	17	928
Sikkim	23.29	82.2	76.43	12.5	126	890
Tamil Nadu	21.23	80.33	80.33	7.3	22	996
Tripura	86.95	87.75	83.15	8.3	141	960
Uttar Pradesh	24.25	69.72	59.26	8.7	25	912
Uttaranchal	21.5	79.63	70.7	7.1	52	963
West Bengal	70.3	77.08	71.16	11.6	78	950
<i>Mean</i>	<i>40.233</i>	<i>76.79</i>	<i>70.396</i>	<i>8.378</i>	<i>51.75</i>	<i>952.00</i>
<i>Median</i>	<i>33.625</i>	<i>76.66</i>	<i>70.945</i>	<i>7.800</i>	<i>34.00</i>	<i>954.00</i>
<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>21.581</i>	<i>7.81</i>	<i>11.158</i>	<i>6.368</i>	<i>41.47</i>	<i>43.366</i>
<i>Skewness</i>	<i>.807</i>	<i>.39</i>	<i>.264</i>	<i>2.111</i>	<i>1.65</i>	<i>.705</i>
<i>Kurtosis</i>	<i>-.121</i>	<i>-.43</i>	<i>-.685</i>	<i>7.639</i>	<i>2.50</i>	<i>1.789</i>

accounts to Rs.262230 crores at constant prices for the year 2011-12 which has 13.13% growth over the previous years.

West Bengal

The incidence and rate of crime against women in the state stands top in the country with 30942 incidences and 12.67 percentage contribution in the country's total. The rate of total cognizable crimes

also rates to 70.30%, highest among the nation. Looking at the literacy rate of the state (77.08) it is quite above the country's average literacy rate (74.04). It is to be noted that the female literacy rate of the state (71.16) is far greater than the nation's average female literacy rate (65.46). Though the state has a decent literacy rate, it shows no big difference. The incidences of crime under the category *Cruelty by husband or his relatives* stands top with 19865 in-

cidences with the crime rate of 45.13 and holds the percentage share of 18.65 in the nation. The state also holds the larger percentage share in rape and kidnapping and abduction which is 8.21% and 10.89% respectively. On having a glimpse at the trends in political participation of women in the state 9.71% of women contestants in general elections to legislative assembly, 11.6% of seats are won by women. The state has the reasonable women voters polled (84.5%) against the percentage of registered women electors. Looking into the economic position of the state, the *per capita* is Rs.34229 at constant prices which almost 9.9% lesser than the nation's average *per capita* income at constant prices.

Uttar Pradesh

The state is one of the world's poorest regions and has largely missed out on the economic boom that swept much of India over the past decade. Its population of over 200 million is larger than that of Russia. The state has the crime rate of 24.25 and holds the percentage share of the state accounts to 69.72% which is almost 50% less than the country's total literacy rate. Female literacy rate still stands below 60% where as the country's average female literacy rate is 65.46%. Looking into the political participation of women in the state, it has the 8.52% of women contestants and about 8.7% of seats are won by women. Women voters polled as percentage of registered women electors falls low to 60.3%. The state's per capita income stands at Rs. 16374 at constant prices, the Gross state domestic product contributes about Rs.350258 crores which is almost 7.77% of the total GDP of the nation. The state occupies the major percentage share in the crimes such as kidnapping and abduction and dowry deaths which are 20.67% and 27.26% respectively. The state's name is heard now and then in the news mainly for the violence against women.

Andhra Pradesh

The state has the major percentage share in the incidences of crime committed against women in nation 11.53%, the rate of crime (66.05) was reported from the state. 12.6% of the total nation's torture of women were reported from Andhra Pradesh. Literacy rate for the state (67.66) remains almost 7% less than the nation's average (74.04). It is to be noted that the women literacy rate is below 60%. Looking into the political participation of women, there are 8.21% of women contestants and 11.6% of the seats are won by women. 71.5% of the women votes are polled as per the registered women electors. A glance at the major type of crime committed in the state is the cruelty by husband or his relatives, crime rate stands at 31.39% and it holds the percentage share of 12.57%. The state holds the major share of about 40.49% of total cases at national level in the crime of insulting the modesty of women with the crime rate of 10.62. Giving the fleeting look at the

economic status of the state, it has the GSDP at constant prices at Rs.407949; it has the *per capita* income of Rs.42710 at constant prices which is almost 12.38% greater than nation's average *per capita* income.

Rajasthan

There has been a significant rise in crimes including dowry deaths, harassment by husband and relatives, molestations and sexual harassment in the state. The art of crime in the state accounts to 63.75%. 8.64% of total crimes reported in the country were reported from Rajasthan. On giving a glimpse on the literacy rate of the state, it has 67.06% of literacy rate. But the saddest part is that the state has the lowest female literacy rate in the country which stands at 52.66% almost 13% lesser than the country's average female literacy rate. On account of the political participation of women in the state, there are 7.92% of women contestants in the general election to legislative assembly and 14% of the seats are won by women. 75.4% of the registered women electors have polled in the general elections. The state stands second in the percentage share under the crime *rape* with 8.22% of share. It stands third in the percentage share under the crime *cruelty by husband or his relatives* with 12.50% and its crime rate stands to 40.21%. Taking a look into the economic position of the state, the state gross domestic product stands at Rs.196045 whereas *per capita* income. It shows that the state is economically still backward.

Crime against women and Literacy

Literacy is an important indicator of socio-economic and cultural development. It is regarded as both a means and an end of development (Azim, 2005, p. 1647). Literacy is an essential means for eradicating poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic process (Chandna and Sidhu, 1980, p. 98). The ability to code and decode written text constitutes the basic technical aspect of literacy (Perfetti, 1998, p. 15). The Census of India (2011) defines literacy as ratio between literate population and total population excluding seven years children. In other words, a person aged 7 years and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been taken as literate. The inability to read and write well may not be a direct cause of criminal behaviour, but low literacy and crime are related. Day today life is harder for people with low literacy, so they are more likely to feel frustrated and dissatisfied. People with low literacy skills usually have equally inadequate problem-solving skills. People who have low literacy skills tend to be less active citizens than other people. They are less likely to get involved in community activities like sports, school groups, community groups and so on. As a result, they often feel isolated and vulnerable

and many of them feel like outcasts. This may partly explain why people who have low literacy are statistically more likely to be involved in crime, either as the offender or as the victim. It may also help to explain why crime rates are higher in places where a high percentage of people have low literacy.

Crime against women and Political participation of women

There is no gender equity in family, social, economic, political and administrative life for the women in India. Participation of women in large numbers takes place in most elections to parliament and state assemblies; their exercise of the right to contest for the seats in the country's lawmaking bodies is very insignificant. The number of women parliamentarians in India has never exceeded 10 percent and that of women administrators has never exceeded 12 percent. Crimes against women are a persistent and even a growing problem in many developing countries. In India, research suggests that having female political representatives can be an effective tool to empower women in the battle against gender crime. Although it also results in higher rates of documented crime against women, this reflects the fact that a greater number of gender crimes are being reported. Police responsiveness to documenting and dealing with gender crimes is higher in areas with female politicians. Research shows that victims are more willing to come forward because they anticipate they are more likely to be heard.

Women politicians have the biggest impact on giving a voice to female victims when they are present at the local government level, where they live in greater proximity to them (Anandi, 2014). Reporting of crimes against women, especially domestic violence is also a problem in developed countries, but institutional responses often discourage reporting and do little to reduce rates of domestic abuse. Political participation rates for women generally are low in both developing and developed countries. Reserved seats, followed by legislative candidate quotas, may be the most effective ways of encouraging more women to enter politics.

Crime against women and unemployment

Unemployment is being viewed as a pan-Indian social phenomenon that sets into motion the wheels of crime. To add to this, the skewed sex ratio and singlehood are very simplistically written-off as driving factors for the crime rate. According to Census 2011, the total population of India is 1.21 billion (male: 623.72 million and female: 586.47 million). This does not mean 37.25 million *extra* young men in the country are single and sexually frustrated. The figures are inclusive of males and females belonging to all age groups.

In the same way, it needs to be pointed out that the positive association between unemployment and crime in general, and crimes against women in particular, has not been established the way it has between poverty and crime in empirical studies. For instance, the people implicated in the Delhi gang rape case, were not unemployed. Nor were those involved in other crimes reported widely in the mass media since that incident took place.

The esteemed editor of a popular Indian weekly magazine who was recently in news for all the wrong reasons was anything but a victim of unemployment. It would, therefore, be wrong to categorize men into watertight compartments on the basis of their state of employment.

Table 2. Multiple Correlation

Variables	CR	LR	FLR	WPP	UR	SR
CR	1					
LR	-0.041	1				
FLR	-0.095	0.965**	1			
WPP	0.481**	-0.386*	-0.403*	1		
UR	0.138	0.367	0.368	-0.014	1	
SR	0.134	0.410*	0.458*	-0.176	0.078	1

Notes: *P<.05; ** P<.01; CR = Crime Rate; LR= Literacy Rate; FLR= Female Literacy rate; WPP= Women Political Participation rate; UR= Unemployment Rate; SR= Sex ratio

The table represents the negative correlation between crime rate of the states in the nation and its literacy rate which stands to -0.041. It is depicted from the table that both the Total literacy rate of the states and the female literacy rates have the poor negative correlation. The crime rate has the significant correlation only with the variable rate of women political participation. Female literacy rate is significantly correlated with the sex ratios of the states and its women political participation rate. If the perceived reasonable independent variables like literacy rate, female literacy rate, unemployment rate and sex ratio have no relationship on the dependent and study variable crime rate against women, then it is understandable that situations, conditions, positions, attitudes and behaviours paves the way for these commit of crimes. It is notable that women political participation rate is highly correlated with the crime rate with the rate of 0.481, it do not mean that where there is low women political participation there is low crime against women, it is just that women political participation facilitates women to report crimes rather in many places it go unreported and unrecorded.

Implications

The cumulative outcome is that India has one of the largest incidents of female foeticide. The country has

the dubious distinction of having one of the biggest girl-child prostitution in the world. In the list of annual missing (abducted) children (estimated to be around 70,000 each year) girl children are the majority. The irony is that there is not even a semblance of a pro-active step from governments, human rights organisations, women's organisations or women politicians to bring a visible major policy shift in respect of administration of justice, law and order and change in the functioning of police which has a mindset tilted against working or *liberated women*. Violence against women occurs in all social and economic classes, but women living in poverty are more likely to experience violence. Although more research is needed to fully understand the connections between poverty and violence against women, it is clear that poverty and its associated stressors are important contributors. A number of theories about why this is so have been explored. Men in difficult economic circumstances (e.g. unemployment, low socioeconomic status or blocked advancement due to lack of education) may resort to violence out of frustration, and a sense of hopelessness. At the same time, poor women who experience violence may have fewer resources to escape violence in the home. Women's organisations or government bodies step into the scene only if a rich or a celebrity is involved or if media continues to focus on the issue that is *en-cashable*. The concerns of these *professional bodies* fade-out swiftly once the electronic media in particular switches off its camera on the victim. Women, otherwise, portrayed in hyperbole terms in religious texts, literature and traditions of the country remain prisoners of time, traditions, political games and the rising consumerist web. There is no *safe exit* for her even though she may be a city-based working woman or an uneducated village woman drawing water from a pond.

Just five percent of the Indian police force are women, an especially worrying statistic given the fact that many crimes against women go unreported because they don't feel safe reporting them to a man. Building concrete responses to violence against women will help to ensure that the new millennium is the time when women no longer endure violence solely because they are women. Increased attention must be paid to addressing the risk factors for violent behaviour of men towards women as well as the risk factors for violence shared by men and women. Unless prevention and awareness of violence against women is integrated and educated sustainable development will continue to suffer and the ambitious goals for global sustainability agreed to by the international community will remain unattainable.

The most significant thing is the mindset to see women with respect. Crimes like rape are being committed due to the sick mindset and this should be changed through social awareness and social awakening. It would also be wise to train the female students in Martial arts for self-defense. The training

can be provided to the girls in all schools and colleges to aid them to take on the anti-socials. Only legislation and law enforcement agencies cannot prevent the incident of crime against women. There is need of social awakening and change in the attitude of masses, so that due respect and equal status is given to women. It is time when the women need to be given her due. This awakening can be brought by education campaign among youth making them aware of existing social evils and the means to eradicate same. Mass media can play an active role here as in the present days it has reached every corner of the nation. Various NGOs can hold a responsible position here by assigning them with the task of highlighting socio-economic causes leading to such crimes and by disseminating information about their catastrophic effect on the womanhood and the society at large.

Conclusion

For a society to reach its true potential and the optimum level of growth, it is imperative for them to give equal stature and importance to women in the society. Further, from the global perspective, giving equal importance to women and protecting their rights in the society becomes even more important in order to achieve sustainable growth and development. From what has been presented above it is clear that violence against women is endemic in India. The reason is women in the country are highly vulnerable because of poor quality of life indicated by rampant poverty, lack of education, high under five mortality, poor health status, high fertility rate and high maternal mortality rate. Also contributing to the violence against women is societal mindset about women that has not changed much. Violence is perpetrated on women both inside and outside her home. The government and voluntary organisations are making efforts towards ending/minimizing violence against women. The efforts of the government are in the shape of enacting relevant legislations, issuing orders and launching various women welfare schemes. But their implementation remains tardy, as the lower level government functionaries are not gender sensitive. On the other had the voluntary organisations are taking both preventive as well as reactionary measures. But efforts of the voluntary organisations suffer from paucity of funds and infrastructure. Yet in this rather bleak scenario, many voluntary organisations have devised several innovative strategies to combat the menace and been successful in wiping tears of hapless women. Advocacy for sustainable development should emphasize its importance in preventing violent conflict, thereby protecting non-combatant women and children.

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