

Society Class 07

17th August, 2024 at 11:00 AM

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (11:04 AM)

- **Definition:**
- **Any gender-based violence which leads to mental, physical, and sexual harm is referred to as violence against women.**
- **According to the NCRB, there is a 4% increase in violence against women in 2022 as compared to 2021.**
- **31% of the violence against women falls under cruelty by the husband and the relatives.**
- **There exists a regional variation with maximum cases in Delhi followed by UP.**
- **According to the NCW, in 2021, there was a 21% rise in violence against women.**
- **UN Women cited this as a 'shadow pandemic.'**
- **86% of the women never reported violence against women. Out of this, 77% have not even discussed the violence.**
- **Out of 14%, only 7% could reach the appropriate authority.**
- **Causes:**
- **i) Institutionalization of patriarchy.**
- **ii) Different processes of socialization.**
- **iii) Objectification and commodification of women.**
- **iv) Economic dependence of women.**
- **v) Traditional cultural practices, female genital mutilation**
- **vi) Structural limitations and institutional weaknesses,**
- **For example, there is a lack of stringent laws, a lack of proper implementation, a lack of gender-sensitive attitudes, and a lack of certainty.**
- **vii) Some acts such as alcoholism, gambling, drug abuse, etc.**
- **viii) Increased participation of women in the labor market acts as a threat to the hegemony of women.**
- **ix) Similarly in a nuclear family due to a lack of social support system the women act as a cushion to vent the frustration of men which also leads to increased violence against women.**
- **Question:**

- Despite an increase in legal provisions violence against women is on the rise. Discuss. (2016).

REASONS FOR PERSISTING CHALLENGES DESPITE LEGAL EFFORTS (11:45 PM)

- **Reasons:**
- i) Lack of judicial implementation of the provision leads to poor conviction rates and delayed justice.
- ii) Lack of efforts with respect to attitudinal change.
- iii) Fear of stigmatization.
- iv) Lack of awareness among women with respect to rights and entitlements.
- v) Lack of economic opportunities which denies them autonomy.
- vi) Underreporting of cases due to known accused, fear of retaliation, fear of social isolation.
- vii) Patriarchal bargain.
- viii) Lack of political culture in the favour of women.
- ix) Laxity on the part of law enforcement and the investigating agencies.
- x) Lack of proper infrastructure such as functional street lights, CCTV cameras, and mobile police vans.
- xi) Lack of criminalization of crimes like marital rape.
- xii) Corruption of the value system
- xiii) Cyberbullying and digital harassment have increased.
- xiv) Broken window theory when for a petty crime a person is not reprimanded then the chances of committing heinous crimes in later stages are very high.
- xv) Glorification of violence against women in the entertainment media.
- xvi) Trivialization of patriarchal culture.
- xvii) Bystander apathy.
- According to Andre Beteille, "*Law determines the direction in which society should move but it's the culture which determines the direction in which society actually moves.*"
- **Question:**
- Explain the paradox where on one hand violence against women justifies strong laws whereas on the other hand same laws have been misused by some women.

IMPLICATIONS AND WAY FORWARD (12:05 PM)

- **Question:**
- **Against the backdrop of an increase in violence against women, critically examine its implication at the individual as well as collective level.**
- **Way forward:**
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Short terms measures	Long terms measures
Self-defense training	Moral overhauling of the society
Establishing fast-track courts	Value-based education without any ideological coloration
Setting up helplines, mobile apps	Gender sensitization of all stakeholders
More CCTV and focus on women-friendly mobility measures	Destigmatization of violence against women
Mahila police volunteers, one-stop centers	Bringing behavioral change through Nukkad Natak, charismatic personalities, or IEC campaign
More awareness workshops for women	Engage with men and boys as agents of change. For example He4She campaign
Strict patrolling and vigilance at night	Educational reforms, respecting rights with respect to bodily autonomy
Explore the potential of community policing and mohalla committees	Strengthening women's organizations and associations
Educating children about good and bad touch	Intersectionality approach to be adopted with respect to all marginalized communities
Social media outreach, create redressal mechanisms with respect to cyber violence,	
Use of technology to create gender-friendly infrastructure and space	
Creating a social support system for women to discuss their issues	

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (12:35 PM)

- **Reasons for increased instances of domestic violence:**
- **i) Nuclear families are more prone to domestic violence.**
- **ii) Cultural acceptance of domestic violence.**
- **According to the Gender Social Norm Index by the UNDP:**
- **25% of men and women believe that it is okay for a husband to beat the wife.**
- **40% of them believe men are better political leaders and 50% believe men are better corporate executives.**
- **iii) Lack of alternative opportunities i.e. lack of parental support and financial dependence on women.**
- **iv) Changing socio-economic relations, especially in urban areas. With respect to rural areas, it is the issue of violence against young widows or when women are unable to bear a boy child.**
- **v) Disruption of social life due to factors like Covid.**
- **(In the context of Uttar Pradesh initiatives like the Bell Bajao campaign or Suppress Corona Not Your Voice were taken to address domestic violence)**
- **vi) Lack of criminalization of marital rape.**

DOWRY (12:50 PM)

- **Suggestions:**
- **i) Promoting the concept of Adarsh marriages i.e. affluent people restrain from lavish marriages.**
- **ii) Stigmatization of the practice of dowry, for example, naming and shaming or mohalla committees.**
- **iii) Stopping the glorification of the gifting culture.**
- **iv) Outlawing extravagant weddings.**
- **v) Ensure the girl child gets her share in ancestral properties.**
- **vi) Efforts to increase the financial independence of women.**
- **vii) Vicarious reinforcements should be resorted to to set good examples in society.**
- **viii) Mass awareness drives regarding the negatives of dowry and making a people's movement.**
- **ix) Strict implementation of laws in letter and spirit.**

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE (1:10 PM)

- **According to a report by FICCI, 25% of the MNCs have yet not constituted an Internal Complaint Committee.**

- **Approximately 70% of the women do not report the cases due to the following reasons:**
- **i) Lack of understanding of sexual harassment along with gaslighting.**
- **ii) A lack of faith in the complaint mechanism.**
- **iii) Fear of retaliation, social exclusion, and domestication.**
- **iv) Due to stigma associated with the status of women.**

TOPICS OF THE NEXT CLASS: Diversity