VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING 2009 -2013

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ABSTRACT

Society consists of both men and women are born equal. Man and woman used to play vital roles in the creation and development of their families in particular and the society in general. Woman was not only a bread distributer, but also a bread winner. The society was governed by certain established norms approved by Dharma Shastras. The highest social ends in ancient Indian society were four viz., Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. Women along with man was used to participated in all activities equally and hence she was considered as “Saha Dharma Charini” But today woman are most powerless and marginalized sections of Indian Society various social and economic indicators provide the evidence of inequalities and vulnerabilities of women in all sectors economic, social, demographic, health, nutrition, etc. The rising incidence of crime and violence against women are indicators of a decline in the respect of women in society. The present paper is the theoretical based on the secondary data collected from the books, periodicals, Articles, Journals. I was tried to cover the Social status of Women in phases of history right from Vedic to Post Independence and appropriate suggestions also given in this article.

KEYWORDS: Violence, Discrimination, Gender Inequality, Empowerment, Status.

1. INTRODUCTION

Society consists of both men and women are born equal. Hindus consider man and women represent the two aspects of the same person, the Supreme God. Scriptures say that “Having divided his body into two parts, The lord (Brahman) became male by means of the (one) half, and female by means of the other, and on the female he begot viraj “Manu (1:32)

Lord Siva consists of a body of two halves-one is of male and the other is female and he is called ‘Ardhanareshwara’. Woman in the ancient period was considered more powerful than man and was treated as goddess of Adishakti.

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1.2 Present Status of the women:

In family she as to complete all household responsibilities, if the family members are cooperating with her, adjust themselves and modifies their lifestyles accordingly, she will be able to concentrate for office work in an efficient manner. Otherwise stress will arise unable to cope up both activities and suffers with mental illness in performing familial activities such as rearing practices, caring of children, cooking, meeting the needs of total family members. She may neglect her personal care and health. She has to maintain balance between life activities and work activities. Especially the spouse and children has to adjust and accommodate themselves, extend total cooperation to her. In such cases it is added an asset for family. Otherwise it may lead to misunderstandings and strained interpersonal relationship, unhappiness, and broken families. The phenomenon of the women status is includes comprehensive and complexity in nature.

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For the present study I am taking some important areas those are given in the following lines:

1.3 Crime against Women

In spite implementing of various laws, policies and programmes we are observing the situation of the women is still not changing, it was revealed by the NCRB though its annual crime report:
According to NCRB report, 2013\(^9\) crimes against women of India touched with incidence of 309546 crimes against women and the rate of crime was 52.2 per cent whereas in the year 2012 there was a steep increase to 244270 at a rate of 41.7 per cent. The highlights of the NCRB report 2013 is given in the following lines:

- Andhra Pradesh reported 10.6 per cent of total such cases in the country (32,809 out of 3,09,546 cases). Delhi UT reported the highest crime rate (146.8) as compared to the national average rate of 52.2.
- The proportion of IPC crimes committed against women under total IPC crimes has increased during last 5 years from 9.2 per cent in the year 2009 to 11.2 per cent during the year 2013.
- Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest number of rape cases (4,335), assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (8,252 cases) and West Bengal has reported highest number of importation of girls from foreign country (9 cases) accounting for 12.9 per cent, 11.7 per cent and 29.0 per cent respectively of total such cases reported in the country.
- Andhra Pradesh has reported 37.4 per cent (4,702 cases) of total insult to the modesty of women cases reported in country during 2013.
- 0.6 per cent increase in cases reported under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (from 2,563 in 2012 to 2,579 in 2013) was observed during 2013 over 2012. Tamil Nadu with 549 cases has accounted for 21.3 per cent of total such (2,579 cases) followed by Andhra Pradesh (489 cases) with 19.0 per cent.
- Highest incidents of kidnapping & abduction 18.8 per cent (9,737 cases) and dowry deaths 28.9 per cent (2,335 cases) were reported in Uttar Pradesh.
- Offenders were known to the victims in 94.3 per cent of rape cases (31,807 out of 33,707 cases).
- A total of 53,464 cases of crime against women were reported from 53 mega cities out of 3,09,546 cases reported in the country during 2013. The rate of crime in these cities at 69.7 was comparatively higher as compared to national rate at 52.2.
- Among 53 mega cities, Delhi (City) accounted for 21.4 per cent (11,449 cases) of such crimes followed by Mumbai 5.5 per cent (7,946 cases), Bengaluru 4.9 per cent (2,608 cases) and Ahmadabad 4.6 per cent (2,449 cases).
Table 1: Violent incidents against women during 2009 -2013 and percentage variation up to 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Crime Head</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% variation in 2013 over 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rape (Sec.376 IPC)</td>
<td>21397</td>
<td>22172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kidnapping &amp; Abduction (Sec 363 to 373 IPC)</td>
<td>25741</td>
<td>29795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dowry Death (Sec. 302/304 IPC)</td>
<td>8383</td>
<td>8391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cruelty by husband or his relatives (Sec. 498A IPC)</td>
<td>89546</td>
<td>94041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)</td>
<td>38711</td>
<td>40613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC)</td>
<td>11009</td>
<td>9961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Importation of girl from foreign country (Sec. 366-B IPC)</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>194832</td>
<td>205009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956</td>
<td>2474</td>
<td>2499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961</td>
<td>5650</td>
<td>5182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8969</td>
<td>8576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>203804</td>
<td>213585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source; Crime in India-2013, National Crime Record Bureau, Government of India

1.4 Empowerment of the Women- Need to avoid violence:

According to the 2011 census, women account for 586.47 million in absolute numbers and represent 48.46 per cent of the total population of the country. While there has been an appreciable gain in the overall sex ratio of 7 points from 933 in 2001 to 940 in 2011, the decline in child sex ratio (0–6 years) by 13 points from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011 is a matter of grave concern. On the health front, implementation of the National Rural Health Mission has resulted in an improvement on many indicators pertaining to gender. Fertility Rates have come down and have reached replacement levels in a number of states Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is improving, from 301 per 100,000 live births in 2003 it has come down to 212 (SRS 2007–2009); Infant Mortality Rate, though still high, has reduced to 47 per 1,000 in 2010. Institutional deliveries have raised from 41 per cent in 2006 to 73 per cent in 2009. There are increasing concerns regarding the gap between male and female infant mortality.
rate 49 for girls as compared to 46 for boys. The under-five mortality rate for girls in India is very high at 64 per 1,000 live births as compared to 55 per 1,000 live births for boys. The decline in MMR has fallen behind and is less than the target of 100 in the Eleventh Plan. There has been an increase in literacy amongst women from 53.67 per cent (Census 2001) to 65.46 per cent (Census 2011). The challenge however remains in bridging the gender gap which stands at 16.68 per cent. The gender differential in education is declining, particularly at the primary level. There is a need to address the issues of retention of girls’ in school, quality of education and the provision of separate toilets, sibling care facilities, and so on. From 1993–94 to 2009–10 women’s participation in the labor force has decreased substantially from 36.8 per cent to 26.1 per cent in rural areas and from 17 per cent to 13.8 per cent in urban areas as indicated by NSSO data. Another major concern is the gender gap in the educational level of the labor force. Whereas in 2004–05, 60 per cent of employed females were illiterate and 3.7 per cent were graduates, Men were 28 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. Female hourly wage rates in agriculture vary from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of male rates, and are insufficient to overcome absolute poverty.

Finally Planning Commission of India also expressed about the barriers to women’s empowerment is manifested in various ways. Deep-rooted ideologies of gender bias and discrimination like the confinement of women to the private domestic realm, restrictions on their mobility, poor access to health services, nutrition, education and employment, and exclusion from the public and political sphere continue to daunt women across the country. Other parameters that reflect the status and position of women in society are work participation rates, sex ratio in the age group of 0–6 years and gender based violence which remain heavily slanted against women. New challenges such as increased intra-country migration, changing labor markets that require new skill sets and rapidly changing technologies have also emerged.

India’s Gender Inequality Index value of 0.617 in 2011 placing the country at 129 among 149 countries globally is reflective of the high gender inequality that is prevalent. The lower attainments of women in key human development indicators are indicative of the sharp disparities in opportunities available to women. An exceptionally worrying factor is the deteriorating child sex ratio.
1.5 CONCLUSION:

To conclude, the problem of Violence against women is not new. Women in Indian society have been victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation for as long as we have written records of episodes like rape, abduction, battering, and so. Victimization of women in India starts from the time of their birth. Boys are preferred to girls. In most of the cases the birth of a girl child does not make even the parents of the child happy, leave alone other members of the family. On the contrary, the birth of a son is enthusiastically celebrated it blessings showered on the couple by all the members of the family, friends and neighbors alike.

The problem if crime against women is more a psychological and social issue than a problem. It is not uncommon to say that the conduct of a person is largely influenced by the social and cultural environment in which he lives and the way he perceives. It is essential to change outlook of man towards women in order to prevent crimes against women. In this regard the government should take necessary steps to check various private television channels, movies and irrational advertisements which are projecting woman as a symbol of sex. In the present social scenario restrictions are necessary to prevent further erosion of social and moral values.

1.6 SUGGESTIONS:

- Public has to become conscious about the offences against women and help in bringing the offender to the court of law.
- Information regarding the law as well as trained in sympathetic interviewing and investigation.
- Girls should be bold and give back to the ruffians in the same coin. They should be taught a lesson. If he gets even a slap from an opponent, takes to his heels. Training in ‘Judo’ and ‘Karate’ to girls is very helpful and for this the government must open training centers.
- Capital punishment must be enforced when the crime of rape is committed on the innocent and defenceless female-child of tender age where maximum damage is caused to the victim.
- The need of the hour, therefore is not only to strengthen the laws by removing loop holes but also to set up the enforcement of these laws in the form of a well directed crusade.
There must be co-ordination between the role of law enforcing agencies like, the Police, the Lawyers, the Judiciary, the rehabilitation institutions and voluntary social organizations.

An effective and appropriate representation of women from different strata of society must be there to the parliament and all state legislatures which would bring all our laws in consonance with gender equality and social justice.

Social awareness for equal rights of women needs to be propagated to the remote areas.

Finally it may be emphasized that till the women are conscious of their rights, men feel their responsibilities, law enforcement agencies towards their social and legal duty, otherwise it is difficult to control the offences against women.

1.7 REFERENCES

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