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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BANGALORE CITY (2001-2011)

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ABSTRACT

Today, the violence against women is the most pervasive yet under recognized social problem, not only in India but also throughout the world. It is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education and age. More significantly, with the increasing trend of urbanization the number of cases of violence against women has rapidly grown over the years. Hence in the present study an attempt is made to analyze the relationship between urbanization and increasing violence against women. For the said purpose, the data on the total number of cases registered under major six types of violence against women (Rape, Kidnapping of Women & Girls, Dowry Deaths, Cruelty by husband/in laws, Molestation & Sexual Harassment and PIT Act) during the period of 2001 to 2011 has been collected from all the police stations of all the seven divisions of Bangalore city. In the present study the pattern of violence against women in Bangalore city particularly during the period of 2001 to 2011 has been examined in the larger context of Indian society. The major casual factors for the violence against women have been discussed from sociological perspective. Further, important suggestions have been made to reform the existing legislative system regarding violence against women and at the end to provide gender justice in all the sections of the society.

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, the violence against women is largely apparent and is the most pervasive yet under recognized social problem not only in India but also throughout the world. The violence affects the lives of millions of women worldwide, in all socio-economic and educational classes. It is impeding the right of women to participate fully in society. It is also a human rights violation of world wide significance. It is an important risk factor for women's ill health, with far reaching consequences for both their physical and mental health. The most burning and heart rendering issue of the modern times is violence against women. Violence against women is an evil of epidemic proportions. It is the one tragedy that transcends nationalities, cultures, religions and races that international conventions and national laws have been impotent to stop. Women are subjected to violence in all facets of their life: in public spaces, inside the home, at the workplace, by family and strangers alike. "Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women" (The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, General Assembly Resolution, December 1993). Violence against women and girls continues to be a global epidemic that kills and tortures women – physically, psychologically, sexually, economically and socially. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women and girl's equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though most societies proscribe violence against women, the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the garb of cultural practices and norms, or through miss interpretation of religious tenets.

Moreover, when the violation takes place within the home, as is very often the case, the abuse is effectively condoned by the tacit silence and the passivity displayed by the state and the law-enforcing machinery. The global dimensions of this violence are alarming, as highlighted by studies on its incidence and prevalence. No society claim to be free of such violence, the only variation is in the patterns and trends that exist in countries and regions. Specific groups of women are more vulnerable, including minority groups, indigenous and migrant women, refugee women and those in situations of armed conflict, women in institutions and detention, women with disabilities, female children, and elderly women. For the feasibility of the study here the researcher has identified only six major types of violence against women, which are; Rape, Kidnapping of Women & Girls, Dowry Deaths, Cruelty by husband/in laws, Molestation & Sexual Harassment and PIT Act. More significantly, with the increasing trend of urbanization the number of cases of violence against women has rapidly grown over the years. Hence, in the present study an attempt is made to analyze the relationship between urbanization and increasing violence against women. Further, it is placed in this context to examine the pattern of violence against women in Bangalore in particular, in India, in general and also to find out the causal factors for the violence against women in India.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is primarily based on the data collected from all the police stations of all the seven divisions of Bangalore city. The city has been divided into seven divisions by the Karnataka State Police, which are; North, South, East, West, Central, North-East and South-East divisions. The required data has been collected from the above police stations through Right To Information Act, the data includes the total number of cases registered under major six types of violence against women (Rape, Kidnapping of Women & Girls, Dowry Deaths, Cruelty by husband/in laws, Molestation & Sexual Harassment and PIT Act) during the period of 2001 to 2011.

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Objectives

- To analyze the pattern of violence against women in Bangalore city, particularly during the period of 2001 to 2011, in the larger context of Indian society.
- To find out the causal factors for the violence against women in India.
- To point out the major deficiencies in the existing legislative system regarding violence against women and also to suggest suitable reforms to provide gender justice in all the streams.

Review of Literature

Throughout the world, the problem of violence against women is largely discussed amongst the academicians, which leaves the researcher ambiguous. However, here a few relevant studies have been reviewed. The Fourth Conference of Women (1995) has defined violence against women as a physical act of aggression of one individual or group against another or others. Violence against women is any act of gender-based violence which results in, physical, sexual or arbitrary deprivation of liberty in public or private life and violation of human rights of women in violation of human rights of women in situations of armed conflicts. (Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995 Country Report). Further Violence is an act carried out with the intention or perceived intention of physically hurting another person (Gelles and Straus; 1979). Gender Violence is defined as “any act involving use of force or coercion with intent of perpetuating promoting hierarchical gender relations” (APWLD; 1990, Schuler; 1992). Liz Kelly (1998), *Surviving Sexual Polity* has defined violence as “any physical, visual, verbal or sexual act that is experienced by the woman or girl at the time or later as a threat, invasion or assault, that has the effect of hurting her or degrading her and/or takes away her ability to contest an intimate contact”. Liddle (1997) modified this definition as “any physical, visual, verbal or sexual act that is experienced by the person at the time or later as a threat, invasion or assault, that has the effect of hurting or disregarding or removing the ability to control one’s own behaviour or an interaction, whether this be within the workplace, the home, on the streets or in any other area of the community”.

Particularly in India vast literature can be found on the violence against women, here a few major studies have been reviewed for the better understand of violence against women. Radhika Coomaraswamy identifies different kinds of violence against women in the United Nation’s special report - 1995 on violence against women. Further she (1992) points out those women are vulnerable to various forms of violent treatment for several reasons. Anannya (1998) in her study enlightens us about the basic aspects of the Indian women on the aspects of public culture. In this way, Das, Veena (2002) gives an interesting perspective on rape and abduction of women during Partition of Indian and an historical perspective of Indian states, and of the fallacy of the State and NGOs to deal with the problem. Particularly, McGinn, Padma (1993) in her study based on the issues pertaining to sexual harassment in India has been analyzed accordingly and also about the eve teasing in historical perspective and its after math in the Indian society. Talwar (2003) has conducted a detailed study on the dowry deaths in India. In India the story of feminist movement is remarkable in bringing gender justice. It has been studied by many different scholars throughout the country, here Diane (2000) has given a brief account of Gender and Society and state policies, reforms and women movements. Further, Chhaya, (1985) has studied on the anti rape campaign, campaign against sex determination tests and other studies conducted in Indian society. Kelkar, (2004) and Mandu & Ruth Vanita (1998) also study on feminist movements in India. The sati system in India has been studied by Madhu and Ruth Vanita (1999), Stratton, (1994) and Lata (2001). 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. Manifestations of violence include physical

aggression, such as blows of varying intensity, burns, attempted hanging, sexual abuse and rape, psychological violence through insults, humiliation, coercion, blackmail, economic or emotional threats, and control over speech and actions. In extreme, but not unknown cases, death is the result (Adriana, 1996). Gomez (1994) has also talked about two basic forms of violence, that is; structural and direct. Structural violence arises from the dominant political, economic and social systems, in so far as they block access to the means of survival for large number of people; for example, economic models based on the super-exploitation of thousands for the benefit of a few, extreme poverty in opposition to ostentatious wealth, and repression and discrimination against those who diverge from given norms. Structural violence according to her is the basis of direct violence, because it influences the socialisation which causes individuals to accept or inflict suffering, according to the social function they fulfil. Open or direct violence is exercised through aggression, arms or physical force. (Larrain and Rodrigue; 1993). Intimate partner violence occurs in all countries and among all groups, regardless of social, economic, religious, or cultural group. Although women can also be violent in relationships with men, the overwhelming burden of partner violence is borne by women at the hands of men (Heise, Ellsberg, & Gottemoeller; 1999, WHO; 1997). Additionally, violence against women by their intimate partners or ex-partners is indicated to be the most persistent form of domestic violence (Kulwicki, 2002). In fact, emergency services are frequently the most accessible resource when injuries occur from inter-spousal abuse (Bowker, 1984a; Bowker, 1984b; Dobash & Dobash, 1979; Goldberg & Gary, 1982; Walker, 1984). Yoshihama’s (1999) study aimed at explaining the prevalence of domestic violence among women of Japanese descent living in the United States.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Today, in India the magnitude of violence against women has increased dramatically over the period of time. The process of urbanization has double the cases of violence against women in India. Like any other cities in India, Bangalore has claimed for more number of cases of violence against women. The Table 1 shows the total number of cases registered under six types of violence against women in Bangalore city during the period of 2001 to 2011.

Table 1. The Total No. of Cases Registered in Bangalore city between 2001-2011 under six types of Violence Against Women

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	33	74	54	465	213	263
2002	37	77	85	437	213	246
2003	43	90	72	569	222	371
2004	37	91	94	425	156	368
2005	29	63	82	566	180	742
2006	52	74	103	646	208	374
2007	80	78	121	569	284	372
2008	82	119	118	662	218	335
2009	119	187	114	872	317	224
2010	108	303	119	1028	394	202
2011	169	356	152	1096	293	244
Total	819	1512	1114	7335	2698	3741

In Bangalore city including all the police division of the city during the period of 2001 to 2011 the total numbers of rape cases were 819. These numbers are fluctuating in this period; in 2001 starting from 33, gradually increased to 169. Interestingly from 2009 the number of cases under rape category has reached to 119, from 82 (2008). The total numbers of cases registered under kidnapping of women and girls between 2001 and 2011 was 1512. In 2001 the numbers of cases registered under this second category were only 74 and it remained almost same till 2007. But in 2008 shockingly the numbers of these cases registered has increased to 119 and 356 in 2011. Further the total numbers of cases registered under the category of dowry deaths, during the period of 2001 to 2011 were 1114. Particularly, in 2001

there were 54 cases and 152 in 2011. The cases registered by women for cruelty by husband/in laws were 7335 in the period of 2001 and 2011. In this division, comparing to the number of crimes registered to any other type of crimes the cases registered under 'cruelty by husband/in laws' is very high. The total numbers of cases registered under the crime of molestation and sexual harassment during the period of 2001 and 2011 were 2698. The total numbers of cases registered under the PIT Act were 3741 (2001-2011).

The Table 2 shows the total number of cases registered under major six types of violence against women in the North division of Bangalore city. In this division during the period of 2001 to 2011 the total numbers of rape cases were 200. These numbers are fluctuating in these years; in 2001 starting from less (7) gradually increased to 42 (in 2011). In 2010 only 29 rape cases were registered but surprisingly, the number has almost become double (42) in 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under kidnapping of women and girls between 2001 and 2011 was 447. In 2001 the numbers of cases registered under this second category were only 31 and it remained almost same till 2009. But in 2010 shockingly the numbers of these cases registered has increased to 101 and 92 in 2011. In this division the total numbers of cases registered under the category of dowry deaths, during the period of 2001 to 2011 were 324. Particularly, in 2001 there were 13 cases and 41 in 2011. The cases registered by women for cruelty by husband/in laws were 1643 in the period of 2001 and 2011. In this division, comparing to the number of crimes registered to any other type of crimes the cases registered under 'cruelty by husband/in laws' is very high. In 2001 the cases were 137 and 200 in 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the crime of molestation and sexual harassment during the period of 2001 and 2011 were 642. There were 33 cases in 2001 and 72 in the year of 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the PIT Act were 863 (2001-2011). 28 cases were registered under this category on 2001 and 53 in 2011. But surprisingly, only in 2003, 2005 and 2006 the cases registered under the PIT Act has increased to more than a hundred.

Table 2. North Division

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	7	31	13	137	33	28
2002	13	35	18	118	38	46
2003	4	40	16	126	61	105
2004	18	27	27	99	34	74
2005	19	17	32	100	54	170
2006	11	18	38	170	68	138
2007	16	16	39	157	86	83
2008	18	34	29	146	47	61
2009	23	36	32	183	61	53
2010	29	101	39	207	88	52
2011	42	92	41	200	72	53
Total	200	447	324	1643	642	863

The Table 3 depicts the number of cases registered under major six types of violence against women in the South division of Bangalore city. In this division during the period of 2001 to 2011 the total numbers of rape cases were 83. In 2001 only 7 cases were registered under this category and 19 in 2011. In the years of 2002, 2004 and 2006 marked for no rape cases registered in the South division of Bangalore city. The total numbers of cases registered under kidnapping of women and girls between 2001 and 2011 was 136. In 2001 the numbers of cases registered under this second category were only 6 and it remained almost same till 2008. But in 2009 the numbers of these cases registered has increased to 23, 30 in 2010 and 29 in 2011. In the South division the total numbers of cases registered under the category of dowry deaths during the period of 2001 to 2011 were 144. Particularly, in 2001 there were 11 cases and 15 in 2011. The cases registered by women for cruelty by husband/in laws were 728 in the period of 2001 and 2011. In this division, comparing to the number of crimes registered to any other type of

crimes the cases registered under 'cruelty by husband/in laws' is very high. In 2001 the cases were 58 and 162 in 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the crime of molestation and sexual harassment during the period of 2001 and 2011 were 271. There were 31 cases in 2001 and 17 in the year of 2011. Interestingly in 2011 the cases registered under molestation and sexual harassment have significantly decreased compared to its earlier period (52 in 2010). The total numbers of cases registered under the PIT Act were 298 (2001-2011). Only 8 cases were registered under this category on 2001 and 24 in 2011. But, only in the years of 2007 (46) and 2008 (44) the cases registered under the PIT Act have increased significantly compared to any other years.

Table 3. South Division

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	6	6	11	58	31	8
2002	0	10	11	40	34	6
2003	2	8	6	49	23	12
2004	0	7	16	23	17	28
2005	6	2	18	101	18	38
2006	0	8	15	77	24	36
2007	8	9	10	19	12	46
2008	10	4	14	67	16	44
2009	20	23	18	35	27	32
2010	12	30	10	97	52	24
2011	19	29	15	162	17	24
Total	83	136	144	728	271	298

The Table 4 shows the total number of cases registered under major six types of violence against women in the East division of Bangalore city. In this division during the period of 2001 to 2011 the total numbers of rape cases were 159. There were only 8 rape cases registered and 33 in 2011.

Table 4. East Division

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	8	14	17	64	34	12
2002	4	12	27	62	38	36
2003	6	13	29	42	31	14
2004	9	24	21	62	18	1
2005	15	14	7	102	24	47
2006	13	15	14	115	19	31
2007	26	16	24	89	67	57
2008	11	34	25	83	57	54
2009	20	52	18	106	54	32
2010	14	82	20	144	68	60
2011	33	91	27	113	54	30
Total	159	367	229	982	464	374

The total numbers of cases registered under kidnapping of women and girls between 2001 and 2011 were 367. In 2001 the numbers of cases registered under this second category were only 14 and it remained almost same till 2007. But in 2008 surprisingly the numbers of these cases has increased to 34, 52 in 2009, 82 in 2010 and 91 in 2011. In the same division the total numbers of cases registered under the category of dowry deaths during the period of 2001 to 2011 were 229. Particularly, in 2001 there were 17 cases and 27 in 2011. Hence the number of dowry deaths almost remained same in all these years. The cases registered by women for cruelty by husband/in laws were 982 in the period of 2001 and 2011. In this division, comparing to the number of crimes registered to any other type of crimes the cases registered under 'cruelty by husband/in laws' is very high. In 2001 the cases were 64 and 113 in 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the crime of molestation and sexual harassment during the period of 2001 and 2011 were 464. There were 34 cases in 2001 and 54 in the year of 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the PIT Act were 374 (2001-2011). 12 cases were

registered under this category on 2001 and 30 in 2011. But surprisingly, only a single case has been registered under PIT Act in 2004. As shown in the Table 5 during the period of 2001 to 2011 the total numbers of rape cases were 121 in the West division of Bangalore city. In 2001 only 6 cases were registered under this category and 15 in 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under kidnapping of women and girls between 2001 and 2011 were 171. In 2001 the numbers of cases registered under this second category were only 6 and it remained almost same till 2008. But in 2009 the numbers of these cases registered has increased to 20, 27 in 2011. Here, the total numbers of cases registered under the category of dowry deaths during the period of 2001 to 2011 were 217. Particularly, in 2001 there were 7 cases and 38 in 2011. The cases registered by women for cruelty by husband/in laws were 1400 in the period of 2001 and 2011. In this division, comparing to the number of crimes registered to any other type of crimes the cases registered under 'cruelty by husband/in laws' is very high. In 2001 the cases were 84 and 190 in 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the crime of molestation and sexual harassment during the period of 2001 and 2011 were 534. There were 68 cases in 2001 and 36 in the year of 2011. Interestingly in 2011 the cases registered under molestation and sexual harassment has significantly decreased compared to its earlier period (75 in 2010). The total numbers of cases registered under the PIT Act were 1355 (2001-2011). 137 cases were registered under this category on 2001 and 26 in 2011. Since 2006 the numbers of cases registered under this category of crime have dramatically decreased till today.

Table 5. West Division

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	6	6	7	84	68	137
2002	11	14	13	19	34	112
2003	18	11	10	112	55	192
2004	4	11	16	57	31	227
2005	8	16	19	119	40	413
2006	8	21	20	133	43	68
2007	5	12	28	126	54	60
2008	11	16	24	174	25	54
2009	20	20	20	200	73	39
2010	15	17	22	186	75	27
2011	15	27	38	190	36	26
Total	121	171	217	1400	534	1355

Table 6. Central Division

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	2	4	2	48	7	72
2002	0	1	2	112	20	29
2003	3	0	1	176	10	34
2004	4	0	8	142	13	24
2005	1	0	0	63	16	41
2006	4	2	6	49	8	22
2007	6	6	0	76	8	14
2008	8	2	0	77	17	11
2009	4	10	2	174	22	10
2010	9	3	6	185	27	10
2011	4	22	9	212	20	25
Total	45	50	36	1314	168	292

In the Central division of Bangalore city during 2001 – 2011 the total numbers of rape cases were only 45. In 2001 only 2 cases were registered under this category and 4 in 2011. In the year of 2002 not a single case of rape has been registered in this division of Bangalore city. The total numbers of cases registered under kidnapping of women and girls between 2001 and 2011 were 50. In 2001 the numbers of cases registered under this second category were only 4 and 22 in 2011. Here, the total numbers of cases registered under the category of dowry deaths during the period of 2001 to 2011 were 36.

Particularly, in 2001 there were 2 cases and 9 in 2011. The cases registered by women for cruelty by husband/in laws were 1314 in the period of 2001 and 2011. As always, in this division too, comparing to the number of crimes registered to any other type of crimes the cases registered under 'cruelty by husband/in laws' is very high. In 2001 the cases were 48 and 212 in 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the crime of molestation and sexual harassment during the period of 2001 and 2011 were 168. There were 7 cases in 2001 and 20 in the year of 2011. The total numbers of cases registered under the PIT Act were 292 (2001-2011). 72 cases were registered under this category on 2001 and 25 in 2011. In the table no 7, information about the total numbers of cases registered under different types of violence against women (Rape: 57, Kidnapping of Women & Girls: 55, Dowry Deaths: 58, Cruelty by husband/in laws: 479, Molestation & Sexual Harassment: 179 and PIT Act: 148) during the period of 2001 to 2011 has been provided in the North-East division of Bangalore city.

Table 7. North East Division

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	0	0	0	18	2	2
2002	0	0	6	26	15	9
2003	0	2	8	10	3	6
2004	0	0	2	7	8	4
2005	1	2	0	36	15	8
2006	4	2	0	43	9	34
2007	6	0	2	56	18	12
2008	7	4	10	37	21	18
2009	6	4	8	72	25	28
2010	9	14	12	77	39	6
2011	24	27	10	97	24	21
Total	57	55	58	479	179	148

In the Table 8, the data on the total numbers of cases registered under different types of violence against women (Rape: 154, Kidnapping of Women & Girls: 286, Dowry Deaths: 106, Cruelty by husband/in laws: 789, Molestation & Sexual Harassment: 440 and PIT Act: 411) during the period of 2001 to 2011 has been analysed in the South-East division of Bangalore city.

Table 8. South East Division

Year	Rape	Kidnapping of Women & Girls	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty by husband/in laws	Molestation & Sexual Harassment	PIT Act
2001	4	13	4	56	38	4
2002	9	5	8	60	34	8
2003	10	16	2	54	39	8
2004	2	22	4	35	35	10
2005	9	12	6	45	13	25
2006	12	8	10	59	37	45
2007	13	19	18	46	39	100
2008	17	25	16	78	35	93
2009	26	42	16	102	55	30
2010	20	56	10	132	45	23
2011	32	68	12	122	70	65
Total	154	286	106	789	440	411

MAJOR FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Despite constitutional provision of equality of gender rights and different gender specific laws in place, women's status in society continues to be devalued. The perpetuation of gender based violence, discrimination, exploitation and inequalities etc., in the society is mostly due to the deficiency in the implementation mechanism of these laws. Hence in the future while making laws the law makers will have to focus specifically on the implementation mechanisms of these laws. Special enactment may be made for promote interim payment of maintenance to victim and no special compensation in all cases of dowry victims be considered according to the dowry amount

paid. Criminals victimizing women need deterrent punishment and one to be dealt with strictly because they not only violate law, but also violate social norms. Our Supreme Court very rightly observed, "It will be a mockery of justice to permit these appellants would be to render the justice system of the country suspect. The common will lose faith in courts". These criminals should be made socially out-cast by members of community. Special procedure and special court trial is required for crimes against women for speedy disposal of these cases in the court of law. Proper steps are urgently required to guard prosecution failures in Crimes against women to check its increasing trend. Establishment of cheaper and less formal courts could also be a measure to help women who are victims of exploitation. In our country large number of women welfare voluntary organization are established day in and day out. Out of them many are functioning with commercial motive for the benefit of the organization. These organizations mist utilize Government aid and at present with rampant corruption they are in no way helpful to victim women. Government should give special attention for reorganization of these institutions. Strengthening and increasing voluntary organizations, this could take up individual woman's problem. Publicity has to be given to those organizations, which provide free legal aid to women, so that the needy women could approach them and seek their help. Literacy programmes for women needs attentive for their awareness about the legitimate rights. Assistance including employment and child-care facilities and immediate financial support is also the need of the suffering women.

A change in the parent's attitude is also necessary in women's cases. Parents should not force their daughters-married or widowed who are frequently beaten by their husbands or ill-treated by their in-laws to live in their husband's house against their own wishes. Women have to learn to be assertive and accept new roles for themselves. They have to develop an optimistic and hopeful approach to life. Hence thus preventive and protective measures are enforced through strict legal methods to redeem the pathetic plight of women who are subjected Violence against women. The much cherished dream of making the women free from these atrocities is more feasible when rudimentary change is brought in the outlook of women and the Pristine glory of womanhood is restored by regarding the women is mother power. Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields. Hence Violence against infants, girls and women being reported on a daily basis makes me feel that our great nation is suffering from an anti-female mania. It seems to have got rooted so deep in our psyche that all the developments, achievements and modernization we boast of, notwithstanding, Indian females time and time again happen to suffer from unimaginable atrocities, regardless of their age and social position. Dowry, acid attack, female infanticide and rape do not normally get attached with any civilized culture. But they all go very well with ours. Sometimes, it even looks as if these things are exclusively meant for our culture. However, asking questions like: why is it so, what is wrong with us, why on earth men look at women with a different attitude etc., is something anyone can do.

Conclusion

It is the responsibility of every true Indian to observe that he, from his part, is not going to do anything like this and if ever he finds someone doing one such thing, he stands morally bound to raise the issue and bring it before the conscience of the public so that the culprit gets himself purged by way of introspection and compunction. This is a civic responsibility and if ever one is really worried about the plight of our womenfolk, s/he has to understand that no external system is going to make any change in the societal attitude towards women.

Rather, it is the society to keep an environment conducive enough for men, women and children. In order for that to happen we all individually need to understand one thing. As our present grown up generation stands badly influenced by the anti-women psychosis, which has been around us for ages, we cannot expect them to be pro-women overnight. Rather, let's do one thing. We shall administer in our school kids a good dose of humaneness. It will be like a civic immunization, an effort to keep them immune to the aforesaid psychosis. Once they are given this humane dose, they would develop good human values all by themselves, and the society they themselves develop would be free from the evils we are worried about at present. The nuclear families today should resolve to maintain an atmosphere healthy enough for their kids to grow up humanely, and their parents must ensure that, all the anti-women influences they themselves suffer from notwithstanding, it is their duty to keep their kids free from any such influences. The teaching community at large has to have a child-friendly attitude towards their vocation, and they may try to inculcate a sense of togetherness in the classroom itself so that today's boys and girls would be able to carve out an India in say, twenty-five years' where there won't be any signs of dowry, acid attacks, female infanticide, rape and the like evils.

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