

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: DEVIANT ACT OF GENDER SUBORDINATION-STUDY OF RAJASTHAN STATE

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**Abstract:** Physical violence against women by their male intimate partner is a public health problem of enormous importance. From infrequent slap, pushes, grabs or shoves to frequent and severe life-threatening assaults, intimate violence in its various forms has significant individual and social consequences. Fear, depression, intense anxiety and social isolation are common among battered women. In India where almost half of the population is women, they have always been ill-treated and deprived of their rights to life and personal liberty as provided under constitution of India. The ground reality has been always different to black and white, women are always considered as a physically and emotionally weaker than males, whereas at the present women have proved themselves in almost every field of life affirming that they are no less than men due to their hard work whether at home or work place. But if we talk about social structure or social norms still there is discrimination. The main purpose to do this research is to find out the ground reality of status of women at Rajasthan state. The research will cover 8 different districts of Rajasthan in which I will try to ask some personal questions to women, based on that questionnaire I will figure out the status of domestic violence at Rajasthan state.

**Key-words:** Domestic violence, women status, women at Rajasthan, Sexual harassment, Discrimination.

**Introduction:** In India where almost half of the population is women, they have always been ill-treated and deprived of their right to life and personal liberty as provided under the constitution of India. Women are always considered as a physically and emotionally weaker than the males, whereas at present women have proved themselves in almost every field of life affirming that they are no less than men due to their hard work whether at home or working places. Behind closed doors of homes all across our country, people are being tortured, beaten and killed. It is happening in rural areas, towns, cities and in metropolitans as well. It is crossing all social classes, genders, racial lines and age groups. It is becoming a legacy being passed on from one generation to another. But offences against women which reflect the pathetic reality that women are just not safe and secure anywhere. According to a latest report prepared by India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a crime has been recorded against women in every three minutes in India. Every 60 minutes, two women are raped in this country. Every six hours, a young married woman is found beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide.

The term used to describe this exploding problem of violence within our homes is 'Domestic Violence'. This violence is towards someone who we are in a relationship with, be it a wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, father, grandparent or any other family member. It can be a male's or a female's atrocities towards another male or a female. Anyone can be a victim and a victimizer. This violence has a tendency to explode in various forms such as physical, sexual or emotional. "Domestic Violence" includes harms or injuries which

endangers women's health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical. It may also be through physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse. According to 'United Nations Population Fund Report', around two-thirds of married Indian women are victims of Domestic Violence attacks and as many as 70 per cent of married women in India between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or forced sex. In India, more than 55 percent of the women suffer from Domestic Violence, especially in the states of Bihar, U.P., M.P. and other northern states.

In Rajasthan more than 40 women are approaching the police every day with complaints of domestic violence in the state. Nearly 10 cases of rape are being reported in every 24 hours and three women are being killed for dowry in 48 hours. Rajasthan reports the third highest number of 'crimes against women' cases like rape, sexual harassment, kidnapping, dowry harassment and domestic violence in the country, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. In my research I am going to figure out the actual situation of women in Rajasthan state.

**State Reality:** Rajasthan state is being famous for its culture all over the world, but if we talk about crime either registered or in public- the most happening crime is gender discrimination here. The rate of crime is also high. In Rajasthan, it is 83.13 following Assam (113.93) and Tripura (89.75). The rate of crime is measured based on the total number of crimes reported per one lakh population of women in state. In 2013, Rajasthan reported 3,285 cases of rape and was behind only Madhya Pradesh where 4,335 cases were registered. The cases of kidnapping also soared

with the state ranking third following Uttar Pradesh and Assam. Rajasthan also reported an alarming number of dowry deaths ranking fourth in the country. Nearly 453 cases of dowry deaths were reported in Rajasthan compared to 2,335 in Uttar Pradesh, 1,182 in Bihar and 776 in Madhya Pradesh.

**Rajasthan a runner-up in crimes**  
3,285 cases of rape following only Madhya Pradesh (4,335)

453 cases of dowry deaths following Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh  
15,094 cases of domestic violence following West Bengal (18,116)

27,933 cases of crimes against women following Andhra Pradesh (32,809) and Uttar Pradesh (32,546)

Violence against women is not a new phenomenon. Women have to bear the burns of domestic, public, physical as well as emotional and mental violence against them, which affects her status in the society at the larger extent. The statistics of increasing crimes against women is shocking, where women are subjected to violence attacks i.e. feticide, infanticide, medical neglect, child marriages, bride burning, sexual abuse of girl child, forced marriages, rapes, prostitution, sexual harassment at home as well as work places etc. In all the above cases women is considered as aggrieved person.

#### **Factors That Perpetuate Domestic Violence:**

##### **Cultural:**

Gender specific specialization Cultural definition of appropriate sex roles

Expectations of roles within relationships Belief in the inherent superiority of males

Values that give men proprietary rights over women and girls

Notion of the family as the private sphere and under male control

Customs of marriage (bride price/ dowry)

##### **Political:**

Under-representation of women in power, politics, the media and in the legal and medical professions  
Domestic violence not taken seriously

Notions of family being private and beyond control of the state

Risk of challenge to status quo/ religious laws Limited organization of women as a political force

Limited participation of women in organized political system

##### **Economic:**

Women's economic dependence on men Limited access to cash and credit

Discriminatory laws regarding inheritance, property rights, Use of Communal lands maintenance after divorce or widowhood Limited access to employment in formal and informal sectors

Limited access to education and training for women

##### **Legal:**

Lesser legal status of women either by written law and/or by practice

Laws regarding divorce, child custody, maintenance and inheritance

Low levels of legal literacy among women

Insensitive treatment of women and girls by police and judiciary

**Methodology:** This study was conducted in Rajasthan state. The purposive sampling technique was adopted for selection of the sample women status and their home place. The tool used for obtaining information was an interview schedule which takes two months to compile the data some personal interviews and some telephonic interviews were conducted during this study. Some of advocates also got interviewed for this study so that I can confirm the registered cases too, which helps a lot to figure out the data. The case study and in-depth interview was also done to validate the quantitative data with qualitative. The secondary data was collected through review of different documents and government sites to verify the actual reports.

**The Objective:** The main objective of this study is to figure out the number of Domestic violence case, why and how? As Rajasthan state is facing gender discrimination problem, Caste and gender is main reason to increase the crime rate. This study is revealing how gender issue is effectively increasing domestic violence and violating women rights.

**Results & Discussion:** The violence against women particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence are major health problems and violations of women's human rights. The research findings are very horrible as at Rajasthan state 38% women got murdered by their partner. Sometimes domestic violence begins or increases during pregnancy, putting women's health and the baby's health at risk. Low-income setting, primary prevention strategies, such as micro finance combined with gender equality training and community base initiative that address gender equality and relationship skills. As per the Public hearing Cell of Rajasthan government maximum ladies suffering by domestic violence belongs to higher family (Upper class). Among all registered cases of serious crimes against women, the largest share was under 'cruelty by husband and relatives'. While 36 per cent of all cases were registered under this category, the next largest share was "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty" (24 per cent), says a new report for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, titled 'Women and Men in India - 2015'.

The suicide rate among women was approximately half that of men and there has not been much variation in it over the past decade. The prevalence of suicides was approximately 75 per cent for those

below secondary level of education. Family problems were the major cause of suicides among both genders - 23 per cent for women and 21 per cent for men. This was followed by illness, at 18 per cent, for both genders. The study said among women who committed suicide, approximately 47 per cent were housewives, 64 per cent were married and 76 per cent were matriculates or below. Among men who ended their lives, 67 per cent were married and 73 per cent were matriculates or below.

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**Conclusion:** The varying causes which can spark the violence within the four walls of homes need to be analysed carefully and a wise study of the factors causing the violence may prevent a family to suffer from the menace of domestic violence. The domestic violence may have a wider and deeper impact in life of the victims. A proper societal-legal environment has to be built to make the houses safe and secure for the woman. Rajasthan State cannot prosper by keeping half of its population under duress.

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