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Article:	Gender-Based Violence: Unequal Distribution of Power
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ABSTRACT

Globally, we see that male and female become victim of human rights violations, although these violations differ in severity and consequence. Unlike men women are more prone to violence. Studies show that aggression and violence practiced on women may be categorized as the origin of gender-based violence. These findings unequivocally show that violence is closely tied to gender inequality and the unequal allocation of power in society, both of which lower women's standing and make them less equal to males. Being a woman in such a patriarchal and culturally constructed society entails the danger of being exposed to all types of threats and abuse. Case examples are used in this qualitative research to demonstrate the thorough investigation. Depending on how men and women relate to one another, which dictates the level of power exercised, gender-based violence can take many different forms. Therefore, this crime against women can be classified as one of the following: rape, incest, harassment, sexual assault, at-work or in-school harassment, in-prison harassment, even women trafficking, and domestic abuse, etc.

Keywords: Gender-Based Violence, Distribution of Power, Discrimination, Human Rights, Culture values, women's pride, social norms, mobilization.

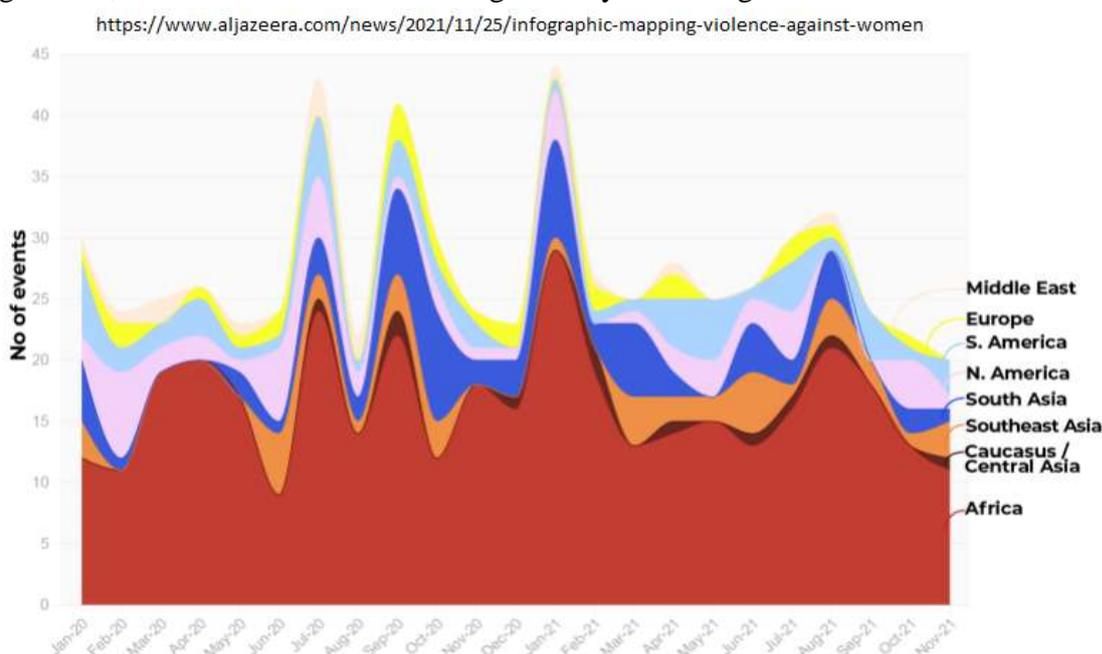
Introduction:

Gender-based violence is very common around the globe and in many parts of the world it is not even taken as a severe threat for women. As per statistics every third woman faces gender-based violence quite a few times in their lives. It is now widely acknowledged that the international community should prioritize ending this atrocity. There is a particular goal in the “Sustainable Development Goals” to eradicate all types of violence against women in their public and private life (Becker, 1968). The data is well-reviewed in a current particular string of *The Lancet* on fighting “violence against women”, which also emphasizes that while increased worldwide awareness offers potential for the governments to consider it as a serious issue and should take appropriate measures on priority basis rather than opting for quick and simple solutions. There must be a proper legislative setup to protect women from being subjugated to violence (Bhatia, 2012).

Women have right to live without violence and it must be codified by legislation that can make violence against women illegal. Laws can serve as powerful symbols that show that a certain type of behavior is socially wrong. The accompanying consequences could act as a deterrent. In actuality, one or both levers may be effective at lowering the occurrence of violence. Even though it is challenging to determine which is more beneficial, we do have some indirect evidence on both sides. By offering protection and access to assistance programs, legislation may also be victim-responsive. The possibilities and drawbacks of legislative action are examined in this study, as well as the laws and social norms may combined together to get rid of violence and discrimination. Previous researches show that during the past ten or so years, significant progress has been made; the women have right to live free in society through combining the domestic and international law by means of communal civilization groups by the side of the national and international levels playing a significant effect. However, there is still work to be done in order to address the underlying norms and actions which contributes to increased violence. The researches provide a deep analysis regarding the significance of the “international human rights law”. Whereas many people think that international efforts are not very effective, while supplementary cite examples of how they have aided in the mobilization of women's groups. The following might be one possible channel of impacts. global laws and norms define ordinary of conduct with the aim of deemed suitable through a majority of nation-states, as well as these customary have an impact on domestic policymaking along a number of causal axes, including through the creation of norms for domestic legislation the creation of standards that the global civil society will promote and oversee, as well as the organization of domestic civil society around these new, common standards for citizen and state behavior. The following provides evidence of this series of outcomes. Of course, there are opposing impacts. International standards' character and development can be impacted by collaborative efforts. For instance, the 1993 “United Nations World Conference on Human Rights approval of the Vienna Declaration and Programmed of Action is seen as a turning point in the history of the women's rights movement” (Sunstein, 1996). The “Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights”, which had been organizing plus lobbying for a long time, had made the calls on behalf of civil society, and the Declaration itself reacted to those requests. Finally, as a result of this, demand for the rights of women was considered to be the human rights (Charlotte, 1995).

The approach is partially inspired by the possible influence of more progressive legal standards in modifying violent behavior patterns in society and these recent research analysis

were also discussed by Klugman in his recent researches Klugman et al. (2014) and he highlighted women face 7% less violence in those countries where domestic violence laws are exercised (Gangoli & Rew, 2011). Despite the lack of confirmed causality, the relationship is statistically significant. The same study discovered that domestic violence prevalence decreased by around 2% for every year that such laws were in place in a nation. Nevertheless, both groups of nations exhibit a wide variety in their rates of violence, and it stands to reason that nations with inferior levels of tolerance for violent behavior are greater implement laws prohibiting it. The particular recommendations highlight the prospective undertake of legal change seeing that a defensive tool, even though it is obvious that laws by themselves cannot end violence. Commandments unaided may not abolish “gender-based violence”, it is also widely acknowledged, and thus they are plainly insufficient (García-Moreno et al, 2006). In most nations across the world, there is now some form of legal protection, but enforcement is still lax and violence is still widespread. The apparent flaws in focusing simply on the effects of violence include the possibility of ignoring its causes. These underline the significance of altering the social norms that promote, condone, or even accept violence, as well as the role that understanding laws and legal changes may play in doing so. One of the recognized areas that may subsist contested from side to side reform encouragement and movements are the law. Modifying unwritten social standards that people have internalized is more challenging. The deeply ingrained cultural traditions, ideas, values, attitudes, norms, and practices that apply at the systemic, communal, as well as individual levels are included in these informal aspects. Compared to formal policy or law, culture changes far more slowly, and changes in official policy or law do not always result in changes in culture (Srilatha, 2013). While it is obvious that international law cannot solve all problems, our analysis reveals that it has helped women's groups' demands by serving as a foundation for standard-setting. Thus, enhancing domestic abuse laws may be impacted both directly and indirectly by international human rights legislation, with collective action serving as a key mediating factor.



Source: Aljazeera News 2021

Women still face violence (one in three women) in some form and the majority of the globe, a woman is least protected in her own house (Charlotte, 1996). South Asia has one of the uppermost regional rates of intimate partner violence at 43%, and according to certain national studies on violence, women even face violence by their intimate partners in huge ratio i.e. up to 70%. Worldwide, there are more than 700 million women. The underlying causative variables that affect patterns of violence across nations are not examined in this article (Heise & Kotserdam, 2015). Some other researchers do emphasize the significance of societal standards, particularly the notion that husbands have the authority to direct their wives (Heise et al, 2015).

Literature Review

Human rights are defined as set of some ethical principles having legal aspects and cover, to provide equal right to all human beings to enjoy their life decently without any compromise. These rights have been formulated after a long process and it has a historical sequence in identifying the rights (Unesco, 2013). International agreements have a promising role in defining gender-based violence and it has contributed in national legislation as well (Klugman, 2014). According to the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1976, discrimination on the basis of sex is strongly forbidden (Shazia, 2013). It also forbids physical, mental and any kind of sexual injuries for example, threatening, traumatizing etc. (Musalo & Blaine, 2013). Even after all such international efforts, we see that states are not utilizing their full potential to combat violence against women and their measures are not good enough to handle gender-based violence (UN, 2015).

This article has estimated the intensity and cause and effect relationship of gender-based violence. It is referred to as imposing undue power by an individual over the other gender in their private and public life and the areas mostly affected are: sexual, mental, physical, social and economic. It also includes threat tactics, bullying, and exploitation. Gender-based violence can have many forms like violence by an intimate partner, sexual harassment and sexual violence, early child marriage, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and honor related crimes against women and girls. Gender-based violence can devastate a person and has lifelong effects on a victim and sometimes it could even lead to serious injuries and even cause death. Since the approach for this study is qualitative, hence with the help of theories many aspects are elaborated, similarly many other researchers have focused on theories like the helplessness theory and social learning theory, which explains the intensity and consequences of gender-based violence. Many researches have been reviewed by the author to reveal the lack of security, social discrimination, poverty, feminization of poverty, cultural values and norms, and cultural practices and these attributes are seen as the main reason of gender-based violence and gender imbalance. In some violent incidents women are even subjected to worst forms of abuse and they suffer from emotional and psychological trauma, sleeping disorder, reproductive issues and thus as a result have increased the gender inequalities. Viewing the global social scenario governments should facilitate women by establishing counseling centers and rehabilitation centers. It is also the responsibility of the government to invest in the institutions (police and judiciary) which can help women and can assist them as well. Along with the government community groups should also come in action to protect women and girls by taking appropriate measures both for men and women, so that they could have a platform to share their experiences and issues related to gender-based violence and other communal issues.

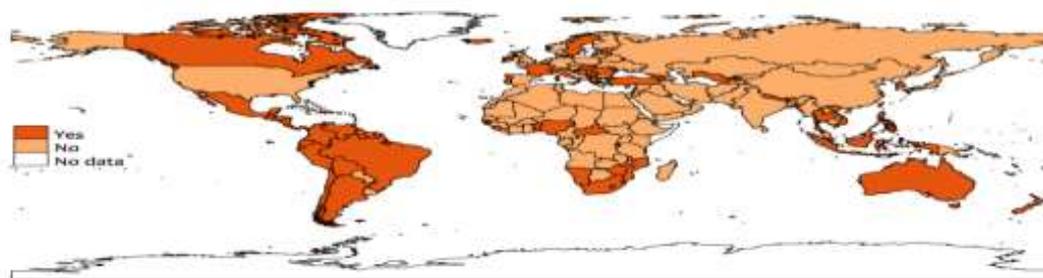
Gender-based violence can also be conceptualized as *Cycle of Violence*, which encircles the whole life of a being. According to the helplessness theory the model of behaviours can be studied by relationship between the victim and their family members (friends, siblings, parents and peer group etc.) either directly or indirectly. Similarly social theory suggests that such violent behaviours are triggered by lust for money, power, stress and use of Alcohol etc. The personality traits and behaviours are formed from early childhood from our parents and family members (Murrell, Christoff, & Henning, 2007). Due to stereotypical social attitudes women face abusive behaviours within the families also (McCue 2008). Studies show that children, especially girl child face violence and abuse as a child and everything is absorbed in their memory. This social attitude might transform a child into a person with imbalanced personality (Criminal Justice, 2015). The violent behaviours will change their thoughts, perceptions as they grow older and will definitely affect their personality on the whole (Murrell, Christoff, and Henning, 2007).

Theoretical Background

Gender-based violence is prohibited under several regional laws. Such agreements may have significant weight at the national level due to the comparatively greater engagement of individual governments in the establishment of regional accords. As we shall see later, regional oversight and judicial organizations can also be very significant. A significant conference in “Latin America”, a contract in Africa, and at each of the conventions for Europe should be emphasized (VIVIENNE & DANDURAND, 2001). It asserts that by enforcing a due diligence requirement, authorities have a duty to prevent, sanction, and to stop violence against women (Richard A. Falk 1966). Initially the women’s rights were not the part of human rights agenda, because human rights framework used to consider women’s rights and human rights as separate entities (Charlotte Bunch 1966). The areas where women are discriminated most are highlighted by the Beijing Platform, but still no concrete results were seen, therefore the UN General Assembly Resolution provided elimination of all sorts of violence and discrimination against women and girls and it became the 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (Evan Stark, 2006). In recent years sexual violence during arma and any other type of conflicts world community has brought into world’s attention as area that needed much attention and steps should be taken as per international advancements (Mala & Laurel, 2012). Feminist theories have completely changed the way of thinking by demonstrating that knowledge cannot be based on objectivity and neutrality. Previously knowledge was considered male dominated and was blinded by historical, political and social conditions and due to this gender differences remained invisible. Feminist theories have given new ideas and methodological proposals to combat gender inequalities and social barriers.

Figure 6: In 2015, 49 countries do not have legislation on domestic violence, 2015

Is there domestic violence legislation?



Source: World Bank: Women, Business and the Law.

Source: United Nation Women 2021

Methodology

This research aims to explore the subjective reality of the issue thus the researcher has adopted the qualitative research method and by reviewing several researches on the said topic “*Gender-Based Violence: Unequal Distribution of Power*” and by using content analysis method the study has captured the subjective reality and experiences of women, victims of gender-based violence. This study has focused the on multidimensional impact of gender-based violence on women’s lives and this approach has women’s studies perspective, which aims to study the challenges faced by women in the endocentric society. Therefore, the qualitative approach will help in analyzing and re-constructing the concepts and the roots of gender relations and their roles. The analysis in this study is based on model of library research and content analysis by reviewing the literature of previously conducted researches. This way one can get the insight of the issue and can have clear understanding regarding GBV. Secondary data sources were used to view the facts based on objectivity.

Conclusion

Sustainable Development Goals has marked a new advancement and globally agreed that violence against women in totally unacceptable and intolerable. According to our analysis, women now have the right to live their lives free from violence under new and developing worldwide legal standards and nationwide state legislation, incorporating China's most recent, strictest domestic abuse legislation. Many laws at national level provide resources to help suffering women and their families in many different ways to combat violence against women. CEDAW is one of the massive and most effective step towards the eradication of violence against women to protect women from violence and it has not only prohibited violence but also focus on punishment system as well. The CEDAW 1993 Declaration on the “Elimination of Violence against Women” has included many types of violence such as marital rape and etc. the CEDAW and DEVAW documents have become standard setting declarations/documents regarding domestic violence and other types of violence. It has a broader spectrum and covers protection and support aspect as well. Though huge efforts have been made so far to control violence against women but still much work is needed for instance, legislation, activities and mindset change and above all change in social attitudes towards violence.

People seeking assistance may find it difficult and complicated as a result of this fragmentation. In light of this, the aforementioned “Victorian Commission” lately proposed the creation of "Support and Safety Hubs" across each community. One referral for each family will enable family violence victims to receive aid more promptly, according to the rationale.

These efforts and support system provides to people as per their family needs. Many nations, particularly those in South Asia and Latin America, have adopted this strategy. Evidence of the use of these "one-stop shops," however, is scarce. We are aware that reporting and service demand rises when complete one-stop shops are effectively resourced, manned, and managed. In order to offer effective, considerate care for rape survivors (Tietmeyer et al., 2006), one-stop Centers in South Africa promote multispectral coordination between the police, courts, health agencies, and social groups.

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