



---

## CONSEQUENCES AND COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Mrs. G.VIDYAVATHI**

Teaching Associate, IASE, AU, Visakhapatnam.

Domestic violence is by far the most common form of gender based violence. Based on survey data, between 10 per cent of women in some countries and 69 per cent in others are subjected to domestic violence. According to available statistic around the globe one out of every three women experience violence in an intimate relationship at some point in her life. In about one fourth of cases, sexual abuse also occurs. Sexual violence may involve physical and psychological intimidation, unwanted sexual advances or acts, denial of contraceptive protection, date and marital rape and blackmail.

Domestic violence has commonly been referred as domestic abuse, wife beating, spousal abuse, wife battering, wife abuse, violence in intimate relationship, intimate partner violence or by any other name, but the fact remains that it is a serious issue. Domestic violence is, in fact, being referred as 'cross bedroom terrorism' as compared to 'cross border terrorism' by women activists in India. Feminists elsewhere have used the term 'patriarchal terrorism' to refer to the systematic use of violence as well as economic subordination, threats, isolation and other control tactics against partners, as this form of violence is a product of the patriarchal tradition of a man's right to control his 'wife'.

### **Consequence of Domestic Violence:**

- It can be physical, sexual, psychological or emotional abuse. Financial abuse and social isolation are also common features.
- Violence or abuse can be actual or threatened and can happen once or on a regular basis.
- It can happen in all kinds of relationships.
- People suffer domestic violence regardless of their social group, class, age, caste, or lifestyle.
- The abuse can begin at any time-in new relationships or after many years spent together.
- Children are affected by domestic violence both in the short and the long term.



- It may or may not be related to demand of dowry.
- All forms of abuse-psychological, economic, emotional and physical-come from the abuser's desire for power and control.
- It is reinforced by social and cultural factors.

Domestic violence leads to violation of women's human rights and prevents them from enjoying their fundamental freedoms, such as the rights to life to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to education, work and housing.

### **Consequences and Cost of Domestic Violence:**

Intimate partner violence is a global epidemic that has far-reaching consequence for the health and economic stability of women, their families, and their communities. It hinders development can also lead to displacement. Domestic violence impoverishes women, lowers economic productivity, drains resources from public services and employers, and reduces human capital formation. Violence in domestic relationship directly increases health care expenditures worldwide. Overall, violence contributes to reduced quality of life of families and communities and decreased participation by women in social and democratic processes.

### **Physical and psychological consequence of abuse:**

Global burden of disease estimates indicate that, in 2001, approximately 1.6 million people died as a result of violence. Not surprisingly, violence is a major cause of injury to women ranging from minor injury to lacerations and fractures or internal organ injury permanent disability or death. Reports suggest that women are more likely to be injured by an intimate partner rather than any other type of assailant. Studies also show that battered women abroad are more likely to visit emergency departments and private physicians due to physical injury occurring as a result of assault.

While domestic violence is a problem across the globe, women in developing nations face particular challenges. It has been reported that intimate partner violence here has serious consequence for maternal mortality and child survival. Violence undermines women's health wellbeing, directly and indirectly, causes chronic morbidity, increases depression, lower birth weight and results in high mortality. A study also reports that 40% to 75% of women who are physically abused by a partner are injured and the consequences of such injuries are severe. In its most extreme from violence kills women.



A recent research links domestic violence with the rising cases of asthma in India. Researches from the Harvard school of public health have founded that women who are victims of domestic violence have 37% increased risk of suffering from the common respiratory condition. The research team analysed data from 92,000 Indian households where domestic violence was rampant .explaining the strong relationship between violence and asthma, it has been said that the exposure to violence affected the immune system caused inflammation, which led to asthma.

Violence places women at higher risk of poor physical and reproductive health outcomes, and abused women also show poorer social functioning. Women who have been abused tend to experience poor physical functioning, spend more days in bed and require medical care.

Sexual abuse including forced intercourse during marriage and refusal to use condoms puts women at risk of unwanted pregnancies.

“In a society where the rights and potential of women are constrained, no man can be truly free. He may have power but he will not have freedom.”

- Mary Robinson(Irish labour politicians)

One study done in India in 2005 shows that the physical violence doubles the risk of poor mental health in abused women when compared with women who did not report any abuse.

Verbal abuse, harassment and depriving a woman of physical and financial resources create fear and undermine their sense of security and self-confidence. Violence diminish their coping capacity, and make them vulnerable to a range of mental disorders. Violence can also increase women’s risk to future ill-health.

Health consequence of physical and sexual abuse on women reveal following patterns : 1) the influence of abuse can persist for long even after abuse has stopped, 2) more severe the abuse the more severe its impact on women’s physical and mental health, and 3) the impact of different types of abuse and multiple episodes over time appears to be cumulative. Domestic abuse an active community member. Intimate violence also affects the labour force participation in various ways.



---

### **The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children :**

Violence in the home has harmful effect on children. It also harms families across generations, as well as communities and reinforces other forms of violence throughout scientists. Children are physically abused, the emotional effects of witnessing domestic violence are very similar to the psychological trauma of being a victim of child abuse. They can have trouble in sleeping.

- Children in homes where domestic violence occurs may “indirectly” receive injuries. They may be hurt when household items are thrown or weapons are used. Infants may be injured if being held by the mother when the batterer strikes out.
- Older children may be hurt while trying to protect their mother.
- Children may experience cognitive or language problems, developmental delay, stress-related physical alignments and hearing and speech problems.
- Many children in homes have difficulties in school, including problems with concentration, poor academic performance, difficulty with peer interactions, and more absences from school.
- Boys who witness domestic violence are likely to batter their female partners as adults. There is no evidence, however, that girls who witness their mothers abuse have a higher risk of being battered as adults.
- Constant anxiety and stress-related disorders.
- Guilt for not being able to stop the abuse or for loving the abuser.
- Fear of abandonment.
- Social isolation and difficulty interacting with peers and adults.
- Low self-esteem.
- Younger children do not understand the meaning of the abuse they observe and tend to believe that they “must have done something wrong” “self-blame can precipitate feelings of guilt, worry, and anxiety.



---

### **The Social and Economic Costs of Domestic Violence :**

Family violence has devastating consequence for victims. It involves significant economic, health and social cost. For women who are the targets of violence, the cost involves medical treatment for the injuries sustained , suffering , damage to the property besides other hidden costs like absenteeism from work, loss or pay or difficulties concentrating at work. Violence prevent women from fully participating economically and hinder opportunities for employment. The costs of violence against women –both direct and indirect –are extremely high. Violence against women, therefore, impoverishes individual women and their families, as well as their communities, societies and nations at many levels. researches have calculated the value of a human life using lost wages, estimates of the quality of life, wage premiums for risky jobs, willingness to pay for safety measures, and individual behavior related to safety measures.

In india, one survey showed women lost an average of seven working days after an incident of violence. In the united states the estimated cost of violence adds up to some 12.6 billion annually. Another report state that in US between 3 and 5 billion dollars are soent annually for medical expenses relatedto domestic violence.

### **Linkages of Domestic Violence to Economy and Development :**

Violence contradicts goals of social and economic development. it involves a huge cost of families, con munities and nations. Indirectly, violence has a negative effect on national local economies- stunting economic development, increasing economic inequality, eroding human and social capital, and increasing law enforcement expenditures. The cost to countries is high as well increased health care expenditures. Demands on courts police and schools and losses in educational achievement and productivity. Violence impoverishes society economically politically and culturally. The costs of domestic violence, apart from the human costs, go beyond lowered economic production and reduced human capital formation but also include the costs associated with political and social instability through intergenerational transmission of violence.

### **Conclusion:**

Domestic violence is a problem across the globe, women in developing nations face particular challenges. Violence undermines women's health and wellbeing directly and indirectly causes chronic morbidity weight and results in high mortality. The studies also show a strong relationship between domestic violence and the spread of HIV / AIDS in the developing



world. Domestic violence leads to violation of Women's leads human rights and prevents them from enjoying their fundamental freedoms. Such as the rights to life to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health to education, work and housing.

### References:

1. Ahuja Ram (1988) Crime Against Women Jaipur: Rawat
2. Human Rights Watch. (2003) just Die Quietly: Domestic Violence and Women's Vulnerability to HIV in Uganda. 2003. Human Rights Watch New York,
3. World Health Organization (2002) World Report on Violence And Health, Geneva
4. Stark E.and Flitcraft A (1996) Women at Risk; Domestic Violence and Women's Health, Sage, Thousand Oaks CA
5. Sinha Kounteya (2007) Domestic violence raises risk of asthma: Study, The Times of India, May 11
6. World Health Organization (2004) Intimate Partner Violence, Regional Office for South – East Asia. Retrieved January 9.