

## Crime against Women: Impediments within the Course of Progression of Women

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The individuals, belonging to all communities are putting into operation various types of criminal and violent acts against women and girls. These are experienced within as well as outside the homes. In other words, family and community members are involved in the implementation of these acts. As a consequence, physical and psychological health conditions of the victims get affected. Furthermore, women and girls experience decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of tasks and activities. Within personal and professional lives, victims experience decline in enthusiasm levels. The family and community members are regarded to impose these acts on women and girls. The different types of these acts are, verbal abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment, discriminatory treatment, emotional abuse, acid attacks, grievous hurt, domestic violence, neglect and mistreatment and child trafficking. The victims of these acts recuperate and in some cases, they may prove to be fatal as well. Hence, individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of different factors, which are necessary in reinforcing the traits of morality and ethics. These are facilitating in treating women and girls with respect and courtesy. Therefore, it is well-understood, as a consequence of treating women and girls with respect and courtesy, individuals will render an important contribution in curbing various types of criminal and violent acts. The main concepts that are taken into account in this research paper are, criminal and violent acts against women, effects of criminal and violent acts, and measures to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts.

**Keywords:** *Communities, Crime, Impediments, Goodwill, Opportunities, Violence, Well-being, Women*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The individuals, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds, in some households are not giving regards to women. In some of the rural households, the individuals give preference to male children. They do not give preference to the birth of girl children. The individuals form the viewpoint that male children will contribute efficiently in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities, provided they are given the opportunities to do so, they are regarded as assets. On the other hand, girls are regarded as liabilities (Ganley, n.d). They are trained from the stage of early childhood in terms of implementation of household responsibilities and taking care of needs and requirements of family members. The main reason being, they are to eventually get married and go to marital homes. But in the present existence, there have been transformations taking place in the viewpoints of individuals and they are encouraging their girls towards acquisition of empowerment opportunities. In this manner, women are contributing efficiently in enhancing their career prospects and overall standards of living.

It is unfortunate to note that in all communities throughout the country, the women have been

subjected to various types of criminal and violent acts. The women and girls get subjected to these acts, because of their gender. They are considered inferior as compared to their male counterparts. The main reason being, male children are considered as more capable as compared to their female counterparts. Crime against women is rooted in unequal power relations between men and women in society and can be well-understood within the gender framework. Gender is a social construct and referred to comprehensively shared expectations and norms within society regarding appropriate male and female traits, characteristics and roles. Therefore, gender roles prescribe a strict division of labour, wherein women are expected to perform the reproductive functions, participate in the management of household responsibilities, carrying out the function of child development and putting into operation job duties to take care of needs and requirements of elderly family members. Therefore, in spite of all these functions, the women are being subjected to various types of criminal and violent acts.

### **Criminal and Violent Acts against Women:**

The individuals are implementing criminal and violent acts against women within as well as outside the

homes (Violence against Women in India, 2004). These are experienced in a major or minor form. The doers are family and community members. The prevalence of the feelings of antagonism and antipathy are regarded as major causes of occurrences of various types of criminal and violent acts. These have unfavourable effects on the physical as well as psychological health conditions of women. The individuals in this manner are overwhelmed by stress and anxiety on a comprehensive basis. It is apparently understood that women, belonging to all communities and socio-economic backgrounds aspire to promote enhancement of their overall personality traits and standards of living. As a consequence of being subjected to various types of criminal and violent acts, not only health conditions get affected, but also skills and abilities get impeded. Therefore, it is of utmost significance to implement measures, which are necessary in curbing different types of criminal and violent acts. The individuals need to be well-equipped in terms of different types of criminal and violent acts. These are stated as follows:

#### **Verbal Abuse:**

Verbal abuse is referred to criticising, insulting and denouncing a person. It involves making use of obscene language and indecent words. The various factors of verbal abuse are, condescension, name-calling, criticism, degradation, manipulation, blame, accusations, withholding, isolation, threats and arguments. It is characterised by the feelings of anger and frustration. The prevalence of the feelings of antagonism and antipathy are regarded as major causes of occurrences of verbal abuse. It may not cause physical injuries, but the girls get affected on the psychological basis. As a consequence, girls experience decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of tasks and activities. The verbal abuse is experienced at the hands of family and community members including, classmates, colleagues, educators, supervisors and employers. As a consequence, the victims may be overwhelmed by the feelings of apprehensiveness and vulnerability. In this manner, there is a decline in confidence levels and individuals do not feel comfortable in communicating with others. Therefore, verbal abuse is an abuse, which is like a scar on the mind-sets of the individuals.

#### **Physical Abuse:**

Physical abuse is the abuse, which involves physically hurting and causing bodily injuries to the individuals. The various factors of physical abuse includes punching, shaking, slapping, pulling of hair, hitting with an object, pushing, pinching, scratching and kicking. When physical abuse is put into operation in a major form, it affects the individuals from the physical as well as psychological perspectives. The girls and women get subjected to this form of abuse within natal

as well as in marital homes. The prevalence of the feelings of antagonism and antipathy are regarded as major causes of occurrences of physical abuse. It may not cause physical injuries, but the girls get affected on the psychological basis. As a consequence, girls experience decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of job duties and responsibilities. Within households, when birth of girls is not appreciated, they are subjected to physical abuse. As a consequence, the psychological approach of women and girls get affected as well as physical pain is caused. As a result, communication terms with other individuals come to an end. Therefore, physical abuse impedes terms and relationships among individuals.

#### **Emotional Abuse:**

Emotional abuse is referred to neglecting the individuals. When attention is not paid to them, it is termed as emotional abuse. The individuals give preference to male children. They feel elated by the birth of male children. They do not give preference to the birth of girl children. The individuals form the viewpoint that male children will contribute efficiently in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities, provided they are given the opportunities to do so, they are regarded as assets. On the other hand, girls are regarded as liabilities. The individuals make provision of opportunities, which would be facilitating in promoting well-being of male children. They are encouraged towards acquisition of education and getting engaged in employment opportunities. Furthermore, measures are implemented in promoting their good health, physically and psychologically. On the other hand, girls are trained in terms of implementation of household responsibilities and are discriminated against as compared to their male counterparts. The girls are not given preference as male counterparts. Therefore, emotional abuse is the abuse, which affects the girls and women, physically as well as psychologically.

#### **Sexual Harassment:**

Sexual harassment is referred to sexual advances or requests for sexual favours, which are not welcome. Sexual harassment is defined by law and includes requests for sexual favours, sexual advances and other sexual conduct. The criminal act of sexual harassment is normally experienced by women and girls within professional settings, i.e. educational institutions of all levels and various types of employment settings. As a consequence, the health conditions of the individuals get affected physically as well as psychologically (Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment at Work, 2013). As a consequence, girls experience decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of job duties and responsibilities. The cases of sexual harassment have been high in educational institutions and different

types of employment settings. The victims may not experience physical injuries, but they will experience different types of psychological problems on a comprehensive basis. Therefore, sexual harassment is a criminal and violent act, which even compels women and girls to quit their jobs and drop out from educational institutions, before their educational skills are honed.

### **Acid Attacks:**

Acid attacks are the criminal and violent act, which is implemented with the main objective of disfiguring, maiming, torturing or killing. The doers of acid attacks mainly target on the face of the victims. The intention of the doers is to mutilate rather than killing. The research studies have indicated that doers of this criminal and violent act approached the victims with marriage proposals. The victims refused, as they were keener to acquire education and promote enrichment of their career prospects. This aggravated the doers and they implemented the criminal and violent act of acid attacks. This has detrimental effects on the physical and psychological health and well-being of the individuals. As a consequence, girls experience decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, this compels women and girls to quit their jobs and drop out from educational institutions. They are required to take medical treatment for years and have to bear heavy expenses. Therefore, acid attacks are regarded as one of the heinous criminal and violent acts.

### **Grievous Hurt:**

Grievous hurt is the hurt that causes harm to the individuals. The body parts of the individuals may get hurt either temporarily or permanently. The women and girls, belonging to various communities and socio-economic backgrounds get subjected to grievous hurt. The physical and psychological health conditions of the individuals get affected in a disadvantageous manner. These include, emasculation, permanent privation in the sight of either eye, permanent privation in the hearing of either ear, temporary privation in the sight of either eye, temporary privation in the hearing of either ear, destruction or permanent impairing of the powers of any members or joints, permanent disfiguration of the head or face, fracture or dislocation of the bone or tooth, and any hurt which endangers the lives of the individuals. In this case, the sufferers are to be in the space of twenty days in severe bodily pain and are unable to follow the ordinary pursuits. The consequences of this type of criminal and violent act are detrimental on the overall conduct of the victims. Therefore, grievous hurt is the criminal and violent act, which has compelled the victims to stay in seclusion.

### **Domestic Violence:**

The domestic violence is the violence, which is experienced by girls and women within natal and marital homes. The prevalence of the feelings of antagonism and antipathy are regarded as major causes of occurrences of various types of criminal and violent acts. These feelings get escalated, when the individuals feel that they have not carried out the job duties in accordance to their expectations. These have unfavourable effects on the physical as well as psychological health conditions of women (Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2006). The individuals in this manner are overwhelmed by stress and anxiety on a comprehensive basis. All types of abuse, i.e. verbal, physical, and emotional are experienced by the victims in cases of domestic violence. It is apparently understood that health conditions of the individuals get affected both from physical and psychological perspectives. As a consequence, they become withdrawn and secluded. In other words, they do not feel pleasurable and contented in communicating with others. Therefore, domestic violence is a criminal and violent act which usually results in separation from family members as well.

### **Discriminatory Treatment:**

In some of the rural households, the individuals give preference to male children. They do not give preference to the birth of girl children. The individuals form the viewpoint that male children will contribute satisfactorily in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities, provided they are given the opportunities to do so, they are regarded as assets. On the other hand, girls are regarded as liabilities. They are trained from the stage of early childhood regarding putting into operation household responsibilities and taking care of needs and requirements of family members. The main reason being, they are to eventually get married and go to marital homes. The girls are discouraged from acquisition of education, as it is believed that in their marital homes, they will not be able to utilize their educational qualifications in any manner. Furthermore, there is discriminatory treatment in terms of techniques in promoting good health and well-being. The opportunities are made available to male children and in this manner, girls feel discriminated against. Therefore, discriminatory treatment is a criminal and violent, which affects girls, physically and psychologically.

### **Neglect and Mistreatment:**

The women and girls underwent neglect and mistreatment within homes as well as within professional settings, i.e. educational institutions of all levels and in various types of employment settings. The prevalence of the viewpoint that males are more capable, compels girls and women to experience neglect and mistreatment. The individuals form the viewpoint that male children will contribute

satisfactorily in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities, provided they are given the opportunities to do so. Hence, within educational institutions of all levels and in various types of employment settings, males are assigned some job duties, which are not assigned to females. In some of the employment settings, females are given less pay as compared to their male counterparts for the same job duties performed (Neglect, 2020). Furthermore, communication processes are also not put into operation in a well-organized and decent manner. In other words, females are not treated with respect and courtesy. Therefore, neglect and mistreatment is a criminal and violent act, which compels the victims to experience the psychological problems of anger, stress, anxiety, frustration and depression.

### **Child Trafficking:**

The individuals, belonging to poverty-stricken families, who struggle to make ends meet get into the criminal and violent act of child trafficking. These individuals are approached by professional child traffickers. These child traffickers lure them in terms of false promises related to monetary resources, good education and training for their children, and overall enhanced living conditions. The poverty-stricken families have one of the major goals of accumulating financial resources and bringing about improvements in their overall quality of lives. Hence, the individuals send their children with them, including both male and female children. Due to illiteracy and unawareness, they are unable to put into operation analytical, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. As a consequence, children are verbally and physically abused, tortured, made to work long hours, given very less to eat, deprived of play and sleep and are given less pay or no pay at all. This has detrimental effects on the physical and psychological health conditions of the victims. Therefore, child trafficking is a criminal and violent act, which has enabled the victims to be overwhelmed by the feelings of apprehensiveness and vulnerability.

### **Effects of Criminal and Violent Acts:**

The victims of criminal and violent acts undergo unfavourable effects. The effects are experienced in a major or minor form. The harsh words leave a scar on the mind-sets of the individuals. In other words, when the women listen to harsh words, they get affected to a major extent, both from physical as well as psychological perspectives. It is apparently understood that an aimless life is a meaningless life, hence, the women, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds have different types of goals and objectives to achieve. These are in personal and in professional lives, hence, when women are wholeheartedly committed towards achievement of their desired goals and objectives, they need to ensure, the effects of criminal and violent acts do not give rise

to impediments within the course of putting into operation different types of tasks and activities. Therefore, effects of criminal and violent acts are, experiencing of health problems and illnesses; being overwhelmed by psychological problems; residing in seclusion and loneliness; inability to implement effective communication processes and experiencing impediments towards implementing job duties satisfactorily.

### **These are stated as follows:**

#### **Experiencing of Health Problems and Illnesses:**

The various types of criminal and violent acts, i.e. verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual harassment, acid attacks, grievous hurt, domestic violence, discriminatory treatment, neglect and mistreatment and child trafficking enables the individuals to be overwhelmed by different types of health problems and illnesses. These are pain in the joints, high blood pressure, low blood pressure, visual impairments, hearing impairments, kidney disorders, and so forth. Furthermore, the individuals will be overwhelmed by different types of psychological problems of anger, stress, anxiety, frustration and depression. The individuals, belonging to all age groups and genders are experiencing various types of health problems and illnesses in a satisfactory manner. The victims are overwhelmed by the negative feelings of anger and depression and are required to make visits to medical and health care centres. The communication processes are put into operation with medical professionals and health care specialists in order to carry out different tasks and activities in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, experiencing of health problems and illnesses is regarded as one of the critical effects of criminal and violent acts.

#### **Being overwhelmed by Psychological Problems:**

The individuals, who are experiencing different types of criminal and violent acts will be overwhelmed by different types of psychological problems of anger, stress, anxiety, frustration and depression. These are experienced in a major or minor form and these have unfavourable effects on the physical health conditions of the individuals. The victims experience a decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, competencies and abilities of the individuals get impeded. In some cases, when various types of psychological problems are experienced in a major form, the individuals would have to take counselling sessions from professional counsellors. They conduct the analysis of the causes of problems and provide solutions. The solutions would be useful, when these are put into operation by the individuals in an effective manner. The individuals, who have suffered need to enhance their will power in order to recuperate in an effective manner. In other words, individuals will have to prepare themselves in

an adequate manner in terms of various methods and approaches in order to recuperate and promote their well-being. Therefore, being overwhelmed by psychological problems is one of the severe effects of criminal and violent acts.

### **Residing in Seclusion and Loneliness:**

The victims do not take pleasure in interacting with family and community members. As a consequence, they are residing in seclusion and loneliness. When the individuals are affected physically and psychologically, they do not feel pleasurable in putting into operation effective communication processes with others, including even family members and friends. In such cases, it is understood on a comprehensive basis that when individuals have experienced criminal and violent acts, they will either not communicate with others or they will communicate angrily or in an irritable manner. The main reason being, victims are undergoing pain and suffering, which does not enable them to socialize with others within as well as outside the homes. As a consequence, seclusion and loneliness gets enhanced. Therefore, residing in seclusion and loneliness is an adverse effect of criminal and violent acts.

### **Inability to implement Effective Communication Processes:**

The individuals, who are experiencing different types of criminal and violent acts will be overwhelmed by different types of psychological problems of anger, stress, anxiety, frustration and depression. These are experienced in a major or minor form and these have unfavourable effects on the physical health conditions of the individuals. The victims experience a decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, they keep to themselves and do not socialize with others within as well as outside the homes. As a consequence, the negative feelings of seclusion and loneliness get enhanced. In other words, when the individuals are affected physically and psychologically, they do not feel pleasurable in putting into operation effective communication processes with others, including even family members and friends. Therefore, inability to implement effective communication processes is a disadvantageous effect of criminal and violent acts.

### **Experiencing Impediments towards implementing Job Duties satisfactorily:**

It is understood on a comprehensive basis that women, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds have different types of goals and objectives to achieve in their personal and professional lives. As a consequence of experiencing different types of criminal and violent acts, the competencies and abilities of the individuals get impeded towards putting into practice various types of

tasks and activities. Furthermore, the victims experience a decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, they keep to themselves and do not socialize with others within as well as outside the homes. As a consequence, individuals experience impediments towards putting into operation different types of job duties in an appropriate manner. The main reason being, they are unable to augment information in terms of different types of subjects and concepts. Therefore, experiencing impediments towards implementing job duties satisfactorily is an unfavourable effect of criminal and violent acts.

### **Measures to be implemented in curbing Criminal and Violent Acts:**

In all communities, individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of measures to be implemented in curbing different types of criminal and violent acts. The measures are complicated as well as manageable, these are put into operation on an individual basis as well as through working in collaboration and integration with each other. These are implemented in a manner, taking into account that these will be facilitating to the victims in recuperating. As a consequence of experiencing different types of criminal and violent acts, the skills and abilities of victims get impeded towards putting into practice various types of tasks and activities. Furthermore, the victims experience a decline in motivation and concentration levels towards putting into operation different types of job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, they keep to themselves and do not socialize with others within personal and professional lives. In order to curb all these problems, measures need to be implemented in a satisfactory manner. These are, communicating in an effective manner; treating women with respect and courtesy; augmenting competencies and abilities; forming positive viewpoints regarding girls; reinforcing a constructive approach and possessing an approachable nature and amiable attitude.

### **These are Stated as follows:-**

#### **Communicating in an Effective manner:**

The communication processes are to be put into practice in an effective manner with women and girls. These are facilitating in augmenting information in terms of different types of subjects and concepts; exchanging different types of ideas and viewpoints; obtaining answers to all types of questions and clarifying doubts in terms of different types of subjects and concepts. The women and girls will form positive viewpoints in terms of all the individuals, when communication processes are implemented in an effective manner. Furthermore, they will be able to lead to an increase in confidence and motivation levels

towards participating in different types of tasks and activities. As a consequence, there will be formation of cordial and amiable terms and relationships and pleasant environment within homes. Therefore, communicating in an effective manner is regarded as one of the indispensable measures to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts.

### **Treating Women with Respect and Courtesy:**

The girls and women, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds need to be treated with respect and courtesy. They assume the roles of mothers, sisters, daughters, wives and grandmothers within homes. They work diligently towards putting into practice different types of tasks and activities, which are suitable and enriching to the individuals on a comprehensive basis. Hence, they want to be treated with respect and courtesy. The women and girls will form positive viewpoints in terms of all the individuals, when communication processes are implemented in an effective manner. Furthermore, they will be able to lead to an increase in confidence and motivation levels towards participating in different types of tasks and activities. As a consequence, there will be development of mutual understanding among all the members of the households. Therefore, treating women with respect and courtesy is one of the significant measures to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts.

### **Augmenting Competencies and Abilities:**

The individuals are required to put emphasis on augmenting competencies and abilities. These are, planning, organizing, directing, controlling, co-ordinating, leading, managing, administrating, emotional intelligence, systems thinking, possessing the abilities to work under stress, putting in efforts to one's best abilities, coping with different types of problems and challenging situations in an adequate manner and carrying out different types of tasks and activities in a well-organized and disciplined manner. As a consequence of augmenting different types of competencies and abilities, the individuals will render an important contribution in forming pleasant terms and relationships with girls and women. In this manner, there will be formation of pleasant environment not only within homes, but also within all types of professional settings, i.e. educational institutions of all levels and various types of employment settings. Therefore, augmenting competencies and abilities is an expedient measure to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts.

### **Forming Positive Viewpoints regarding Girls:**

The individuals form the viewpoint that male children will contribute efficiently in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities, provided they are given the opportunities to do so, they are regarded as assets. On the other hand, girls are

regarded as liabilities. They are trained from the stage of early childhood in terms of implementation of household responsibilities and taking care of needs and requirements of family members. The main reason being, they are to eventually get married and go to marital homes. But in the present existence, there have been transformations taking place in the viewpoints of individuals and they are encouraging their girls towards acquisition of empowerment opportunities. In this manner, women are contributing efficiently in enhancing their career prospects and overall standards of living. Hence, it is well-understood, positive viewpoints are formed in terms of girls. Therefore, forming positive viewpoints regarding girls is an eminent measure to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts.

### **Reinforcing a Constructive Approach:**

The individuals are required to put emphasis on reinforcing a constructive approach. This is facilitating in forming positive viewpoints in terms of girls and treating them equally as compared to their male counterparts. With advancements taking place and with the advent of modernization and globalization, there have been transformations taking place in the viewpoints of individuals and they are encouraging their girls towards acquisition of education. In this manner, women are contributing efficiently in enhancing their career prospects and overall standards of living. Hence, it is well-understood, positive viewpoints are formed in terms of girls and they are given equal treatment as compared to their male counterparts. Therefore, reinforcing a constructive approach is a renowned measure to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts.

### **Possessing an Approachable Nature and Amiable Attitude:**

The individuals are required to possess an approachable nature and an amiable attitude. This is facilitating in putting into operation effective communication processes; augmenting information in terms of different types of subjects and concepts; exchanging different types of ideas and viewpoints; obtaining answers to all types of questions that are overwhelming; clarifying different types of doubts; putting in efforts to one's best abilities; coping with different types of problems and challenging situations in an adequate manner and carrying out different types of tasks and activities in a well-organized and disciplined manner. As a consequence of possessing an approachable nature and an amiable attitude, the individuals will render an important contribution in forming pleasant terms and relationships with girls and women. Therefore, possessing an approachable nature and amiable attitude is a notable measure to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts.

## **CONCLUSION:**

In all communities, women have been subjected to various types of criminal and violent acts. Criminal and violent acts against women are, verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual harassment, acid attacks, grievous hurt, domestic violence, discriminatory treatment, neglect and mistreatment and child trafficking. Effects of criminal and violent acts are, experiencing of health problems and illnesses; being overwhelmed by psychological problems; residing in seclusion and loneliness; inability to implement effective communication processes and experiencing impediments towards implementing job duties satisfactorily. Measures to be implemented in curbing criminal and violent acts are, communicating in an effective manner; treating women with respect and courtesy; augmenting competencies and abilities; forming positive viewpoints regarding girls; reinforcing a constructive approach and possessing an approachable nature and amiable attitude. Finally, it can be stated, measures need to be implemented to curb crime against women and promote their well-being.

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