

PERCEPTION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ITS PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

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Abstract : Violence against women (VAW) is one of the major problems that negatively hamper the physical, psychological and social well-being resulting in violation of human rights. Recent global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. This respective study was conducted amongst the educated girl students of Central University of Karnataka. The main objectives of study is to find out the perception of the college students on violence against women at the same time trace out the possible solutions to prevent and resilience the issue. The study is descriptive research design. The sample consists of 60 girl students from central university of Karnataka. Main findings of the study illustrate the problems of violence against women in conflict and Sexual exploitation is given high priority marking it as the most alarming issues. The students list out peace and civic education as the most relevant method in preventing and resolution of such conflicts. Giving importance to gender issues, representation of and participation of women is marked as the high priority required bring in change, building better society to live in.

Key words: Violence against women (VAW), perception of educated girls, prevention of VAW

Introduction : Violence against women (VAW) is one of the major problems that negatively hamper the physical, psychological and social well-being resulting in violation of human rights. Recent global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. VAW is like an epidemic problem, it involves a massive summation of human tragedy.

Richters (1994) defines VAW as “acts or threats of acts intended to hurt or make women suffer physically, sexually or psychologically, and which affect women because they are women or affect women disproportionately. For a broader viewpoint it is very useful to refer United Nations’ definition on VAW (1993). According to UN the term “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women,

including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:-

- a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs. Acts of violence

against women also include forced sterilization and forced abortion, coercive/forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

Krantz & Garcia (2004) observes some kinds of VAW. They are intimate partner violence, rape, dowry related violence, acid throwing, honor killings, elder abuse, female genital mutilation. Walby and Allen, (2004) says in every year nearly 13 million incidents of violence happening against women in all over the world. And these all are domestic or intimate partner violence. Coleman et al. (2007) observes the sexual abuse and exploitation against women was most likely committed by someone known to the victims. And nearly 23% of women reported that they had faced stalking from the age of 16. Obscene or threatening phone calls or letters were the most common types of stalking behavior experienced.

Rationale of the study:VAW considered as a gender based issue. Because of patriarchal norms in our society these issues being erased or treated as un-important. Those who raise their voice will be treated as sinners in the society. Even if there is a rape happened or attempt, molestation or whatever the society blames on the woman's character, dressing, behavior, misuse of technology. UN Women study (2013) observes that nearly 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical

and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. So it is very important to know the level of awareness amongst the educated generation- how do they perceive this problem of VAW and how to prevent and counter these issues?

Objective: The main objectives of the study is to find out the perception of the college students on violence against women at the same time trace out the possible solutions to prevent and counter the issue

Research methodology:Plan and design: The design of the study is descriptive research design. Here the study tries to describe the perception of university students on the issue of VAW and to counter the same.The sample was drawn from the girl students' population from the Central University of Karnataka (CUK) those are pursuing under graduation (UG) and post-graduation (PG). The sample consisted of 60 students. The inclusion criteria for the sample is that the girl students pursuing UG/PG in CUK. Those who are studying in other institutions and PhD scholars (girls) were excluded from this study.Convenient sampling method was used in selecting the samples. In this study Questionnaire used for collecting the secondary data. It was designed by (UN Women, Global Database of Women's Peacebuilding Organizations, 2011).

Statistical analysis: Descriptive statistics such as percentile was used for analyzing the data

Results

Table 1: Violence against women

	High priority in %	Low priority in %
Violence against women in conflict	86.7	13.3
Sexual exploitation	85	15
Sexual abuse	86.7	11.7
Domestic violence	78.3	18.3

Among the 60 samples, 86.7% given priority to violence against women in conflict, 85% to sexual exploitation and 86.7% to sexual abuse. Domestic violence (78.3%) is also in an alarming position.

Table 2: Prevention to VAW

	High priority in %	Low priority in %
Peace & civic education	95	3.3
Early warning system	65	31.7
Community level mediation	78.3	21.7
Local & national level mediation	71.7	26.7

Among the 60 samples 95% commented that Peace and civic education is the best way to prevent the VAW. Community level mediation (78.3%) and local or national level mediation (71.7%) also can have high priority in perception. On the basis of respondents' opinion Early warning system (65%) has least priority.

Table 3: To bring change

	High priority in %	Low priority in %
Participation & representation of women	91.7	8.3
Inclusion of gender issues in discussion	65	31.7
Women's organization	78.3	18.3
Monitoring & evaluation of safety measures	78.3	18.3

Among the 60 samples 91.7% suggests participation and representation of women in in political and community activities can bring change in the plight of women. Existence of women's organizations (78.3%) and monitoring & evaluation of safety measures (78.3%) have the second priorities to counter and bring the changes.

Discussion and conclusion: From these responses regarding violence against women, it substantiates the findings of UN Women study (2013) which states that nearly 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. The study conducted by Kuntuvdyi et.al in 2007, it has observed that civic

education can do a great extent to address the issues of VAW. From these responses regarding prevention of VAW their arguments are getting evidences. Participation in political and community activities can have the power to reduce the gender inequality which is the important reason for gender based violence as Jacqui True and et.al says (2014). Every time everywhere we are hearing the words like women empowerment, women development, social development. Where a major part of the population is still in marginalized condition or exploited or continuously facing atrocities then how can we say that the society is developed? Without raising voices, without interfering

in political activities how can be the major part to be a part of nation development? Silence is not the solution, but it is violence itself. So with the help of collaborative efforts of various Governmental or Non-governmental institutions and International-

National- local institutions we can counter this severe inhuman activity.

Limitations of the study: Sample size is less and sampling method is convenient sampling. Both delimits the scope of generalization.

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