



General Article

Available online at www.journal-advances-developmental-research.com

Journal of Advances in Developmental Research

ISSN: 0976-4704 (Print), e-ISSN: 0976-4844 (Online)
J.Adv.Dev.Res. Volume 1, No.2, December 2010

Women, Violence and Reality

Vithalbhai S. Patel

Panchayatiraj Talim Kendra, Gujarat Vidyapith, At & Post- Sadara, District- Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Today in the 21st century with the advent in science and technology people are enjoying more freedom. Presently a change is observed in the values of global and society thinking. If we think about present day women then do the women have freedom to take decisions? Is the woman free to do what ever she wishes to do? Is she free to think for herself? Is a women today perceived as an individual or a human? All these questions today show the conservative thinking of our society.

We proudly claim today that Indian women are developing. Women are progressing by leaps and bounds in the corporate world, government agencies, research and in all technological fields. It is true that the Indian women has come out of her homes and is participating in the developmental activities. But it is also true that 70% women face violence in or outside their homes. There are number of laws to stop violence against women but how far they are effective in controlling the crime is a matter of concern.

Today also there is demand for dowry and female feticide still continues in many parts of India. Recently a law against domestic violence was passed in legislature this indicates that in the present computer age and literate society the women of India are not treated at par with men. It is indeed shameful for our society that we have the need of such laws today. But for many sections of society these laws have no meaning. In few fields if women like Indira Nue or Kalpana Chawla succeed we claim that we have developed but the reality still is that our thinking still is that of 17th century. This fact can be understood by the examples given below.

According to National Crime Bureau in every 4 minutes one woman is subjected to mental or physical violence; in every 9 minutes a women face violence for her husband or a relative; in every

12 minutes a women faces verbal abuse; in every 29 minutes there is rape of a woman; in every 56 minutes there is a physical abuse towards women; in every 77 minutes there is a death for dowry; in every 3 minutes a police case is registered for harassment against women.

A WHO (World Health Organization) report reveals a mind boggling fact that in a survey conducted on 29,000 women, in 15 countries across the world 75% women reported physical, mental or sexual abuse against them. In majority of cases it was done by husband, family members or near relatives. 20% women reported that there was at least one attempt of rape on them; 33% women were subjected to beating by their husbands; 50% of women reported that in the state of ill or bad health too their husbands forced sex on them; 20% women reported physical and verbal abuses against them. Throughout the world in the women age group of 15 to 44 years the reason for death is not accidents or cancer but mental and physical harassment.

In the last issue of magazine Lancet a joint study of Indian and Canadian scientist reveled that approximately 500,000 female feticides occur in India every year. It is scaring to know that in educated and rich families the number of female child is rapidly falling as shown in the Table 1.

In Gujarat the NGO "Saurashtra- Kutch Network of Violence against Women" conducted a study in 32 villages of four districts viz. Bhavnagar, Amreli, Surendranagar and Bhuj and studied 521 women. The study reveled very disturbing results which indicated that 98.9% married women were subjected to one or other type of violence. 86.7% women reported that violence was done by their husbands. 93.2% women suffered violence in the first 5 years of their marriage. 20% women were

Table 1 Education of women and sex ratio in various districts of Gujarat

S. No.	District	Region	Literacy rate in women	Sex ratio*
1	Banaskantha	Urban	63.44	815
		Rural	30.84	916
2	Patan	Urban	68.53	786
		Rural	40.58	878
3	Mahesana	Urban	77.18	752
		Rural	60.09	809
4	Sabarkantha	Urban	73.81	827
		Rural	50.27	883
5	Gandhinagar	Urban	77.97	784
		Rural	57.77	832
6	Ahemdabad	Urban	76.97	794
		Rural	46.83	876
7	Surendranagar	Urban	68.11	839
		Rural	41.42	902
8	Rajkot	Urban	76.56	821
		Rural	56.85	809
9	Jamnagar	Urban	66.36	877
		Rural	48.77	906
10	Porbandar	Urban	69.27	895
		Rural	48.75	899
11	Junagadh	Urban	69.33	879
		Rural	51.75	905
12	Amreli	Urban	69.26	868
		Rural	54.51	901
13	Bhavnagar	Urban	70.33	850
		Rural	44.78	904
14	Anand	Urban	75.03	839
		Rural	57.67	884
15	Kheda	Urban	75.41	842
		Rural	53.15	887
16	Panchmahal	Urban	76.91	864
		Rural	40.79	943
17	Dahod	Urban	70.07	877
		Rural	27.90	971
18	Vadodara	Urban	80.77	835
		Rural	44.63	901
19	Narmada	Urban	80.28	868
		Rural	43.23	959
20	Bharuch	Urban	79.83	829
		Rural	60.92	935
21	Surat	Urban	76.28	831
		Rural	54.09	939
22	Dang	Urban	48.99	974
		Rural	48.99	974
23	Navsari	Urban	79.73	859
		Rural	64.67	932
24	Valsad	Urban	80.43	897
		Rural	52.72	946
	Gujarat	Urban	75.30	827
		Rural	48.52	905

*Sex ration is calculated as number of girls per 1000 children in 0 to 6 year age group.

they were helpless against such violence. 45.8% preferred to go to their parents for rescue against their violence. 26.3 % indicate suicide as last resort against such violence.

There is no particular reason behind such violence. A small amount of extra salt in dinner can lead to physical violence. 75.3% women indicated that their husbands beat them just to show that they were physically stronger. In majority of cases the women were subjected to constant verbal and mental abuse throughout the day. Data regarding literacy rate in women and sex ratio in various districts of Gujarat, collected from Census of India Series, 25, Gujarat, are presented in Table 1 which say the same story of poor conditions of female.

A social historian Dr. Ryan has written that in comparison to International terrorism this "Intimate Violence" of woman's relatives is more severe.

Dr Kristia writes that whether in India or America a women after giving to a female child pleads sorry. According to N.Wilson Saif taking a birth of women is considered as "Original Sin." This situation is not changed even in 21st century. No matter how many a women is educated or awarded she is never able to put herself along with men.

Since many years the Women's Bill in parliament of India is not passed which reveals the thinking of our society. In this 21st century we have to change our mentality. Till women are undermined by the men the violence against them cannot be stopped. The women too should become strong and face the challenges and there will be no laws required then after. There is a need to change the mentality of both women and men. The men has to respect the existence of women and treat them equal and the women have to protest and fight against violence.