

UNIT-IV

VIOLENCE AND SAFETY OF GIRL AND WOMEN

Meaning and definition of 'Violence against women'

The term 'Violence against women' is used to denote all the acts which injure women physically or psychologically.

United Nations General Assembly defined Violence against women as “Any act of gender- based violence that results in or is likely to result in Physical, Sexual or mental harm or suffering of women”

Violence Committed in India against Girls and women

Police records in India show that crimes against women have more than doubled in the past ten years, crimes against women may happen in the following forms:

(i) Acid throwing

Acid is cheap and easily available everywhere that can quickly destroy a girl's life. Such cruel acts are carried to teach a lesson to a girl or women

(ii) Child marriage

Child marriage is an evil practice that has been in vogue in India from the ancient times

(iii) Dowry

Though the Indian parliament has passed the Anti- dowry act in 1961 till date dowry related violence and suicides are taking place all over by the country.

(iv) Female infanticide and sex selective abortion

Hospitals and doctors are warned not to undertake any sex test and perform illegal abortions.

(v) **Eve-teasing**

Obscene gestures, Indecent body language and negative comments directed at any woman or Girl or exhibiting any object which intrudes upon the privacy of a woman is called Eve teasing

(vi) **Family planning**

(vii) **Domestic violence:** When violence is committed at home it becomes domestic violence and it involves family members such as spouse, parents, brothers and sisters or in-laws. Domestic violence may be in different forms such as:

- Beating
- Locking up in separate room
- Denying food and water

Safety of Girls and women

For the past few years more number of crimes are been reported:

(i) Each and every women should have awareness about self defence techniques and get trained insome of them:

- Like giving a severe blow on the jaw of the enemy
- Shouting at the height of her voice etc.,
- As soon as they sense the impending danger they should move away from that place veryquickly it is far better to avoid a trouble them facing it.
- Women and girls in particular should never go alone to places unfamiliar to them

- They should develop their physical power in suitable ways by doing exercise and participating in sports.
- Women should be careful when they communicate or develop friendship with others through phone.
- Women keeping with them a packet of chilli powder or pepper spray prove to be useful tool for self-defense.
- We should know the emergency phone numbers (Parents, siblings, Police) so that when in danger they can alert them
- Girls should avoid moving closely with boyfriends and it is not advisable to touch the opposite sex while talking

Safety of women is very big social issue assuring women's safety is the responsibility of one and all.

Safety of Women at home from Anti-social elements

When male members of the family are not in the house, anti-social elements may approach the women in the house by telling a lie like:

- Her husband met with an accident
- Her husband has sent him to bring money and after gaining entry, they indulge in violence.
- Some unknown persons will knock the door, pretending they have come for electricity meter-reading or plumbing work to be carried out and force their way into the house.

Introducing themselves as donation seekers, salesmen and preachers people will play trick on women and cheat them some persons make unnecessary phone calls and annoy women in the house.

If such incidents happen it should be:

- Reported to the head of the family
- Neighbours should be alerted immediately
- Better to report police station.

In urban areas vigilance cameras may be fixed at street corners and big apartments and in urban areas women should avoid:

- Going alone to new places
- Visiting night clubs
- Going to night Shows which are highly risky.

Violence against girls at school and their safety

Primary School Level

Children studying in primary school will be from age 5 to 10. It is shocking to know that these innocent children too are subjected to sexual abuse.

In school premises: Non-academic staff, teachers sometimes headmasters indulge in sexual abuse of female children. They should be suspended immediately.

Safety tips

- Children should be warned that nobody should be allowed to dash against them, rub them or pull their dress. In such situation they should shout loudly or run away from the place.
- Parents should familiarize their children about good touch and bad touch.
- Parents should warn them not to accept any snacks, chocolates or cool drinks offered by the strangers.

If a child shows signs of confusion or weeping parents should enquire about the causes for the same.

- While appointing teaching staff school management should give priority to character.
- One of the duties of the headmaster is not only to supervise the work of teachers but also to watch how they move with kids and girls.

High School Stage

Students studying in high school will of age group 10-16 this is the pre-adolescence or adolescence period:

- It is quite natural for them to be attracted with opposite sex
- They beautify themselves
- They try to talk or chat with boy or girl studying with them through mobile
- They do not know the difference between love and lust
- They do not know the sacred responsibility of marriage and the bliss of becoming a parent.

According to law age of marriage for girls is 18 and 21 for boys, so at this age they do not know the impact on the family, society and their own future.

Safety tips:

- More number of women teachers should be appointed

- Students should not be allowed to go out of school campus during intervals
- It is better to provide boys and girls separate toilet dining halls and

indoor games Higher Secondary Stage

After standard X at this stage of education, age of students range from 16 to 18

- They are given option to select a stream of subjects of their choice
- They will have ability to take their own decisions and face problems
- Few students may indulge in eve-teasing

At higher secondary stage adequate provision for games, sports events, learning third language and better facilities like laboratory and computer should be made available for easy access of students.

Safety of women in work places

Sexual harassment of women takes place in one form or other whether they remain within the four walls of their home or go for job or during the time of travel.

Problems of working women

(i) Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment at work place is one of the most wide spread problems that women have to face

(ii) Pay in equity

Women workers are paid less than males for the same amount of work

(iii) Lesser women work force

In most of the multinational companies the ratio between men and female employees are uneven.

In spite of having all the required qualification, talent and expertise women find it difficult to get selected for a position.

Like women are emotional they are physically and mentally weak maternity issues and several & several other things come in the way.

(iv) Chilly workplace environment and lack of family support

Increasing work pressure combined with chilly work place environment seems to be another main factor that troubles women at workplace.

A personally fulfilling job and a handsome salary can't even make a women employee satisfied if she has to spend her day at workplace with a group of unsupportive men colleagues.

Apart from this, lack of family support for household responsibilities is another major reason that leads to stress and conflicts for female workers who are trying to balance both job and family.

(v) Poor security

Poor security at the work place is another pivotal concern that women have to deal with.

Working women in night shifts fall victims of several crimes due to inadequate security management by the higher management.

(vi) Insufficient maternity leaves

Insufficient maternity leave is another problem that troubles working women at workplace.

(vii) Gender based discrimination

Men are usually given unfair advantage compared to the female employee no matter the degree and the qualification she has. In this male dominating society guys are considered more intelligent than girls.

This gender discrimination leads to job satisfaction and stress in the working women.

Safety measures

- Providing a safe working environment (safety from visitors)
- A display board warning the penal consequences of sexual harassments
- Forming an “Internal committee” to deal with complaints regarding sexual harassment and conduct enquiry.
- Organizing workshop and awareness programmes to sensitize employees about the penal consequence of sexual harassment.

The mind set of all men should change towards women and it is duty of civilized society to protect the honour and dignity of women.

Sexual abuse and violence

Touching a person with sexual intent without his/her consent is called as sexual abuse or sexual molestation. This can happen to anyone of any gender (male, female and transgender at any stage)

Forcing an individual to get engaged in sex against his/her will is termed as “sexual violence” Some forms of sexual violence

- Raping and killing the girl who refused to marry oneself
- Victimizing the girl with acid attack
- Trying to kill the girl who rejected ones love proposal
- Kidnapping girls to cities and employing them as sex workers.

Role of Education in Preventing sexual abuse and violence

- Teachers are considered as second parents they can play an important role in the prevention of sexual harassment and violence in schools by adopting various strategies.

- Violence is most prevalent among students between 12 and 18 years of age.

A few students who indulge in violence are not only damaging their future but also the future of their school mates.

Teachers can take the following steps:

- (i) Expressing love and affection to students

Psychological studies reveal that only students/children who are denied of love and affection at home indulge in violent acts.

- (ii) Establishing guidance and counselling centres in schools

Professionally trained counsellor could remove the stress and short temper among students. This helps to reduce negative thinking in students and control them from indulging in violent acts.

- (iii) Strictly enforcing rules in schools

School administration should not hesitate to take actions against students who indulge in violent acts repeatedly.

- (iv) Providing training in yoga and meditation in schools

Two or three periods as per the time table helps the students body and mind relax and achieve mental poise.

- (v) Teachers should maintain a good rapport with the students

Teachers should interact with every student face to face and find out the problem in each one of them and guide them to go in right path.

- (vi) Removing gender stereotype

Teachers should discuss with the students the various gender stereotypes prevalent in the society and help the students to get over them.

- (vii) Life skill training

When students grow they have to face various challenges in the society. For that they have to master some specific skills they are :

- Tangible skills: those needed for daily life
- Intangible skills: those needed for developing ourselves

(Communication skill, Problem solving skill etc.,)

Prevention of sexual violence and abuse

- Perception of the society is to be changed
- By installing vigilance cameras in public places
- Conducting awareness campaigns regarding sexual harassment
- Increasing police patrol in vulnerable areas
- Providing training to women in self-defense techniques.

Meaning and Concept of Body objectification

Object means a material thing that can be seen and touched. “Objectification is viewing or treating a person usually a woman as an object” devoid of their feelings..

People who view women as objects do not consider their

- Feelings and emotions
- Freedom and autonomy
- Likes and dislikes

Combating female body objectification

Men instead of treating women equally they look at their physical appearance, beauty and they treat them as a object for gratification from the tribal age of Ramayana to this century.

According to Susan Basow “Gender roles are society’s evaluation of behaviour as either masculine or feminine”

To stop this type of thinking all individuals in the society should strive hard to change the social perception of gender roles and gender stereotypes.

Role of Parents and Teachers Combating Female body objectification

In the previous day's society females were treated like a worker for the home and as a machine for men. But now females started to come out of the house, get primary and higher education's and they are also earning equally as (not to) men and are employed in almost all sectors.

Role of Teachers

- Through education right from childhood student's attitude, values and outlook should undergo change.
- Curriculum and educational institutions should bring such a change of mind among all students. "A bad cook will spoil a good dinner" is the proverb. So, all teachers should act as a role model and through their words they should develop a right perception and attitude towards women and also become a source of inspiration.

The school has the responsible of transmitting new ideas;

Teacher may insist on the following things for her students to follow:

- (i) School is a sacred place so all students should wear neat and clean dress.
- (ii) All those who enter the school campus should exhibit dignified behaviour by talking politely with meaningful words and conducting themselves decently.
- (iii) Dress code should be prescribed for teachers also.
- (iv) Wearing attractive and expensive dress, using perfumes, adorning with jewellery, using costly shoes hand bags etc., Should be prohibited as they induce the idea of body objectification.
- (v) Teacher should have an eye whether students follow the conduct rules.

Role of Parents

- Children should be discouraged to select dresses that expose major part of their body
- Parents should be get dresses for children suitable to their age.
- Dress code is applicable for both male and female students.

Imitating like film actress will not enhance the status of women. On the other hand:

- Improving knowledge
- Abilities in order to compete with men in all fields
- Qualities of heart like love, kindness, sympathy adjusting with others helping the needy are the ornaments she needs.

This will help women to get rid of their bodies and being considered as objects. There are many false stereotypes about women such as:

- Gossip mongers
- Lured by dress and jewellery
- Easily swayed by emotions etc.,