

## **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence is the act of aggressive abuse imposed on children, women, and men within the home. The victims of domestic violence often exhibit psychological distress, and this behavior is caused due to the trauma they endure during the period of violence. Domestic violence can harm people mentally, physically, sexually, and emotionally. It occurs in many different relationships such as between wives and husbands, children and parents, people who live together, such as brother-in-laws, cousins, and people who used to live together, such as ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend. Generally, women are more prone to domestic violence than men or children. This can leave a long and negative impact on their minds and can lead to many major issues such as depression as they are forced into oppressive practices. These primarily abused females experience both short-term and long-term effects from the different forms of domestic violence to which they are subjected, which includes mental, physical, social, financial, and sexual abuse. Incidences of domestic violence against women in the United States may be less than that of underdeveloped countries, such as Africa, but it is higher when compared to other developed countries, such as Japan.

### **Types of Domestic Violence**

There are many types of domestic violence but the major abuses are: physical, emotional, digital, financial, and sexual. Physical abuse involves contact with another person (“Types of abuse,” n.d.). It usually occurs when a fight starts between two people, usually a man and woman. This includes scratching, pinching, biting, pulling of hair, using weapons, forcing one to look at them, and more. It can be avoided by talking to a counselor or an adult you trust. Also,

creating a safety plan can be useful as it will come in handy when women experience physical abuse. It's easy to tell when somebody is going through an abuse as they will show the following signs: explosive temper, mood swings, possessiveness, and isolation from family and friends (“Types of abuse”, n.d.).

Emotional abuse includes non-physical behavior and deals more with brain issues such as torture (“Types of abuse”, n.d.). This type of abuse includes calling names, putting the victim down, yelling/screaming, embarrassing the person in public, threatening to harm the individual, and much more. Emotional abuse often plays with the minds and lets the victim believe in what the other person is saying. This leads to many other problems such as depression. This can be solved by speaking to an adult or a counselor. This is not a type of abuse as the other person manipulates the victim. (“Types of abuse”, n.d.)

Financial abuse is another type where the victims are deprived of money or any other basic needs (“Types of abuse”, n.d.). Some examples include getting the victim fired through their boss, not giving the victim access to a shared account, using credit cards without permission, and much more. Financial abuse leads to physical and emotional abuse and so the best way is to stop it for once. Get involved with organizations who help victims and also seek a legal advocate. (“Types of abuse”, n.d.)

Digital abuse means stalking on social media (“Types of abuse”, n.d.). This can be dangerous as a person is more likely to get information about the victim and can threaten them into doing things. Signs of social abuse include negative or insulting emails, insisting that the victim give the passwords, and constantly texting the individual and bothering them. The first and important step to be safe from digital abuse is to not share passwords with anyone. No matter

how close they are, passwords should be kept secretive and to ourselves. Know the privacy settings. Many applications have the option that allows people to keep their accounts private. This keeps them safe from other people who do not have access to their photos or private information. Do not text anything that may cause trouble for the victim. The messages once sent cannot be retained and can be forwarded to anybody (“Types of abuse”, n.d.)

Sexual abuse is an abuse where a person is forced into sexual activity without their consent (“Types of abuse”, n.d.). This includes rapes, inappropriate kissing, and insults. A person should contact someone they trust immediately. Report to the nearest legal service. Head to the nearest hospital and get a check up done to check for any diseases. These are just the few types of abuses. There are many more and everyone should be protected from these. (“Types of abuse”, n.d.)

### **Domestic Violence in United States of America vs. underdeveloped countries**

The rate of domestic violence varies by country and the statistics have proved that underdeveloped countries have a higher rate of abused victims. Studies show that women whose mothers have been abused by fathers are more likely to be a victim of abuse themselves.

Surveys were done throughout India, Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Egypt, Nicaragua, Peru, and Zambia (Lalasz, n.d.). These were used to find the percentage of healthy and unhealthy women ranging from the age of fifteen to fifty years. The women were asked about their personal lives and their relationships. The responses they received were somehow related to different types of abuse such as physical, sexual, and emotional. Forty eight percent of women in Zambia said they had experienced violence in their relationship and it was caused due to an intimate partner. The same was experienced by forty four percent in Colombia,

eighteen percent in Cambodia and nineteen percent in India. They were either pushed, slapped, shaken, or struck by an object and it all occurred in the hands of either their husbands or boyfriends (Lalasz, n.d.).

Another survey was done in Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, Cambodia, and Colombia to find the percentage of mothers abused by the fathers (Lalasz, n.d.). The percentage of women of the countries that never experienced violence by their spouses is as follows: fifteen percent in Cambodia; thirty six percent in Colombia; twenty percent in Dominican Republic; twenty seven percent in Haiti; twenty seven percent in Nicaragua and fifty percent in Peru. The percentage of women who agreed to experiencing domestic violence is as follows: thirty percent in Cambodia; fifty five percent in Colombia; thirty six percent in Dominican Republic; thirty eight percent in Haiti; thirty six percent in Nicaragua and forty six percent in Peru. The reasons for the increase in percentage of women who agreed could be due to the alcoholic consumption in these countries. Men do not have control over themselves and thus they find a small reason to torture their wives. Colombia and Peru have a high percentage of women who have experienced violence because of the way they live. These countries are poor and so they take out their frustration on their wives (Lalasz, n.d.).

### **Domestic Violence in America vs. in Japan**

Studies done by different sources have proved that domestic violence in developed countries is lesser than developing countries. Japan has been developed for almost a decade and the reason that Japan is chosen for comparison is because, although it has reached the pinnacle of success, domestic violence is still prevalent and may take years to be completely abolished. Many reports of domestic violence were increased by twenty percent more than what

the rate was in 2008. More than ninety eight percent of the victims were women. They are at high risk of abuse. A survey, conducted by the Cabinet office in October 2008, showed that thirty three percent of women were married and had been abused by their spouses-mentally and physically. Three percent consulted with lawyers and law enforcement officers; the other thirty percent just bore the abuse silently. “Sachiko Utsumi, spent the several months in a women’s shelter in Osaka. She said,”My husband beat me for three years for any reason. I could not bear it anymore.”” (Makino, 2009, pg.1)

A research was done by National Police Agency (NPA) and two thousand sixteen cases were reported out of which ninety four percent of the victims were women (Westlake, 2012). Many cities in Japan have reported of high rates of domestic violence compared to 2011. Cities such as Saitama, Chiba and Gunma show a drastic rise in the numbers. The number rose from hundred to hundred fifty six in Saitama, eighty four to hundred and twenty one in Chiba and sixty two to hundred and two in Gunma. Japan has increased the police patrolling and has set up special units to protect the women and children from abuse (Westlake, 2012).

The effect of domestic violence results in the divorce of the families and this has been confirmed by the lawyers who take over the cases of such people. Many women did not take a stand against it and were still part of the abusive relationships for a long time.

### **Comparison between South America, Japan and United States**

Comparatively, United States has a lower rate of domestic violence than South America and a higher rate of domestic violence than Japan. “In the United States, an average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.” (“National Statistics”, n.d). With comparison to United States, around

30% of women are abused on a daily basis. People think that stalking is not associated with domestic violence but in reality, it is a part as it increases the fears of the victim that he/she is going to be harmed or killed. Women can be affected at any age but the most common aged are the ones between the ages of eighteen and twenty four. They have just begun their lives and at times, they experience the most painful and heartbreaking traumas which can lead them to depression or any other long-life disease. Domestic violence hotlines are available for service on any given day, they receive about twenty thousand and eight hundred calls and all of them are related to domestic abuse (“National Statistics”, n.d.)

### **Reasons for abuse in South America, Japan and United States**

“Domestic violence may start when one partner feels the need to control and dominate the other” (Goldsmith, n.d., pg.1). Men who abuse women believe that women are not made to be equal and should be considered beneath them. Women are affected by this and this leads the man in raising his hand or causing hurt in various other ways. “Studies suggest that violent behavior often is caused by an interaction of situational and individual factors.” (Goldsmith, n.d. pg.1)

In the United States, alcohol and drugs are the reasons as to why men abuse women. “According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, two-thirds of victims suffering violence by a current or former spouse or partner report that the perpetrator had been drinking, compared to less than one-third of stranger victimizations. Among spouse victims, three out of four incidents reportedly involved an offender who had been drinking.” (Alcohol, Drugs and Crime. n.d. pg.1). It causes adverse effects on the children as well as they are prone to be addicted to drugs and

alcohol in the future. Many centers have been opened in different states in order to provide help and assurance to the survivors and to help them in their future endeavors.

In Japan, domestic violence starts from the time couple start dating. Spouses get overprotective and jealous of each other and this results in them fighting and leading to abuse. (Tabin, n.d.). Japanese women suffer domestic violence because their husbands are stressed due to work pressure and this results in them taking out their anger on their wives and children (Tabin, n.d.). The Japanese government need to prioritize their budget and help the abused victims by opening shelters and support centers. The women, if given help when needed, are able to leave their partners and start life afresh.

In South America, poverty is the main issue. Out of anger over financial issues, men lose control over themselves and resort themselves towards drinking and drug dealing. This leads them to lose their temper and makes them angry on their wives. This causes them to abuse the women and force them to either sleep with them or abuse them physically. South America, being an undeveloped country, does not have many facilities and so the women either die, or bear the torture. They do all this in order to protect their children and also to save their honor (“Laws to punish”, 2013).

At times, women need protection from their own husbands. Haiti does not give out punishments for marital rape as they consider it to be a family matter. But that is not the case. Marital rape is a type of domestic violence and should be addressed as any other major issue. Women, whose mothers have been a victim of domestic violence, are more prone to be abused by their husbands. Men, whose fathers have abused their mothers, are made to think that women are not equal and should be treated as their servants (Doherty, 2013).

The reasons of abuse in different countries is very important because not all countries have the same reasons. For example, the reasons of abuse in Japan is different than the reasons for abuse in South America and giving out examples of this removes the idea from the minds of people that domestic violence is caused for the same reasons everywhere.

### **Domestic Violence in Islam**

Different religions have different opinions on domestic violence. Christianity believe that domestic violence should not be done and it is said in the Bible (First Corinthians 7:4). Hinduism also believes that violence against women is unjust and should be in control. All these religions have one thing in common: condemnation of domestic violence.

Islam is highly against domestic violence. Women should be treated as queens in their homes and should be loved by their husbands and families. Any kind of torture against women is not accepted. Allah says in the Quran: “ Retain them in kindness or release them in kindness. But do not retain them to their hurt so that you transgress the limits. If anyone does that he wrongs his own soul. Do not take God’s instructions as a jest” (2:231). This means that treat women with kindly and if you cannot do so, then leave them but in a kind manner. Allah also talks about wives in another part of the Qur'an: “And among His Signs is this that He created for you wives from among yourselves, that you may find repose in them, and He has put between you affection and mercy. Verily, in that are indeed signs for people who reflect” (30:21). This could be interpreted as women are created neither to be above you nor below you. They should be treated equally with love, respect, and kindness. Another narration by Abu Hurairah as reported in Sahih Bukhari, volume 4, states that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said,”Treat women nicely for a woman is created from the rib, and the most curved portion of the rib is its upper portion, so, if



you should try to straighten it, it will break, but if you leave it as it is, it will remain crooked. So treat women nicely” (Amjad, 2000, para. 3) This hadith can be interpreted as a way of asking men to accept their wife the way they are if they want to live a pleasant life because if they try changing them, it can become worse and can cause separation among the couple.

The Qur’an also states: “They are the body cover for you. and you are the same for them” (2:187). This basically means that as a dress covers a person, and protects it from harm, spouses are made to protect each other from harm. Husband and wife are the covering for each other. They protect from harm and from any other issues that can hurt them. Husbands cannot mistreat their wives as they are made to protect them. “It was narrated that Abu Hurairah (R.A.) said: Allah’s Messenger (SAWS) said, “No believing man should hate a believing woman. If he dislikes one of her characteristics, he may be pleased with another”” (“Being unsatisfied with one’s wife”, n.d.). This means that although women do have bad qualities, a husband should look at her good qualities and appreciate her instead of pinpointing the bad quality and making it a big issue which can result in a fight.

If a woman does anything wrong and it affects the whole family, then the man has a right to correct her but that should not include any cursing or physical abuse or emotional abuse. He should be polite and choose his words wisely. “ Men should understand that hitting their wives is the last resort. It is not correct as per Islam to jump on the third option straightaway and use the verses of the Qur’an as an excuse. Men should remember that if the last resort is used, then there are three conditions to be observed:

- Do not hit her on her face
- Do not disgrace and abandon her in public

- Hit her lightly;you cannot flog her

Clearly, light beating that is allowed as a last resort” (“Many people”, 2015). If a woman realizes her mistake and reconciles, the husband has no right to hit her.

Every religion states the same thing: women should be treated with love and kindness. They are human beings and when they are taken care of and given love and respect, they respect the person twice and love them even more. If there were no women in the world, people would not have been born and this place would never grow. Women are the most fragile among the species. They are build differently from man but still are stronger emotionally and mentally. Even physically, then can do the work of men but at the end of the day they cannot do as much as a man does.

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