

A STUDY ON RAISING AWARENESS TO ROOT OUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

(With a special reference to Coimbatore City)

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ABSTRACT

Violence against Women has a very long history, though the incidents and intensity of such violence have varied over time and even today vary between societies. Such violence is often seen as a mechanism for the subjugation of women, whether in society in general or in an interpersonal relationship. Such violence may arise from a sense of entitlement, superiority, misogyny or similar attitudes in the perpetrator or his violent nature, especially against women. This study was carried out to find out the awareness on violence against women and girls. Using a structured questionnaire primary data was collected from 120 respondents. The factor that affects women's and girl's due to violence are also analyzed.

KEYWORDS: violence against women and girls, awareness on violence, sexual violence.

INTRODUCTION

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. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls can be devastating, including death. Violence negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines violence as "intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation".

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The problem of violence against women and girls has become increasingly serious in recent years, yet many individuals, communities, and nations remain unaware of the scope and severity of the problem. This lack of awareness has resulted in inadequate prevention and response strategies, inadequate resources for victims, and inadequate support for survivors. This means that many victims of violence remain unaware of their rights, and that perpetrators of violence are able to remain unpunished. Additionally, the lack of awareness of the issue has led to a climate of acceptance of violence against women and girls, which has further perpetuated the problem. As a result, it is essential to increase awareness of violence against women and girls, in order to effectively address the problem.

OBJECTIVE

- To inform and influence policy or violence against women and girls.
- To provide awareness for women and girls who have experienced violence.
- To study preventing measures for eliminating violence against women and girls.
- To determine what are the problems faced by women and girls in violence against them.
- To investigate the impact of violence against women and girls.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is a way to systematically solve a research problem. It explains the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher to solve a research problem.

Research Design

The results of the study were obtained by descriptive analysis.

Area of study

Coimbatore City is the second largest city and is one of the major metropolitan cities in Tamil Nadu. The study covers in the area of “A study on raising awareness to root out violence against women and girls”.

Period of study

The study covers a period of 3 months January 2023 - March 2023.

Sampling procedure

For the purpose of analysis, the data has been collected from 120 consumers from sample respondents in Coimbatore city.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Data was collected through both primary and secondary data sources.

PRIMARY DATA

A Primary data is a data, which is collected for the first time for particular information and data was collected using questionnaire (Google form).

SECONDARY DATA

A secondary data is a data, which is the information is collected from already existing data and the secondary data was collected from various reviews.

TOOLS USED FOR ANALYSING THE DATA

Study has the objective of ascertaining the “violence awareness among women and girls” for analyzing the primary data the following statistical tools was used.

- Simple Percentage Analysis
- Ranking Analysis

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Nicole Minckas, Geordan Shannon, Jenevieve Mannell – 2020 - Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a public health problem and one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. Recently practitioners and researchers have taken an interest in community participation as a strategy for preventing VAWG. Our analysis examines the explicit and implicit theories of change for these prevention programmes against the assumptions outlined from the theoretical literature. The article conclude that order to be both effective and sustainable, the role of external agents in introducing programmes needs to be secondary to the ownership and empowerment of communities in designing and delivering their own strategies for VAWG prevention.

Aslı Sis Çelik RN, PhD ,Ayşe Aydın RN, PhD– 14 November 2018 - The aim of this study was to determine the effect of a course on violence against women on the attitudes of student midwives and nurses towards violence against women and their abilities to recognize the signs of violence. This study used a pretest-posttest quasi-experimental design with experimental and control groups and was conducted with student midwives and nurses. The traditional attitudes of students who enrolled in the course on violence against women decreased, and their levels of knowledge of signs of violence increased.

Nashid Tabassum Khan – 2017 - Violence against women has many forms including physical aggression or threats, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, controlling or domineering, intimidation, stalking, passive/covert abuse, and economic deprivations. Alcohol consumption and mental illness can be co-morbid with abuse and present additional challenges when present alongside patterns of abuse. The victims were interviewed and the data received were later on analyzed by computer and organized in tables. At community level, improvement of economic status of women as well as women empowerment is essential. Mass awareness about Violence against Women through mass media is needed to be diffused.

EI Mbadugha – 2016 - This was to identify the extent of these problems and their devastating health effects on the childbearing women and children which would lead to enhancing the awareness. Literatures related to the topic were reviewed from different completed research works and published articles retrieved from searches of computerized databases and their findings were discussed. It was found that intimate partner and sexual violence are major problems in Nigeria because of the deadly culture of silence that the battered women have adopted over many generations, mainly because there is no safe haven for them in the country. This Act would bring an end to the problems if adequate awareness, monitoring and follow-up measures are created by the government and NGOs to ensure its implementation. Otherwise, it would be nothing but a merely written document as have been many acts written in the Nigerian law.

Jillian E. H Damron M.A. and Andy J. Johnson Ph.D. – 01 January 2015 - Men's violence against women is a pervasive problem that occurs across all religious, cultural, racial, socio-economic, and national groups. The target audience for this volume is mental health professionals. The general thesis is that mental health providers and religious communities need to work together to address issues of men's violence against women. The first part of this chapter reviews evidence concerning the prevalence of three major forms of violence against women in the USA: intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The second part gives an overview of the book. The third and final part provides suggestions for mental health professionals on how to use this book.

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The history of violence against women remains vague in scientific literature. This is in part because many kinds of violence against women (specifically rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence) are under-reported, often due to societal norms, taboos, stigma, and the sensitive nature of the subject. It is widely recognized that even today, a lack of reliable and continuous data is an obstacle to forming a clear picture of violence against women.

Although the history of violence against women is difficult to track, it is clear that much of the violence was accepted, condoned and even legally sanctioned. Examples include that Roman law gave men the right to chastise their wives, even to the point of death, and the burning of witches, which was condoned by both the church and the state (although this was not a practice exclusively against women).

The history of violence against women is closely related to the historical view of women as property and a gender role of subservience. Explanations of patriarchy and an overall world system or status quo in which gender inequalities exist and are perpetuated are cited to explain the scope and history of violence against women. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) states, "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.

DATA ANALYSIS

CRITERIA	OPTIONS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Age	Below 20 years	41	34.2%
	20-30 years	60	50%
	30-40 years	14	11.7%
	40 years and above	5	4.2%
Family type	Joint family	62	51.7%
	Nuclear family	58	48.3%
Area of residence	Urban	80	66.7%
	Rural	40	33.3%
Female members in your family	0-2	25	20.8%
	2-4	69	57.5%
	4-6	23	19.2%
	6 and above	3	2.5%
Marital status	Married	49	40.8%
	Unmarried	79	59.2%
Educational qualification	HSC	21	17.5%
	UG degree	61	50.8%
	PG degree	32	26.7%
	Illiterate	6	5%
Occupation	Business women	16	13.3%
	Home maker	26	23.3%
	Worker	28	21.7%
	Student	50	41.7%
Maximum violence happens in	Public transport	68	56.7%
	Office vehicle	11	9.2%
	School van	10	8.3%
	Private transport	31	25.8%
Violence increased or decreased	Decrease	41	34.2%
	Increase	66	55%

	Same	13	10.8%
Common violence against women	Physical violence	31	25.8%
	Sexual violence	65	54.2%
	Financial violence	18	15%
	Spiritual violence	6	5%
Heard about violence	Yes	83	69.2%
	No	37	30.8%
Approaches to end violence	Speak up, speak out	18	15%
	Fund women's organization	16	14.2%
	Push for stronger laws	74	61.7%
	Support women's leadership	11	9.2%
Impacts of violence in future	Physically	32	26.7%
	Mentally	58	48.3%
	Depression	21	17.5%
	Increase risk of injury	9	7.5%
Are you aware of the violence	Yes	98	81.7%
	No	22	18.3%
Carried self defense items	Never	9	7.5%
	Sometimes	67	55.8%
	Often	22	18.3%
	All the time	22	18.3%
Who did you talk to about violence	Family member or relative	37	30.8%
	Police	56	46.7%
	Lawyer	26	21.7%
	Refused	1	0.8%
Most serious incidents of violence in your life	In your home	3	2.5%
	At school college or training	17	14.2%
	In public transport	61	50.8%
	Elsewhere indoor	15	12.5%
	Refused	24	20%

Use of public transport after dark	Daily	24	20%
	At least once a week	48	40%
	At least once a month	28	23.3%
	Never	20	16.7%
Did you take any time off due to violence	Yes	52	43.3%
	No	68	56.7%
Violence against women's by partners	Very common	22	34.2%
	Not very common	41	47.5%
	Not at all common	57	18.3%
How should we stop gender based violence	Educate yourself on the root cause of violence	24	20%
	Develop an action plan	59	49.2%
	Stop victim blaming	19	15.8%
	Be aware of the resources for women and girls	18	15%

RANKING FACTORS CONCERNED ABOUT BEING PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY INJURED

S.NO	FACTORS	SCORE	RANK
1	Someone you don't know	494	I
2	Someone from work school or training	485	IV
3	Another acquaintance or friend	490	III
4	Relative or family member other than your partner	478	V
5	Your current partner	493	II

RANKING FACTORS BASED ON FEAR OF BEING PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

1	Avoid leaving your home on your own	499	II
2	Avoid taking certain streets	460	IV
3	Avoid going to places where there no other peoples around	463	III
4	Avoid opening your doors when you are alone at home	450	V
5	Avoid going to home because what might happen	503	I

FINDINGS

PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

- It concludes that majority of respondents (50 %) are 20 to 30 years.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (51.7%) are joint family.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (66.7%) are rural residence.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (57.5%) have 2-4 female members in their family
- It concludes that majority of respondents (59.2%) are unmarried.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (50.8%) have completed UG degree.
- It concludes that most of the respondents (41.7 %) are student.
- It concludes that majority of the respondents (56.7%) says that maximum number of violence happens in public transport.
- It concludes that majority of the respondents (55%) feels that crimes against women's are increase
- It concludes that majority of respondents (54.2%) think that sexual violence is most commonly affecting women and girls now a day.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (69.2%) have seen and heard about the impact of violence against women and girls.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (61.7%) believe in approaches like push for stronger laws.
- It concludes that most of the respondents (48.3%) says that it mentally impact them in the future
- It concludes that majority of respondents (81.7%) are aware of the level of awareness on violence against women and girls.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (55.8%) sometimes carry self-defense items with them.
- It concludes that most of the respondents (46.7%) have talked to police.
- It concludes that majority of respondents (50.8%) have faced serious incidents in public transport.
- It concludes that most of the respondents (40%) use at least once a week in public transport.
- It concludes that majority of the respondents (56.7%) have didn't take any time off work due to violence incidents.
- It concludes that most of the respondents (47.5%) think that partner's violence is not very common.
- It concludes that most of the respondents (49.2%) say that develop an action plan to stop gender base violence.

RANKING ANALYSIS

- It concludes that someone you don't know ranked 1 on the concerned about being attacked or injured physically or sexually
- It concludes that avoid going to home because of what might happen there ranked 1.

SUGGESTIONS

- Support organization that are fighting against gender-based violence
- Educate yourself and others about the laws and services available to victims.
- Speak up if you witness or hear about someone who is experiencing violence.
- Reach out to local support groups and resource for victims.
- Research the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls and share with your friends and family.

CONCLUSION

Violence against women and girls is a pervasive problem all over the world. It is a violation of human rights and must be stopped. Awareness on the issue is key to ending this violence. Governments civil society organization, and individuals must work together to raise awareness and promote prevention initiatives. This includes educating communication on the prevalence of violence the consequences of it, supporting survivors, and advocating for policies and laws that protect women and girls. Only when we come together and take action can we create a world where all people are safe, respected, and empowered.

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