

Gender Based Violence During COVID-19

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Abstract

During the situation of COVID-19 there can be different reason and nature of domestic violence such as verbal abuse, ill treatment, physical assault, harassment, Maltreatment, offensive nature of spouse and sexual abuse due to the reason like identity of the female, financial crisis, dominant nature, alcohol and extramarital affairs. Violence against women increased to record levels around the world following. Lockdown to control spread of COVID-19 virus. The United Nations called the situation "shadow pandemic" in a 2021 report about domestic violence in 13 Nations in Africa, Asia, South America, Eastern Europe and Balkan. According to UNFPA pandemic called the breakdown of social infrastructures and this breakdown of social infrastructures often lead to conflicts. The United Nation's secretary general also emphasized the need for the countries to prioritize support by sitting up emergency warning system for individual facing financial violence. The problem of gender based violence increased during pandemic because police were unable to tackle the issues of gender based violence. In the time of pandemic the acknowledgement of the issues is the first step to tackle the rising issue of gender based violence which has been ignore during the pandemic in the past. COVID-19 granted greater freedom to the abusers during pandemic.

Keywords: *domestic violence, identity of women, financial crisis, alcohol, shadow pandemic, UNFPA, breakdown of social infrastructures, tackle, acknowledge of issues.*

Introduction

Since 14th century quarantine has been effective measure of controlling infections. The mediaeval society established the connection between the emergency of symptoms and duration of time. In 1377 AD when ships were isolated for 30 days and land travelers for 40 days in the sea port of Rogue. The origin of the term is rooted after declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic. Government had to take so many measures to reduce the community spread of disease. Absence of vaccine or effective treatment people had to maintain social distance. Most of the work has been done from home.

Quarantine measures was crucial to the protection of healthcare system, however just like a coin has two sides the positive effects to tackle COVID-19 have negative consequence associated with them. Then negative consequences included the risk of losing job economic vulnerability and psychological health issues resulting from isolation loneliness and uncertainty among others. with the increasing the duration of quarantine the risk of serious psychological consequences in career, a longer duration of quarantine was found to be associated with increased symptoms of PTSD.

Gender based violence another downside of quarantine time which has been frequently ignore gender based violence is a form of violence were a person get target it best on gender of an individual. This violence includes combination of sexual physical economical domestic violence and harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation. CEDAW (COMMITTEE ON ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN) has defined gender based violence as a form of violence that disproportionately effects woman. In this paper the term gender based violence has been used to denote difference aspects of domestic violence against women.

Methodology:

Paper reviews and as well as mass media reports, on the rising gender based problem, lockdown, its consequences and the measures taken by the government to tackle the issues.

Relation Between Gender Based Violence and Crisis Situation:

In the face of pandemic violence has generally been found to increase. According to UNFPA pandemic call the breakdowns of social infrastructures and this breakdown of social infrastructure often lead to conflicts as a result the existing gender inequality is worsened by pandemic situation. In the women tried to procure necessities such as water food and firewood. They faced harassment and sexual violence. Several research report identify that gender based violence is more prevalent in HIV hyper endemic countries. According to Menendez et. Al often women do not have rights over there sexual choices. They experience is sexual violence and risk of exposure to the virus through the male carrier. During crisis situation due to break down in law the sexual and gender based violence increased and the the victims generally do not receive the adequate support.

In the past a surge in cases of Gender violence have been linked with crisis. During other disasters a surge in intimate partner violence was observed such as earthquake in Haiti in 2007, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and Eruption at Mount Saint Helens in the 1980s to unemployment, family and other stress. Even a surge gender based violence was observed during in South Asian Tsunami of 2004. In Sri Lanka fisher reported that in the aftermath of Tsunami, several incidents were noticed. Sikina and urassa reported and increase in wife battering in the face of HIV. Pandemic due to suspicion of extramarital affairs recent outbreaks such as ebola, cholera, zika and nipah have also lead to an increase in the cases of domestic violence. During ebola virus out breaks women and girls where especially vulnerable to violence because of the inability to escape their abuser. According to Yasmeen during the ebola outbreak in waste Africa violence against women, rape cases and sexual assault also increased.

So many reasons are there for increasing domestic violence cases. Arthur and Clark identified that economic dependency is another reason of domestic violence. During Pandemic more women were informal jobs and many women lost their job so lack of money woman started to economically depend on their male counterpart. According to Alan ey al, lesser women then men are in telecommutable jobs so it was very difficult for the women to adopt the changing condition. This economic dependency increase the risk of gender based violence during the expansion psychological issues also arise like anxiety, substance abuse, PTSD and sleep disturbance that often tend to continue even after pandemic. In result this mental health issues and related factors such as alcoholism tend to lead to a rise in gender based violence during pandemic. Sales of alcohol have sky rocketed during pandemic and during pandemic man and women both were not allowed to go out for maintaining protocols which was made by government. So they stuck themselves in a limited area with no freedom, this condition also brought out the gender based violence at home. Pandemic also increase the level of unemployment or the risk of losing jobs, several studies link economic insecurities to increased domestic violence. Bhalotra et. Al reported that increase in male and employment was associated with increase in interpersonal violence against women. Where an increase in women employment was associated with a decrease in violence against them. The problem of gender based violence increased during pandemic because police were unable to tackle the issues of gender based violence. Jackson et. Al established a link between traumatic brain injury and women battering.

COVID-19 Gender Based Violence:

During the situation of covid- 19 there can be different reasons and nature of domestic violence such as verbal abuse, ill treatment, physical assault, harassment, maltreatment, offensive nature of spouses and sexual abuse due to the reason like identity of the female, financial crisis, dominant nature, alcohol and extramarital affairs. Violence against women increased to record levels around the World following lockdown to control the spread of the covid- 19 virus. The United Nations called the situation "shadow

pandemic" in a 2021 report about domestic violence in 13 Nations in Africa, Asia, South America, Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

COVID 19 has granted greater freedom to abusers. Kagi observed in the overall crime rate in Australia, the domestic abuse rates increased 5%, different states in the United States also reported an increased of about 21 to 35% in domestic violence. The Refuge website recorded an increases of 150% in the calls about domestic violences. An article in the Indian express drawn attention to the fact that large number of people in Mumbai faced a big problem with less amount of houseful water eat rising summer temperature. Women have been spending more time out to collect the water and often approach the market in the wee hours of morning where they face verbal and sexual harassment. Fielding find out that the victims of abuse may even be scared to visit hospital for treatment of their injuries due to the fear of connecting the COVID-19 disease.

Tackling Gender Based Violence During COVID-19 :

In the time of pandemic the acknowledgement of the issues is the first step to tackle the issue of rising gender violence which has been ignored during the pandemic in the past. To tackle these issue of women of the neighbors of their families can also help to reduce domestic violence by initiating conversation with them. Researcher also emphasize that the need to train healthcare workers to recognize the signs of violence to tackle the issue of gender based violence. Raise awareness about the issue of gender violence media have to play strong role. Media may include offering supportive statement, promoting safety, guideline via advertisement.

The United Nations security general also emphasized, the need for the countries to prioritize support by sitting up emergency warning system for individual facing family violence. Multidisciplinary staff including psychologist, social and legal advisor need to control the violence and ensure accurate assessment of various domains of the abuse. Specific guidance for family and friends to support those in family violence situation has issued by Domestic Violence Resource Centre Australia. A judicial court has been using cloud based Platforms and online court hearing to deal with cases of gender based violence in the time of pandemic to increase the availability of resources available to NGOs offering legal aids, counselling and shelter to women facing violence, developing social protocols to provide support to disable women and migrant women who are even more marginalized and have negligible access to support and forming a panel of lawyer offering legal information to woman over phone among others. A temporary shelters in the Kashmir valley recommended to build by Aman network as there are no shelter homes bill under the protection of women under the Domestic violence act 2005.

Conclusion:

The stop the spread of Nobel corona virus government strictly made some protocols such as lockdown, social distance. Due to lack of vaccine and other treatment to maintain the government rules people stuck themselves at the home so the sleep disorder, psychological problem, financial crises, loneliness occurred. COVID-19 not only increased the gender based violence but also disconnected them from social network.

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