



Woman in the Vedic age was enjoying a higher status. She was the nerve center of the domestic work and was its empress. Domestic happiness and conjugal happiness are constant topics mentioned in the *Rig Veda*. The seer of the *samhitas* was never tired of speaking the bond that binds a happy home governed by a woman.

But Now-a-Days Violence affects the live of millions of women and girls in all socio-economic classes around the world. It cuts across cultural and religious barriers and takes a variety of forms, from domestic abuse to the child marriages and female circumcision. Violence against women is largely unreported. Fear and stigma often prevent women from reporting incidents of violence or seeking assistance. In fact, 80 percent of women who have been physically abused by their partners have never informed the Police, NGOs or shelters. In December 1999, at the 54th Session, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that **November 25th** the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

Types of Violence Against Women

Drug Related Violence



An alcoholic beats his wife and children. There are number of incidences where under the influence of alcohol a Father raped his own Daughter. Alcoholism increases violence and therefore family interruption takes place.

Rape and Custodial Rape



In most of the cases the victim is branded as a woman of loose morals. Child and adolescents rape are on the rise, about 58% are below 16 years. In recent years girl children in the age group of 6-12 years have been more victimized. Custodial rape is extremely heinous since the offenders are supposed to be guardians of the law. Witnesses refuse to testify against offenders or men in power, which makes it impossible for the victim to get justice.

Harassment at Work Place and Eve Teasing

Whether out of choice or out of compulsion, most of the women who are involved in the work place in all vital sectors of country's economy may fall in the unorganized sectors. They are ill-paid but don't leave the job due to increasing unemployment. This need for survival drives to rape situations. Harassment at work place is all pervasive.



Dowry Related Violence



The practice of demanding dowry has spread so much. For that, death by burning is often punishment for the innocent young girls who is unable to satisfy the greed of her in-laws. Most of the women burnt by their in-laws or take the decision of suicide for dowry related tortures.

Domestic Violence

Subordination of women has led to violence under this head to rise. Incidence of domestic violence crosses all the barriers of class, income, culture and religion are in a high under reported crime. Domestic violence is one of the greatest obstacles to gender equality. It obstructs women to secure their fundamental rights to equal protection under the law and the right to life and liberty.



Reasons for Increase of Violence against Women:

The basic reason for violence against women is their inferior status in a male dominated society as educationally, economically, politically and socially. Besides, there are also so many reasons too.

More Awareness in Women of their Rights: Access to *Mahila* Courts, legal cells and crime cells for women helps directly or indirectly to encourage women to resister their complaints.

Low Rate of Punishment of Guilty: Lack of evidence and lack of guidance, loop holes in existing laws are some of the reasons for the rise in crime against women.

Law Pertaining to the Problem of Violence:

International Conventions, the Constitution and various other legal provisions provide certain rights for women.

Women Related Acts

- ✚ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- ✚ Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- ✚ The Commission of *Sati* (Prevention) Act and rules.
- ✚ National Commission for Women Act.
- ✚ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- ✚ Amendment Proposed in Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 2005.
- ✚ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005.
- ✚ Orissa State Commission for Women Act, 1993.

