Atrocities against Women in India

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ABSTRACT
This paper shows the progress of a community by the degree of progress which woman have achieved. Also, according to Swami Vivekananda, the best thermometer to the progress of a nation is its treatment of its women.

Keywords--- Organics, Orthodox, Trafficking

I. INTRODUCTION

According to oxford dictionary, the term atrocities against women, refers to "a cruel and wicked act against a woman which causes her emotional or physical injury or both."

"The issue of atrocities against women is a deep-seated problem in society that had been accumulating all these days and has found a sudden release", said Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee (Former chief minister of West Bengal and currently member of the Polit Bureau of CPI(M)), Jan 5, 2013.

Women in India constitute near about half of its population and it is very common to read news about violation or wrong committed on women everyday. Although we have entered into a new millennium, but the women of patriarchal setup of Indian society continues to be oppressed and ill-treated. They are subjected to great extent of atrocity both inside and outside their homes in contemporary India. Our orthodox society is so much prejudiced by age-old habits and customs that a violated woman, whether she is forced or helpless, has no place in the society.

To prevent the violence and improve the condition of women in India, many laws have been formulated, some of which are:

2. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
3. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
4. Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
5. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
7. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1996

Even though, the graph of violence against women is increasing day by day.

II. FORMS OF ATROCITIES

The women of India face several types of atrocities, such as rape, murder, kidnapping, dowry related atrocity, eve teasing prostitution, female infanticide, female foeticide and many others as discussed below:

1. Female infanticide and female foeticide

Female infanticide is a deliberate and intentional act of killing a female child within one year of its birth either directly by using poisonous organic and inorganic chemicals or indirectly either by one of the parent or others family members. On the other hand female foeticide is the termination of a foetus with in the womb on the ground that its sex is female and is also known as sex selective abortion.

These practices have badly affected Indian society. The biggest and most easily measurable effect is the low-female-to male ratios. The Thomas Reuters foundation expert poll in 2011, reported that India is the fourth most dangerous country in the world after Afghanistan, Congo and Pakistan. "Female Foeticide", child marriage and high levels of trafficking and domestic servitude make India the World's largest democracy, the fourth most dangerous place for women.

2. Kidnapping and Abduction

Kidnapping is taking away or enticing a minor female less than 18 years and a male of less than 16 years of age without the consent of the lawful guardian. Abduction is forcibly, fraudulently or deceitfully taking a woman with the intent of her to illicit sex or compelling her to marry a person against her will. The latter is committed only in a minor, while the former in respect of any person. A large number of kidnapping and abduction cases have been reported in last five years. Delhi has shown the highest rate.

3. Rape and Gang Rape

Rape is one of the most common atrocity against women in India. It is really horrifying that in most of the rape cases, offenders are known to the victims. In India, every 29 minutes a woman is raped.
Rape of an individual by two or more perpetrators is called gang rape which has become a common news in present India. The 2012 Delhi gang rape of a 23 year old girl who died after 13 days has brought a lot of international attention to the issue of gang rape in India.

4. Dowry Deaths

Despite legislations and large scale spread of education, women of India are facing a great atrocity called Dowry. Women are not always the only primary victims of dowry deaths but the ugly part in some cases is that children are also killed along side their mothers. Sometimes women like mother-in-law and sister-in-law are found involved in such crimes.

5. Women Trafficking

It is the criminal practice involving trading of women for profit and exploitation. The women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriages. India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh, trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

6. Domestic violence

Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse and intimate partner violence. It can be physical, emotional, verbal, economic or sexual. It is a pity that 65% of India men believe that women should tolerate violence in order to keep the family together and women sometimes deserve to be beaten. Every 9 minutes, a case of cruelty is committed by either husband or relative of husband in India.

7. Honour Killing

Honour killing is the killing of a family member by other members due to belief that the victim has brought dishonor or shame to the family or community. Reasons for honour killing include refusal to enter an arranged marriage, committing adultery, choosing a partner that the family disapproves of and becoming a victim of rape. Many such killings are happening with regularity in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh.

8. Acid Attack

Acid attack or acid throwing is the deliberate use of acid to attack another human being. It rarely kills but lead to permanent scarring, blindness as well as social, psychological and economic difficulties. At least, 72% of reported acid attack victims are women.

9. Witchcraft murders

Despite much effort, superstitious beliefs continues to plague parts of India, resulting in witchcraft murders. The Indian government most recent date shows that 119 people were killed with witchcraft being the motivation in 2012. According to the Times of India, a National Crime Records Bureau report revealed that more than 1,700 women are murdered for witchcraft between 1991 to 2010. Poor women widows and women from lower castes are most at risk of such killings. The numbers are undoubtedly actually higher, as many cases go unreported or authorities refuse to register the cases.

10. Eve Teasing

Eve teasing is simply an expression of a males interest irrespective of how the woman feel about it. Eve teasing is a huge issue in many metropolitan cities of India. A large percentage of women are facing this menace. Whether it is a public transport system or public place or shopping malls or multiplexes, women find themselves vulnerable to the threat of eve teasing everywhere.

III. SOME STATISTICS PERTAINING TO ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN

Women are subjected to violence throughout their lives. Statistics from society on atrocities against women reveal continuously increasing trends, thus setting a horrifying picture of patriarchal society. National Crime Records Bureau of India states that reported incidents of crime against women increased 6.4% during 2012, and a crime against a woman is committed for every three minutes.

Tables showing increasing trend of violence by reported cases of violence/atrocities against women during years 2008 to 2012 are presented as follows :
Reported Cases of Atrocities/Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Abductions</th>
<th>Violation of the Immoral Traffic Act</th>
<th>Cruelty by husband or relatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>22,939</td>
<td>2,659</td>
<td>81,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>25,741</td>
<td>2,474</td>
<td>89,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>29,795</td>
<td>2,499</td>
<td>94,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>35,565</td>
<td>2,435</td>
<td>99,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>38,282</td>
<td>2,563</td>
<td>1,06,527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 2013

IV. CONCLUSION

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved. Also, according to Swami Vivekananda, the best thermometer to the progress of a nation is its treatment of its women. So, a systematic effort has to be made to listen to the voices of women. Boys at the young age should be told to respect females. In a patriarchal set up, violence against women sometimes consider as quite ‘Natural’, so efforts should be made to change the mindset of society through education and better law enforcement. Government should encourage women friendly programmes to combat atrocities against women. Above all, women themselves should take a stand that they will not tolerate any sort of violence against themselves. Last but not the least, it is important for men to stand up to not only stop men’s violence against women but, to teach young men a broader definition of masculinity that includes being empathetic, loving and non-violent (Don McPherson)

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