

Violence against Women A Phenomenon or a Result of Mentality



Philosophy

Keywords: human rights, inequality, violence, patriarchal mentality, inferiority, discrimination, gender equality.

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to point out that Women's rights are human rights. They cover every aspect of life – health, education, political participation, economic well-being and freedom from violence, among many others. Women are entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of all of their human rights and to be free from all forms of discrimination and violence – this is fundamental to achieve human rights, peace and security, and sustainable development. Gender inequality within families, inequitable division of labor within households, and cultural attitudes about gender roles further subjugate women and serve to limit their representation in public life. Societies that are highly patriarchal often have local power structures that make it difficult for women to combat. Thus, their interests are often not represented. There is no denying the fact that yet millions of women and girls suffer disproportionately from violence both in peace and in war, at the hands of the state, in the home and community. Across the globe, women are beaten, raped, mutilated, and killed with impunity. Every day, all over the world, women face gender-specific persecution including and domestic violence. At least one out of every three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. It is of course nothing new to say that violence against women is painful reality which is continually happening. It is closer to every one of us than we may think. Having been considered too long a private issue, violence is often ignored and rarely punished. Too often no one is held accountable for these crimes. The intention of the lies precisely in proving that discrimination and violence based on gender are huge obstacles in achievement our goals (a dignified life for women) because only in this way we can build a better society, for men and women even though there are some signs of progress.

Introduction

The Human Rights of woman are inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights the full and equal participation of woman in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all international community.

(Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, Part I, paragraph 18)

The violence of each kind practiced on woman, not more than few years as ago was not even discussed in any of the state institutions and even today in some countries is a considered a taboo topic.

Women rights are human rights - rights which women enjoy for the simple fact that they are human beings. At first, this seems very logical. The national laws and the traditional human right conventions are not valid in the same way for men and women. In many countries throughout the world, women are denied their rights to equal access to resources and opportunities. This is reflected in the overall unequal economic and social situation of women as compared to men. Therefore, ensuring women's full enjoyment of their human rights is a crucial strategy for the empowerment of women and for overcoming the economic, political, and social disadvantages they continue to face. (Human Rights are Human Rights: 2000:12)

Every type of violence that degrades females is a fatality and unacceptable. It contributes towards the sensibility to encourage the female victims; it forces the state institutions to create the preconditions of detaining (restricting) violence, to disclose and punish those who practice violence against women, so she will find her lost dignity and live a proper life. The statistics about violence against women are truly staggering in their horror. For individuals it is a human rights violation, but for the community it can be called civil war, or terrorism. (Chris Green, Regional seminar Zagreb: 2007:31)

The female's destiny is not to be a product of fatalism but one outcome of patriarchal civilization which determines the women's place and position in this world. The reason why women have not achieved to emulate (embrace) the world, derive from her position, not her nature. She is born free with the same potentials of evidencing herself as an individual human being. Someone else usurps her rights and imposes her slavery. And then when the rights are abstractly accepted, the traditions and customs make the concrete expression in life impossible (Simone de Beauvoir).

Violence as a phenomenon and a sociological category is older than humanity itself, since violence at last, as some of sociologists state is a category that does not fit in the main categories of humanity, because men do not inherit but gain it. People are not born as violators or with predispositions to be identified as such. Through violence people alienate and their will to think and act freely is taken away. Meanwhile, it is well known and proved that human existence and freedom from the beginning are inseparable. (Fromm. E. 1999:27) Violence against women is multidimensional. When we speak about violence against woman in family, we should first pose the question: What is violence?

Most commonly, the domestic violence is characterized as a taught behavior by which the man applies force (power) to control another person, the woman or other members of the family. Such behavior can be frequent or sometimes even vernacularly. Violence toward a woman in a family can be treated as a social deviation and must be submitted to social control so the consequences will not take dramatic size.

1. The type of family and the types of violence

Today, family's position because of different social relations, economical and political changes are more present in the family changing its physiognomy, is in the focus of interest of many scientists. Thus, modernization processes expose three dominant family types:

- Patriarchal family
- Democratic family
- Anarchic family

The patriarchal family is presented as a result of survived relations.

The democratic family in all its forms is a type that responds to the normative assumptions of the society. The anarchic family is a pathological product of fast and diverse development, characterized by a family disorganization. The family life in this type of families is partially functional. As a result of disorganization, we have the presence of violence, psychological terror practiced on the family members, problem storage, a tense environment etc. Violence does not recognize geographic, religious or economic boundaries; it is applied there where conjugal relations disorder is present as a result of many social and psychological factors. Violence or abuse is a way of practicing control and causing physical injuries, fear, limiting woman's individuality or forcing her to expose in ways not preferred by her.

2. Variations Forms of Violence Against Women

Violence is diverse: Physical violence, Psychological violence, Sexual violence, Financial violence, Social violence, Political violence, etc.

Physical Violence

Physical violence occurs when men uses a part of women`s body or an object to control a person`s actions. Physical violence includes: Using physical force which results in pain, discomfort or injury; hitting, pinching, hair-pulling, arm-twisting, strangling, burning, stabbing, punching, pushing, slapping, beating, shoving, kicking, choking, biting, force-feeding, or any other rough treatment; assault with a weapon or other object; threats with a weapon or object; deliberate exposure to severe weather or inappropriate room temperatures; and, murder. From the sociological aspect, as a main factor of applying violence against woman in a family is the material condition, aggravated economical status.

These kind of situations cause neuroses Psychological violence, emotional abuse or mental abuse) is a form of abuse, characterized by a person subjecting, or exposing, another person to behavior that may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, chronic depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Such abuse is often associated with situations of power imbalance, such as abusive relationships, bullying, and abuse in the workplace. (Dutton.Mary Ann: 2000:197)

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence occurs when a person is forced to unwillingly take part in sexual activity. Sexual violence includes, but is not limited to: Touching in a sexual manner without consent (i.e., kissing, grabbing, fondling); forced sexual intercourse; forcing a person to perform sexual acts that may be degrading or painful; beating sexual parts of the body; forcing a person to view pornographic material; forcing participation in pornographic filming. Using a weapon to force compliance; exhibitionism; making unwelcome sexual comments or jokes; leering behaviour; withholding sexual affection; denial of a person`s sexuality or privacy (watching); denial of sexual information and education; humiliating, criticizing or trying to control a person`s sexuality; forced prostitution; unfounded allegations of promiscuity and/or infidelity; and, purposefully exposing the person to HIV-AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections.

Financial Violence

Financial violence occurs when someone controls a person`s financial resources without the person`s consent or misuses those resources. Financial abuse includes: Not allowing the person to participate in educational programs; Forcing the person to work outside the home; Refusing to let the person work outside the home or attend school; Controlling the person`s choice of occupation; Illegally or improperly using a person`s money, assets or property; Acts of fraud; pulling off a scam against a person; Taking funds from the person without permission for one`s own use; Misusing funds through lies, trickery, controlling or withholding money; Not allowing access to bank accounts, savings, or other income; Giving an allowance and then requiring justification for all money spent; Persuading the person to buy a product or give away money; Selling the house, furnishings or other possessions without permission; Forging a signature on pension cheques or legal documents etc. (www.gov.nl.ca on date 14.05.2016) The financial violence is manifested with violating the woman`s right to buy needful stuff for her or her family`s need. This means that she has no right of running with the finances provided by the man or her.

Social Violence

Is often enforced by social restraints. Especially, within the patriarchal families where the man is seen as the superior of the family and an invulnerable authority that limits the woman's rights to socialize with her friends in public places (restaurants, cafeterias, etc). Because such places for these types of men are only meant for men. These kinds of continual restraints proceed by force, keeping the woman like a 'hostage' or considering her as a private property which is not allowed to exit out of the traditional frames. The social status of a woman in a patriarchal family is inferior. The conflict is worse when the woman's has a progressive mentality while the men has conservative views. In a patriarchal family, even today the violence against woman is applied in a way that forces her to value and respect the traditional laws and anachronistic (archaic) customs.

Political Violence

Conducted by usurpation and prohibition of the right women actively to be part of political life, to be a member of a political party, to participate in non-governmental organizations, and her participation in elections, This violence is not limited to politics, but extends to women's participation and leadership in public life general, in the private sector, and civil society. (National report UN Women, 2012:16)

3. Factors affecting the exercise of violence against women

The economic crises, unemployment, the poverty, low educational qualifications and professional men are the main factors that the men applies physical emotional and sexual-violence towards a women. The economic situation is one of the main causes that men use physical violence against women. Although there are fewer cases of violence against young girls and yang women within the family, it is the basically the same violence as it is perpetrated against women in general, sexual violence and rape, usually by someone in the victim's immediate surroundings and often within the family. (IFNP in the field of equality, 2001: 27)

Violence has most often applied by traditional men who are at home, and who believe in the superiority of the male, who are in the role of typical male stereotype in the family. But without doubt the man who uses violence can be found in all socio-economic levels, in all age groups and in all ethnic groups. The executor in many cases may be disappointed by the his work, his salary, who constantly changes work places and remains unemployed, which causes the feeling of inadequate and gain a sense of the complexity that leads to different frustrations whom he most often spills over woman by using physical violence. Such men has followed and continues to follow a 'crooked consciousness' that relation is based on possession of the wife without being aware that coexistence built on this basis can often lead to the destruction of the family. Coexistence means equality between the sexes, despite biological differences. It does not mean a 'symbiotic union' where women usually loose personal integrity and individuality. The passive form of symbiotic union is that of obedience or if we use a clinical term, it is masochism.

A *masochist* escapes from the sense of isolation and elution by making himself an inseparable from the other person who leads, directs, and protects him, or better saying his life and his oxygen. The active form of symbiotic union is domination or using a psychological term that corresponds to masochism id sadism.

A *sadist* is a person who wants to escape from the loneliness and from the feeling of being alone by shifting the other person and making a part of himself. A Sadist raises by including the other person, someone that he adores.

The key of coexistence should be: the love, tolerance, consideration, and the common respect. Such a relation, the core of which is non-human, has nothing to do with the above mentioned components. Therefore we cannot have a healthy family, if it is not built in healthy circumstances, thus coexistence cannot exist if there is no equality between sexes.

Built on equity ratios, the family will not lose anything, but instead will gain a lot, which makes happy the women and men as well as their descendants. Simon de Beauvoir a well-known French feminist would have added that the life of two people is wealth for both and only like this the couple will find its right appearance. With the truth must face anyone because subjectivity of the female does not mean defeating the male world, but victory for the human being which will finally find the true appearance. The economic factor is the main factor but only when carries with it moral, social and cultural consequences. So it is the task and responsibility of both sexes for society to build in such a way that equality be realized precisely and only then there will not be the first gender nor second.

Many sociologists believe that the main condition for the elimination of domestic violence is to improve the quality of life and the democratization of life. Family should more and more be involved continuously in the modern life and society should eliminate all varieties of violence. Everyone should actively take part in civilization of society.

Conclusions

Taking into consideration all the things mentioned above one thing should be understandable: We should not expect 'things to be changed naturally' like the majority wants to say, but with concrete action we could contribute in building a better society for both men and women. XXI century has made considerable progress in placement of women in society. But it is a long road to pass to be aware of the inequality that exists between the sexes in all segments of life. We must destroy out prejudices that female is 'less than human' second ranked citizen or said again Simone de BEAUVOIR language 'The Second Sex' that the woman is the subject not object in order to enable and to give the chance for her to prove herself in all pores of life. Only in this way mentalities can evaluate of the past on the role and position of women in society. The battle women to gain real autonomy should be developed on all fronts and in partnership with all actors of society: local authorities, central government, and civil sector. Looking forward this tribune will be a modest contribution to achieve a equality de facto equality that would take into account the rights of women and men despite the gender differences and differences between them, without forgetting that both are free.

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