Unsafe Homes - AN OVERVIEW

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Extent of crimes against women

- 1,31,475 cases during 1998
- 1,43,795 cases during 2001
- 1,47,678 cases during 2002
- (2.7% increase during 2002 and 12.3 per cent increase in 2002 over 1998)
- CRIME RATE – Nationally – 14.1%
- Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh topped the rank by scoring crime rates at 38.4, 24.6 and 24.5 % respectively.
Crime clock

- Every 26 minutes, a woman is molested;
- Every 34 minutes, a rape takes place;
- Every 42 minutes, sexual harassment incident occurs;
- Every 43 minutes, a woman is kidnapped; and
- Every 93 minutes, a woman is burnt to death over dowry.
Non reporting - Causes

- Considered private matter
- Victims’ embarrassment
- Fear of reprisals
- Victimization not treated as crime by many
- Apathy of police
Offences constituting Domestic Violence

- Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Deaths or their attempts (Sec. 302/304-B IPC)

- Torture, both mental and physical (Sec. 498-A IPC)

- IPC Sec. 324,325,326 (Hurt)
Domestic Violence Bill, 2002. Defines

- Any conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence if he,—
  - (a) habitually assaults or makes the life of the aggrieved person miserable by cruelty of conduct even if such conduct does not amount to physical ill-treatment; or
Defines

- \((b)\) forces the aggrieved person to lead an immoral life; or
- \((c)\) otherwise injures or harms the aggrieved person.
2) Nothing amounts to domestic violence if the pursuit of course of conduct by the respondent was *reasonable for his own protection or for the protection of his or another’s property.*
Art 11. All acts of gender-based physical, psychological and sexual abuse by a family member against women in the family, ranging from simple assaults to aggravated physical battery, kidnapping, threats, intimidation, coercion, stalking, humiliating verbal abuse, forcible or unlawful entry, arson, destruction of property, sexual violence, marital rape, dowry or bride-price related violence, female genital mutilation, violence related to exploitation through prostitution, violence against household workers and attempts to commit such acts shall be termed “domestic violence”.
Nature and Forms of Domestic Violence

- Physical Violence
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Economic Abuse
Theories of Domestic Violence

- Resource Theory/ status inconsistency Theory
- The Subculture of Violence
- Patriarchal Perspective of Domestic Violence
- General Systems Theory
- Dependency Framework
- Social Learning Theory
Victims & Victimizers: Attributes

- **Victimizers:** personality disorders, obsessive compulsive, neurological or biochemical disorders, low self-esteem, stress
- occasional & habitual
- **Victims:** aggressive, masculine, frigid and masochistic, unassertive, shy and reserved
Causes of Domestic Violence

- Not doing house-work properly
- Dressing fashionably
- Jealousy of husband
- Husband’s alcoholism
- Dowry Demands
- Husband’s mistress
- Laughing without reason
- Combing hairs a number of times during day
Causes

- High tone during dialogue
- Free and Social nature
- Close relations with friends
- Boy friends
- Disrespectful behaviour with elders in the family
- Refusal to bring money from parent’s house
Causes

- Partial fulfillment or non-fulfillment of promises made at time of marriage.
- Doubt of love affairs before marriage.
- Doubt of extra-marital relations
- Resistance for abnormal sexual behaviour of the husband
- No child bearing capability
- Birth of girl child repeatedly
- Husband economically dependent on parents
Causes

- Husband has problems at work place.
- Sexual difficulties
- Low job satisfaction
- Antisocial personality disorders
Impact

- Mental Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Disturbed Sleep
- Insecurity
- Low self esteem
- Worthlessness
Impact

- Physical Fatigue
- Chronic head-ache
- Psycho Somatic Pain
- Disturbed sex life
- Social isolation
- Communication gap
- Uprooting from family
Impact on Children

- Fearfulness
- Loosing respect for parents
- Feel uncared
- Poor concentration at school
- Aggressive/ Revengeful/withdrawn
- Blocked personality development
- Learning of abusive behaviour
Interventions:

- Massive campaigning
- Enforcement of legal provisions
- Law on Domestic Violence
- scheme for women in difficult circumstances
- Gender sensitization of enforcement agencies
- Support group/self help group
- Legal aid
- Provisions. conduct norms for Govt. officials
Interventions:

- Victimological thrust in Criminal justice system
- Strengthening of Family courts, family council centers, crime against women cell and women police stations
- Women’s access to and control over resources should be recognized as an indicator of development.
Key Questions:

- What makes a woman vulnerable to DV
- Extent to which criminalization of DV appropriate
- Does policing help it
- Do we have a sustainable strategy or long term policy and planning to curb the problem
- How could the problem of under reporting of DV can be solved
Light at end of tunnel?
Victim Empowerment Model

- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
- Victim based justice
- Informal mechanism
- Long term strategies of women empowerment
- Mass campaigning
- Gender sensitization
- Legal literacy