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**Domestic Violence Against Women: A Glimpse**

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**ABSTRACT**

Domestic violence against women includes any violent conduct by an intimate partner or family member that inflicts physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, or economic harm. This is a widespread violation of human rights and a significant societal issue globally, transcending age, class, caste, religion, and economic status. Domestic violence is characterized as a systematic pattern of coercive and controlling conduct employed by one individual against another within a domestic environment, such as marriage or cohabitation, to assert authority and dominance. It encompasses physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse. In this article, domestic violence against women: a glimpse has been discussed.

*Keywords: Domestic, Violence, Women.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Domestic violence against women transcends personal or familial concerns, representing a profound societal issue that embodies entrenched structural disparities, gender stereotypes, and power dynamics across society. From a sociological perspective, domestic violence exemplifies societal control and domination enforced by cultural, economic, and institutional processes (Das, S., 2021).

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Domestic violence against women includes any act of gender-based violence that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily, sexual, or psychological harm, including emotional, sexual, and physical abuse, stalking, and threats. It may also encompass economic abuse, including the manipulation of finances and the obstruction of employment or education. This form of violence transpires between individuals in an intimate or domestic relationship, resulting in significant physical and mental health repercussions for survivors.

Domestic violence encompasses various forms, including physical violence such as slapping, punching, choking, kicking, or utilizing objects or weapons to inflict harm; sexual violence, which involves coercing sexual acts, including rape, in the absence of consent; psychological or emotional abuse characterized by humiliation, intimidation, threats of violence or abandonment, isolation from social connections, and confinement; and economic abuse, which entails controlling financial resources, withholding funds, or prohibiting access to employment or education.

The repercussions of domestic violence encompass physical health issues such as heightened risk of injury, sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancies; mental health challenges including depression, anxiety disorders, and emotional distress; and long-term effects that impede educational attainment, disrupt future relationships, and adversely impact lifelong opportunities.



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Assistance and protection encompass mental health professionals, such as therapists and counselors, who aid survivors in managing emotions and enhancing self-esteem; confidential support hotlines, including the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE (4673), are accessible via phone or online; and legal and social services provide resources for filing petitions and obtaining legal assistance. Legal protection orders can be secured to safeguard survivors from additional abuse. Service providers, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), offer various services, including counseling, legal assistance, and referrals for medical care and shelter (Fatemeh, A. et al., 2021).

### **SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The structural-functional theory posits that society operates through interconnected institutions that uphold social order. Patriarchal family arrangements frequently perpetuate conventional gender norms, positioning males as dominant and women as subordinate. Domestic violence is perceived as a disturbance within the familial structure, representing a collapse of stability and harmony. It undermines the family's capacity to socialize its members and offer emotional support.

The conflict viewpoint, grounded in Marxist theory, highlights the significance of power and inequality. Domestic violence serves as a mechanism by which men assert dominance over women, perpetuating gender-based hierarchies. It stems from the disproportionate allocation of economic resources, authority, and decision-making power. Feminist scholars, building upon this notion, contend that patriarchy operates akin to class oppression, wherein men employ violence to maintain authority and curtail women's autonomy.

The feminist perspective is essential for a sociological comprehension of domestic abuse. It perceives violence against women as a socially endorsed manifestation of patriarchy and gender disparity. Feminist scholars emphasize how cultural norms, religious teachings, and legal frameworks have historically validated male dominance. This viewpoint necessitates societal transformation, legislative reform, and gender sensitization to attain equality and avert violence.

The symbolic interactionist perspective emphasizes micro-level interactions and the significance individuals ascribe to their experiences. From this perspective, domestic violence originates from acquired behaviors and socialization processes. Societal standards instruct men and women on what is deemed "acceptable" in relationships, perhaps leading to the normalization or justification of violence in intimate contexts over time. This viewpoint also analyses the manner in which victims internalize culpability and how perpetrators justify their behavior (Khandelwal, T., 2019).

The social learning theory posits that violent behavior is acquired and replicated through observation and imitation. Children exposed to domestic abuse frequently internalize it as a normative aspect of relationships, thus continuing an intergenerational cycle of violence. This idea emphasizes the significance of education and early intervention in disrupting the cycle.

The cultural approach emphasizes that domestic violence is influenced by cultural beliefs, traditions, and social standards. In patriarchal civilizations, the subjugation of women is frequently rationalized by traditions that emphasize male honor, familial reputation, and compliance. These cultural paradigms institutionalize control, suppress victims, and dissuade legal recourse.



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Domestic abuse has extensive societal repercussions. It diminishes women's societal engagement and financial autonomy. It perpetuates gender inequality throughout generations. It impacts public health and social harmony. It reveals the inadequacy of societal institutions (family, law, religion, and education) in safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

**SOCIOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Domestic Physical Violence Against Women:**

The deliberate use of physical force by an intimate partner, family member, or cohabitant that results in bodily harm, injury, pain, or suffering is referred to as domestic physical violence against women. It is a major violation of women's human rights and dignity and is among the most obvious and severe types of domestic violence. The use of weapons or objects to cause harm; denial of medical care; forced physical confinement; kicking, pushing, strangling, burning, and beating; and slapping or punching are examples of physical violence. The victim feels helpless and reliant as a result of the emotional and psychological abuse that frequently goes along with these acts. Domestic physical violence against women is a pervasive social problem that necessitates a multifaceted strategy that includes social reform, education, and law enforcement. In addition to protecting victims, combating it necessitates changing the systemic and cultural injustices that allow it to persist.

**Domestic Psychological Violence Against Women:**

Domestic psychological violence, sometimes referred to as emotional or mental abuse, is a type of domestic violence in which the abuser manipulates, controls, or threatens the victim by using psychological strategies. Although it causes severe emotional and mental pain, it does not leave any visible scars like physical abuse does. Women of various ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cultural backgrounds are impacted by this widespread problem. The term "psychological violence" describes acts like verbal abuse, humiliation, threats, and isolation that are meant to inflict emotional suffering or discomfort. It includes insults, denigration, ongoing humiliation, intimidation, threats of damage, or threats to remove children, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Sociologically speaking, psychological violence is a reflection of power disparities in patriarchal systems. Because male control and female subservience are frequently normalized by society, emotional abuse can continue unreported. Women are often silenced by cultural taboos and gender standards, which restrict them from identifying or reporting such violence. Women's autonomy, dignity, and general well-being are all compromised by the silent epidemic of domestic psychological abuse. In addition to legislative actions, addressing it calls for a shift in public perceptions of gender equality and interpersonal emotional respect. In order to end the cycle of abuse and encourage more positive family dynamics, recognition and early action are essential (Sardinha, L. et al., 2018).

**Domestic Sexual Violence Against Women:**

One of the most serious types of gender-based violence that takes place in close or family relationships is domestic sexual violence. In order to engage in unwanted sexual behaviors, a partner or family member may utilize force, coercion, or manipulation. In addition to violating a woman's bodily autonomy, this type of abuse has a significant negative impact on her social, psychological,



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and emotional health. Any sexual act, effort to obtain a sexual act, or other act against a woman's sexuality that involves coercion, threats, or physical force in a domestic environment is considered a form of domestic sexual violence. The husband, partner, or other family member is frequently the one who commits the crime. Sociologically speaking, homosexual violence is an expression of gender subordination, power disparity, and patriarchal domination. Traditional customs in many communities' view women as their husbands' property, which makes coercion or rape in marriages acceptable under the pretense of conjugal rights. Women are deterred from reporting such abuse by social shame and victim-blaming, which furthers impunity and silence. In addition to being a social injustice, domestic sexual abuse against women is a violation of human rights. Because of structural injustices and cultural taboos, it flourishes in quiet. In order to combat it, cultural attitudes must change to promote equality, respect, and consent in intimate relationships in addition to legal measures.

**Domestic Economic Violence Against Women:**

An abuse known as domestic economic violence occurs when a perpetrator restricts a woman's access to money, work, or economic independence, rendering her economically dependent and helpless in the home. It is a less obvious but no less harmful kind of domestic abuse that restricts a woman's freedom to make her own decisions and live her life without being forced to do so. Any action or behavior that harms a person's finances is considered economic violence. Economic abuse, as defined by India's Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA), involves denying a woman access to financial resources to which she is entitled, disposing of assets or property, and preventing or restricting her ability to work. Sociologically speaking, patriarchal power systems that uphold male supremacy and female dependency are the source of economic violence. It illustrates how resources and decision-making authority are distributed unevenly among households. One prevalent but frequently unseen type of abuse that sustains women's subordination in households is domestic economic violence. In order to address it and create a society where women may live with dignity and autonomy, a multifaceted strategy including social transformation, economic empowerment, education, and law enforcement is needed.

**Domestic Verbal Violence Against Women:**

When a partner, spouse, or family member uses words, tone, or language to control, belittle, or threaten a woman in a domestic context, it is referred to as domestic verbal violence. Despite leaving no physical scars, it is a type of emotional and psychological abuse that has a significant negative impact on a woman's self-worth, mental health, and social well-being. The deliberate use of language in a home setting to manipulate, offend, or cause emotional distress to another individual is known as verbal violence. It frequently occurs alongside other types of domestic abuse, like economic, sexual, or physical assault. Sociologically speaking, verbal abuse is a reflection of gender-based inequality and power relations in patriarchal society. It serves as a means of upholding male authority and control over women. Such abuse frequently becomes invisible in public discourse as a result of its



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acceptance in private settings. A woman's dignity and mental health are undermined by domestic verbal abuse, a silent but harmful kind of abuse. Building stronger, more equal family ties and guaranteeing women's general empowerment require acknowledging it as a significant social issue.

**Domestic Social Violence Against Women:**

The non-physical, socially based types of abuse and discrimination that take place in the family or community context are referred to as domestic social violence against women. It encompasses actions and customs that diminish a woman's social status, cut her off from social networks, or prevent her from engaging in social activities. Social violence, as opposed to physical or sexual assault, targets a woman's freedom, dignity, and social identity. prohibiting a woman from going to social gatherings or community events; limiting her interaction with friends, family, or the outside world. spreading untrue tales, casting doubt on her morals, or publicly degrading her in order to undermine her confidence and reputation. prohibiting her from interacting with specific individuals or keeping an eye on her communications, including visits, phone conversations, and social media posts. prohibiting women from participating in community decision-making, employment, or education. enforcing patriarchal behaviors or traditions that oppress women, such as discrimination against widows, early marriage, or dowry practices. Because of the way society is organized, men's authority and control are valued more highly, which frequently results in women's dependence and subjugation. Men are conditioned to dominate, while women are socialized from an early age to tolerate quiet and inequity. Norms that stigmatize women who challenge authority and normalize male dominance are upheld in many societies. In order to keep power and domination over women in domestic relationships, abusers resort to social violence. The attitudes and customs of society are firmly rooted in the prevalence of domestic abuse against women. To combat it, a multifaceted strategy involving social reform, legal action, and education is needed to undermine patriarchal authority and advance the equality, respect, and freedom of all women (Sarkar, M., 2010).

**Domestic Technological Violence Against Women:**

Intimate partners or family members using digital technologies and internet platforms to control, harass, monitor, or assault women is referred to as domestic technological violence, or technology-facilitated domestic violence. It makes it more difficult to identify and flee by bringing traditional forms of domestic abuse online. The misuse of emails, social media, surveillance equipment, cell phones, and other digital tools to control, threaten, or intimidate women is known as technological violence in the home. It is frequently a continuation of emotional, psychological, or physical abuse that is carried out via cyber manipulation, online threats, or digital surveillance. A contemporary form of patriarchal control, domestic technological violence takes advantage of people's increasing reliance on technology. A multifaceted strategy is needed to counteract it, combining digital literacy, legal reforms, sociological knowledge, and the empowerment of women in both digital and physical spheres.



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## CONCLUSION

From a sociological perspective, domestic violence against women is not an isolated occurrence but a systematic problem entrenched in structural and cultural disparities. A multifaceted approach is necessary, integrating legal, educational, and social reforms to confront patriarchal notions and advance gender justice. Awareness, empowerment, and community involvement are essential for establishing a culture devoid of gender-based violence.

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