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**IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN : SPECIAL REFERENCES
OF SUDHA MURTHY'S SELECT LITERATURE**



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ABSTRACT

In the modern developing as well as developed countries, the women are lacking in all the walks of life, socially, politically, economically, and educationally and so on. The reason behind this lacking is none but violence by the male dominated oppressed society. At the birth time female child is stronger and more dominant than the male child, even though the females are lacking in various walks of life at adolescent.

“Even though the female child is stronger than male child at birth as adults it is the man who becomes oppressor and woman who suffers” (Mahashweta, p1).

The psychological mind set of the society is also one more reason to this lacking. The society suffers from various violence. Gender-based violence, sexual violence, domestic violence and

violence against women and various forms of violence as well as their impact on women is more effective in society.

The impact of violence on women and various forms of violence are reflected through this article. There are various forms like; gender-based violence, domestic violence, sexual violence and violence against women are analyzed in this article. With the help select works of Sudha Murthy; *Mahashweta*, *Dollar Bahu* and *House of Cards*, the victims of any type of violence are portrayed in this article. Anupama, Vinuta and Mridula these various protagonists of the select works of Sudha Murthy are such victims, who have overcome from their own problems. The meaning and definition violence and its forms of violence are enlightened like; gender-based violence, sexual violence, the domestic violence and violence against women. The nature of violence, prevalence and risk factors of violence are also minutely observed. With the help of Sudha Murthy's select works the victims of various violence and the recommendations to control and stop completely such type of violence are analyzed.

KEYWORDS

GBV, GBV victims, DV, SV, SGBV, Violence against women, Women issues.

RESEARCH PAPER

Introduction:

Gender-based violence (GBV) is the most dominant issue in the Indian society. Especially the domestic violence was more dominant in the twentieth century and gender-based as well as sexual violence is common in the twenty first century. There are many authors who have portrayed the real picture of the real rural India. Sudha Murthy is one of the most frequent names in those authors. There are many Indian authors like; R. K. Narayan, Aurandhati Roy, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Mulk Raj Anand, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Ruskin Bond, Kamala Das, Bharti Mukherjee, Shobha De, etc. have given the special references through their literature with their own social experiences. The great Indian English writers' literature is food for thought to the international readers. The Indian English feminist writers have minutely observed the gender-based violence and kept in front of the global readers. This is one of the best steps to bring in control the gender-based violence in the society. Because according to Shaw, G.B. *the literature is the mirror of the society*. The literature plays very important role to stop the worst

habit from the society like; gender-based violence, child marriage, educational problems especially of women, and so on.

Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continuous to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. It is the type of violence which is against of a person because of (her) gender. It is deliberately and categorically mentioned that this person is 'Female' because the gender-based violence is against of women only. The real meaning of gender-based violence is inequality against of any person on the bases of gender only. It may be male, female or neutral. But the majority victims of GBV are women and girls only. The violence against women and the gender-based violence are two different terms but these are used alternatively because these both violence are against of women only. The gender-based violence and the violence against women is a type of discrimination for superiority on the bases of gender only. According to the Indian democracy and any democratic country, discrimination against on the bases of caste, creed, community, religion and gender is violence of human rights. There are many platforms in the society for gender-based violence. The sexual, economic, educational, physical, psychological and domestic and like it various violence are generally occurred in the society.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is the general term used to capture violence that occurs as a result of the normative role expectations associated with each gender, along with the unequal power relationships between the two genders, within the context of a specific society. (Bloom2008,p14). Generally, the victims of gender-based violence are women, girls and boys also. It does not mean that the men are not victims of GBV. At the various ways, the men are also the victims of GBV in the domestic life. There are various platforms in the society, in domestic life where the women, girls, boys and men have become the victims of gender-based violence by their partners, colleagues, relatives and mates. *This is not to say that gender-based violence against men does not exist. For instance, men can become targets of physical or verbal attacks for transgressing predominant concepts of masculinity, for example because they have sex with men. Men can also become victims of violence in the family by their partners or children. (Bloom 2008,p14).*

Meaning and Forms of Gender-based violence:

Gender-based violence has various forms and meanings because it has spread at various levels. The specific definitions of some of the violence:

- **GBV:** *Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. Gender-based violence is against of a person because of his/ her gender.*
- **SV:** *The sexual violence is defined as sexual act committed against someone without that person's freely given consent.*
- **DV:** *The domestic violence is known as a family violence or domestic abuse, Oxford defines the domestic violence is any incident pattern or of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behavior, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.*
- **Violence against women:** *Violence against women is also known as gender-based violence and sexual gender-based violence, collectively violent acts that primarily or exclusively against women and girls.*

There are many places in the society where the victims of GBV are available because each and every field of educational politics. *Gender-based violence is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced in to a subordinate position compared with men.* (DEVAW, preamble) (The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women). *Gender-based violence is violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.* (CEDAW GR 19, Article 3 Istanbul Conventions). There are some forms of gender-based violence as follows-

- (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family; including battering , sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploration.
- (b) Physical , sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual rape, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere.
- (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs. (Article 2 DEVAW).

There are many stages of gender-based violence like infancy, childhood, adolescence, old age, pregnancy and reproductive abuse. At the beginning of life in the infancy and childhood, the male and female infanticide become the victims of emotional and physical abuse, various

accesses of food, education or health and medical care. At the adolescence sexual abuse in the workplace, rape, sexual harassment, economic and forced prostitution are many examples of gender-based violence in the Indian society. The paternal forced abortions, battering during pregnancy and coerced pregnancy are also the examples of adult gender-based violence. Reproductive abuses of woman by intimate partners, marital rape, dowry abuse, etc. are also some of the examples GBV. Abuse of elders and widows are also the old age gender-based violence.

Nature, prevalence and risk factors of GBV in India:

Gender-based violence is such type of violence where the women are victims maximum. The domestic violence is also like of it, where the women become victims of it and Violence against women is also the violence where the women become the victims of it. The term violence is interconnected with women only. The culture also has its effects on gender-based violence, sexual violence and domestic violence. Where the cultural ideology is dominant, the domestic violence is strong and where the culture is not valued or dominant, sexual and gender-based violence is strong. According to a National Family and Health Survey in 2005, total lifetime prevalence of domestic violence was 33.5% and 8.5% for sexual violence among women aged 15-49. It may be gender-based violence, violence against women or the domestic violence obviously women and girls are more victims in numbers.

There are many risk factors like individual, community, social and domestic risk factors of gender-based violence, domestic violence, violence against women and sexual violence.

- At individual level due to violence, so many women suffer for their education, they become the victims of child marriage or they have impact on their earning. The past violence affect in future, the pregnant women suffer at individual level due to any type of violence a lot. (WHO/LSHTM, 2010 with multiple references).
- Relationship-level violence is also at high risk. There are many victims in men and women of this violence. The men and women also have intimate relationship with inter partners, peers and family member and don't care for sexual inter-course.
- The community-level gender-based violence or any type of violence reflects to all walks of community in family, schools, colleges, workplaces, neighborhood, etc.
- The social-level gender-based violence and all types of violence especially sexual violence have impact on society. The society faces from these types of problems and day

by day the victims of these types of violence increases. The rape, sexual and physical harassment, dowry death, the divorce, isolation, loneliness, sexual harassment in the name of love marriages, etc. are many social issues in existence in the present era due to that women suffer a lot and now a days there is one more dominant social issue 'Me Too' which has become very popular in media and social media.

Victims of Violence: Sudha Murthy's literature:

The term violence is perfectly interconnected with women and girls. Sudha Murthy is a prolific writer who has minutely observed common people from the society. Commonness and simplicity are features of her writing. The domestic problems, educational problems of women, the family relationship, and the struggle of a woman, marriage problems and so many problems related women are enlightened in the literature of Sudha Murthy. The majority protagonists are struggling females in Sudha Murthy's literature. These protagonists are struggling but they have overcome with their struggles. But these women have become the victims of violence; it may be of GBV, violence against women or the domestic violence.

Mahashweta:

Mahashweta is one of the best examples of the domestic violence. It is minute observation of a woman and her problems. Anupama is the protagonist in the novel who has become the victim of domestic violence. The reflection of Anupama struggle; well-educated woman's role in love marriage, sacrificed life for her husband, the expectations of mother-in-law and step-mother and the family relationships have shown in the novel. The novel began with discriminated thought of the writer-

"Even though the female child is stronger than male child at birth as adults it is the man who becomes oppressor and woman who suffers". (Mahashweta, p1).

The author, Sudha Murthy tries to show through suffer of Anupama that Anupama has become the victim of this male dominated oppressed society.

Dollar Bahu:

The present fictional novel reflects one more victim of violence, Vinuta. She is middle class woman who marries Girish, a banker. The rural middle class girl shifted to Bangalore with Girish's family and starts her struggling life. Vinuta becomes the victim of domestic violence. Here Sudha Murthy tries to show that Vinuta becomes the victim by the female characters, her sister-in-law and mother-in-law. According to her mother-in-law Gouramma, Vinuta's sister-in-

law is more superior to Vinuta who lives abroad and is known as 'Dollar Bahu'. Vinuta is considered as maid for household. Always it was compared richness of Dollar Bahu and poverty and simplicity of Vinuta. But no one knows the struggle of Vinuta except her father-in-law. It means the woman has become the victim of GBV, domestic violence and violence against women not only by men and boys but also by women like; mothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and so on.

House of Cards:

This fiction reflects one more victim of violence, Mridula by this materialistic, practical and selfish male dominant oppressed society. The protagonist of this fictional novel, Mridula meets Sanjay, an impoverished doctor, after falling in love they both decide to marry and settled in Bangalore. Meanwhile Sanjay decides to leave his government job and turned to private practice for more money. The new job pays him more money and desire too. The greed of money increased and the problems of couple started. Sanjay becomes so greedy and he does not remember anything even his family in front of money. At last Mridula decides to leave Sanjay and to go abroad. In this way Mridula has become the victim of the domestic violence.

Sudha Murthy is such prolific author, her each and every protagonist becomes the victim of GBV, domestic violence and violence against women. Approximately all the protagonists of Sudha Murthy are females.

Conclusion and Recommendation:

The gender-based violence, violence against women, and the domestic violence are the core factors for suffer of women. Nowadays media, social media, government at various levels and the judiciary are working together to control any type of violence. At global level there are some recommendations to control any type of violence as follow:

- The India has women related legislation, both constitutional and legal. Specifically Section 304-B and 498-A of Indian Penal Code and provisions of Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Evidence Act along with Article- 14,21 and 39 (A) of the Constitutions of India are available to protect women from various kinds of violence. *The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005* which is effectively implemented from October 26, 2006. It needs to give more protection to the women who have become the victims of any type of violence. There are provisions under Section 498-A and 304-B of

IPC, the women are being harassed continuously by their matrimonial family members and husbands

- The UN Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993 to which India was the party, clearly sought to define “ Violence against women” as-
“ Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”
- “Act of violence enumerated will not only be violated of CEDAW but also be considered to be in violation of a state’s obligation under general international law and other conversations.”

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