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Urbanization and Domestic Violence with Special Reference to Women

^{*1} Mumdam Saring and ² Dr. Mrs. Anga Padu

^{*1} Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

² Associate Professor, Department of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

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*Corresponding Author

Mumdam Saring

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of
Education, Rajiv Gandhi University,
Rono Hills Doimukh, Arunachal
Pradesh, India.

Abstract

Urbanization is highly associated with immense independence and privilege for women worldwide. But there are also considerable risk of violence and constraints on women. Urbanization can intensify the risk factors of women making them vulnerable to attack within domestic setting. Erstwhile, domestic violence against women has been of concern to feminists and cultural sociologists but in 21st century it has also begun to be considered and diagnosed as a developmental problem. The advancement and progressive changes in personal and professional life due to urbanization assists to construct violent attitude towards women which has resulted in heightening the consequences of domestic violence against women. Urbanization has brought remarkable and rapid changes by transforming the rural society into urban society. It is right to say that urbanization and development go hand in hand. However, women living in urban areas are at higher risk of exposure to domestic violence. Hence, urbanization is a significant variable in scrutinizing domestic violence scenes. Its influence in the magnitude of domestic violence is also widely prevalent and cannot be ignored. The present paper, therefore, is an attempt to highlight the role of urbanization on domestic violence against women in based on various secondary sources of data.

Keywords: Urbanization, Domestic Violence, Women.

Introduction

United Nations in its Global Report on Human Settlements 2007 opined that the world is embarking towards a radical urban transportation. Subsequently, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations confirmed in its 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects that with an estimation of more than half of the world's people living in urban areas. Urbanization in general has a positive impact on overall development of the country beginning from the reduction of poverty to human development. However, unplanned, unsustainable and deficient management of resources beneficial for urban expansion can lead to urban violence. In this regard, the Sustainable Development Goal 11 of Agenda 2030 adopted by United Nations is an assurance to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Objective

To examine the role of urbanization on domestic violence with special reference to women.

Materials and Method

The present study is based on the secondary data collected using Google scholar, websites of organizations such as United Nations and other reports and articles pertaining to the topic of the paper were examined.

Result and Discussion

Urbanization can make women more vulnerable to domestic violence. Although, urbanization has a significant impact on women but many still suffers from disabilities and social prejudices hidden beneath social, cultural and religious traditions. The scholarly research based on secondary data in this paper provide an opening into a critical discussion on role of urbanization in domestic violence against women. Urbanization is not a gender-neutral phenomenon and it affects women in many ways in a negative manner, domestic violence is found to be one of the most common problems. In addition, researches revealed that domestic violence rooted in patriarchal relations are ubiquitous all around the world. In spite of the fact that urbanization leads to an increase in the

female and male literacy but has deficient in bringing gender-equality. Urbanization is closely related to development and progressive changes of individuals beginning from living standards to economic growth of the country. Studies revealed that urbanization process lack in bringing adequate radical attitude and thought in curbing domestic violence against women. Urbanization boosts feminization in various spheres but there are women specially belonging to lower socio-economic classes and urban slums face inequity. They are prone to domestic violence due to existence of unmanageable distribution of power, authority and freedom between men and women.

Conclusion

Urbanization has accelerated throughout the world but unfortunately has not been able to tackle the problem of domestic violence. For instance, The NCRB reports on crime against women over the years shows that majority of cases are filed under the IPC 498 (A)-Cruelty by husband or his relatives. Hence, urbanization without a doubt brings both challenges and development for every country but not in a uniform manner. The concept of urbanization, its pros and cons needs to be addressed by means of various programmes and campaigns with utmost social support. Otherwise, the adversity of domestic violence and other associated crimes against women will continue to exist. Thus, the process of nation building requires inclusivity, togetherness and diverse contributions of the common people.

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