

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS: ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMY

By *Arpita Bhattacharjee*

(LL.B Student)

Violence against women and girls is increasing all over the world. Women face diverse forms of violence including murder, domestic violence and dowry related offence, acid attack, rape, gang rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. Violence against women also includes psychological violence. Violence against women and girls leads to gender inequality and stands as a fundamental barrier to equal participation of women and men in social, economic and political spheres. Violence against women and girls is one of the pervasive human rights violations occurring in the world. It occurs in the home, on the streets, in schools, workplaces, farm fields, and refugee camps, during times of peace as well as in conflicts and crisis.

Violence against women and girls brings a huge economic cost to any society. But this widespread violence which causes economic and development problems to remain invisible in strategies to boost economic growth.

Economic development is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation are improved.

Some factors that affect the Economic Growth and Development of a country are – Human resource, Education, Labour mobility, Tourism.

The quality and quantity of available human resources can directly affect the growth of an economy. All the Human resources are not being used as most females are not available as the male population because of the harassment they face at the workplace.

The quality of the human resource is dependent on its skills, creative abilities, training, and education. For example, an educated person might generate new ideas which may lead to the improvement in methods of producing goods. Most of the women could not avail of proper education and skill or training which can be used for productivity and development, because

the will to learn something get over-shadowed by the apprehension of any criminal offense against her.

People need to move from relatively unproductive places to more productive manufacturing places. Women cannot move to places in fear of facing any mishap.

For developing economies with an attractive climate and environment, tourism can be an important source of foreign earnings and incentive to develop infrastructure and new hotels

We can find that even if any girl wants to study or work for the development of the country she is not allowed by her family. The concern of their family is not fully ignorable when there are numerous examples of crimes happening almost every day with women.

Harassment on the street and public transport severely curtail women's freedom of movement, freedom of occupation, and equal opportunity to participate in public, political, economic, social, and cultural life.

Violence against women results in loss of employment and productivity. The level of productivity becomes high only when the whole population of a country works. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population. Women make up half of the country so in order to make any country an entirely powerful country, women empowerment is very necessary.

Violence against women takes place when there is a lack of implementation of proper punishment theory, corruption in the execution proceeding, and delay in procedural law.

Lack of awareness of the seriousness of the problem, the general acceptance of men's superiority over women and denial of violence by the women themselves due to their cultural conditioning and social attitudes encourage these crimes.

Violence to women causes a big loss to society in terms of the female workers who could contribute to recognized economic activity. The less we do about controlling such violence, the more we all lose economically speaking. If the society would effectively eliminate violence against women, the equivalent costs could be dedicated to developing purposes.