

Why Deprivation Matters for Girls and Women from Pre-natal to Geriatric Stage?

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1.0 Introduction

Genetically girls and women are born with more diseases than men, structurally boys are longer and stronger, and functionally girls are soft, tender and beautiful than boys. Both genders vary significantly each other in bio-physiological characteristics and abilities, but complementary and supplementary to each other in many ways. What makes girls to be devalued before males? A boy child is born in a similar manner as a girl child to the same parents? What makes girl to be of less worth to parents and in-laws? Unlike other progressive nations where both parents are equally responsible for rearing children, Indian society has inherited the mother centered child rearing practices. It means both boy and girl are grown for equal amount of time during baby and childhood by the mother. How does a woman discriminate girl child? Why do parents prefer to have a boy child rather than a girl? Researchers currently explored that social and ethical crimes against women and girls is the most fear factors for parents to have and rear girl children in India, after all recent incidents

on gang rape are sufficient to justify how parents having girl children are terrorized.

Despite of the fact that the source of growth, development, maturation and learning is the same, it is ironical that males pick up tendencies to dominate females and females find themselves less superior to males. Is this difference attributed to within home factors? Or, is it attributed to socio-cultural factors? Is this because of the low impact of ethical norms in Indian society? It needs to be resolved in the first century of this new millennium; otherwise gender exclusion will be more cancerous for social stratification process. It may further aggravate Indian economy because of delimiting about half of population to reach at zone of proximal development.

Contributing substantially toward the prosperity of families (in and in-laws) since childhood till death, each girl is socially useful and constructive, economically productive, and above all an effective human resource. Girls learn informally many things efficiently within the family and neighborhood and such informal functional knowledge help them to grow within society and nation at large. “Nor negligible in terms of number, nor less in capabilities, women continue to survive with their identity parallel to the patriarchic social structure prevailing in the societies across nations for ages. History could ever explain; scientific insights and technological inventions could ever prove; humanities could ever discover; researchers and practioners could ever establish that girls are less potential than the boys” (Mohanty, 2013). Scholars having keen interest on the issue of gender equality have been widely examined and explored through interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches and found that gender equality is critical and central to the national development. “Gender parity is the affordable social intervention that could yield much more returns to the society; thereby the need has been felt for bridging the gaps between boys and girls” (Mohanty, 2013).

Girls contribute much more than boys not only at school stage but also in the entire ladder of education. Girls' social and professional roles are symmetrical and progressive across all ages, though they are accorded low socio-metric status. Girls are supportive to their mothers at young age while at the later stage they shoulder the responsibilities of family, neighborhood and society. Bringing girls at par with the boys could fuel the economies of the developing countries to extremes. Ironically, gender disparities exist and significantly prevalent in many of the countries in Asia & Pacific and Africa. Besides poverty, gender disparity is the most powerful and independent factor that lags nations reaching the proximity in inclusive growth and development.

1.1 Sufferings from Pre-natal to Geriatric stage

It is beyond imagination that girls are within a vicious circle of sufferings across all stages of human development—pre-natal, post-natal, babyhood, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. During the pre-natal stage, female foeticide has become the more prominent social problem in India. Gender determination and sex selection is the sole cause of dipping sex ratio in India. The girls have not vanished overnight. “Decades of sex determination tests and female foeticide that has acquired genocide proportions are finally catching up with states in India”, says UNICEF. The traditional method of getting rid of the unwanted girl child was female infanticide, where the female baby was done away with after birth in various ways – either by poisoning the baby or letting her choke on husk or simply by crushing her skull under a charpoy (Jena, 2008). With the advancement of medical technology sophisticated techniques can now be used or rather misused, to get rid of her before birth. Through ultrasound scans and amniocentesis, the sex of the foetus can be determined during

the pregnancy of the woman and then the foetus is aborted if found to be female (Mehta and Kothari, 2001). Despite of the enactment of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act-1994(came into force on 01.01.1996); female foeticide continues to be great threat in India, though states vary significantly from one another. According to the Census of India, the sex ratio in the 0-6 age group in India went from 104.0 males per 100 females in 1981, to 109.4 in 2011. Such trend of drop out in the sex ratio indicates that modern society fails to comprehend female feticide as an illegitimate social ill practice. From post-natal through childhood stage, girls invite displeasure and unhappiness among parents, family members, relatives and friends. Across various localities in India, celebrating birth ceremony of girl children is a never seen event, while people either educated or otherwise enjoy celebrating the birth ceremony of boys in a royal manner irrespective of localities. The prevailing irrational attitude of parents and family members fuels well the process of discriminating girl child from the very day she steps out of mother's womb. A study (conducted by the CSR) recently published in the Times of India reveal that parents feel growing girls is relatively difficult from safety and security perspective. Since babyhood through childhood, girl child is under a continuous physical threat from society, either in the form of physical abuse within family or on streets, or in the form of early sex abuses within and outside of family. Using case study/history approach to discuss a social problem of sexual abuse during early childhood stage, an author (elsewhere) revealed the prevalence of sexual abuse among girls and boys during childhood in India. Within schools, colleges and universities, girl and women face a number of threats from teachers, administration and fellow students. In the job sector, they are not away from various forms of atrocities. Gender parity, a major social issue, is more prevalent in institutions of

higher learning. Governance continues to be in the hands of masculine thinkers than feminine starting from public administration, business administration, and administration in educational institutions at large. “Women who is protected in her adolescence by the father, in her youth by her husband, and in her old age by her son, deserves no freedom at any time”, reveals Manusmriti. Thousands of years after the Manusmriti prescribed a very restrictive code of conduct for women; Indian Society is compelled to inherit certain psychological negative elements in the form of atrocities against women—taking into cognizance the recent decadal records crimes reported before the eyes of law. Delhi Gang rape 2012, Rajasthan; Minor Girl Rape 2013; and Khap Panchayats across decades are some of the recent that attract attention of many of the thinkers. While debating upon the dresses and costumes of girls and women, Indian society has its own norms. If parents any girl or husband of any women allow them to wear the way they like, then questioning dress or clothes of girls and women may proven to be illogical, provided the fiancé of girls, or husband of lady, brother or father should have abilities to protect their sisters physically. Social and political participation of women is restricted in families and many of the parents (rather parents of all per se) don’t encourage girls to participate socially and politically. We hardly notice equal participation of girls/women in universities. Quite a few girls (generic estimation of 10% of total student) are leaders or youth leaders of India. Notwithstanding these achievements, 65 years after independence, the condition of women in general is deteriorating (Hindustan Times,2012). Today a woman is not safe if she is not in the company of her father, husband or son. This ironically justifies the Manusmriti. According to statistics provided in crimes of India in 2011(National Crime Record Bureau), within every two minutes one crime is committed against women in our country and the atrocities are further

fuelled by one molestation every 12 minutes. Rape is occurred in every 22 minutes on one woman. Every 61 minutes, one dowry death and a sexual harassment case is reported. One child is either kidnapped/nabbed/abducted in every 15 minutes. One murder is reported to be in practice in every 16 minutes. Almost 5, 00,000 girls are killed annually before they are born. About 1000(mostly girls) are victims of honor killing per annum. Based on Human Development Index(HDI), India finds its ranking at 134 in the list of 187 countries in the world.

1.2 Pre-natal through Babyhood

1. Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is defined as the infant deaths (less than one year) per thousand live births. The Causes of death Report (2006) of India, sites a number of causes for Infant Mortality. Among infants, the main causes of death are: Certain Conditions Originating in the Peri-natal Period (P00-P96) (67.2%), certain infectious and Parasitic diseases (A00- B99) (8.3%), Diseases of the Respiratory System (7.7%), Congenital Malformations, Deformations& chromosomal Abnormalities (3.3%), other causes (10.6%). In 2010, IMR is reported to be 47 at the national level, and varies from 51 in rural areas to 31 in urban areas.

2. Female Feticide

Abortion is prevalent in rural and urban areas. A total of half a million unborn girls are aborted in India annually, a joint study reported by researchers of India and Canada. According to 2011 census, the country has average sex ratio of 940 females to 1000 males. Kerala has the highest sex ratio at 1084 while Haryana has the lowest at 877. The Union territory of Daman and Diu has a sex ratio of 618. Things don't look set to get better. According to the GOI's Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,

there will be 931 females per thousand males in 2016 and 930 in 2021. The idea that the sex ratio is more skewed among the uneducated or rural population isn't entirely true. In 1901, it stood at 979. More than a century later in 2011, it has fallen to 947. In Urban areas, it was 910 in 1901; it now stands at 926 in 2011. In real terms, India lags behind in implementing laws at grass root level though it has enacted quite a significant number of acts and statutes. It is estimated by the UN that 50 million girls are missing in India due to feticide, a few hundred cases are registered under the PNDT Act.

3. Infanticide

Nobel Laureate for Economics , Prof. Amartya Sen, the 1998 estimates that more than 60 million women are demographically 'missing' from the world as a result of sex selective abortions and female infanticide in China, South Asia and North Africa. Infanticide has been practiced throughout human history in societies where boy children are valued, economically and socially, above girls. Advances in technology permit the modern horror of selectively aborting female fetuses. Medical testing for sex selection, although officially outlawed, has become a booming business in China, India and the Republic of Korea. Oystein Hovi Rognerud(2008) coined the definition on infanticide given by Stedman's Medical Dictionary(2000 stated that " it is defined as the killing of an infant , where an infant is defined as a child under the age of 1 year"). And the Oystein explained that this definition does not just cover the act of terminating the life of an infant, but also passively allowing an infant to die without intervening when this would mean saving the infant's life. Bergman, Beckwith, and Ray (1969) argued that infanticide must be differentiated from sudden infant death syndrome(SIDS). The SIDS is "the sudden death of any infant or young child which is unexpected by history and in whom a thorough necropsy fails to demonstrate

an adequate cause of death” (Beckwith, 1969). Sneha Lata and Renu (2006) reported that most of the women reveal that they killed their babies under pressure from their husbands. Many a time the husbands would beat up their wives and force them to kill the female child because she is an economic burden. Such situations occur more so among poverty stricken families. Srivastava (2001) states that, “the spectre of domestic violence chokes their voices and silences their opposition to attitudes and practices derogatory to their dignity. This social reality does not allow women to protest against any suggestion or coercion to get the female child aborted. It is unthinkable that any woman would readily agree to be a party to the crime. They do so under male pressure, coercion and domination. Thus willingly or unwillingly they become party to the crime for they have no control even over their bodies.” On the case of Infanticide, things are trickier as these cases are often reported as still-births or not reported at all. Indian Penal Code is the guiding law, but many girls born to die within a few weeks from their birth. While urban is not that safe for people to practice due to strict vigilance, rural India brings huge number of real episodes of girl infanticide. Tandon and Sharma (ibid) concluded in their article that “It is, therefore, essential that these sociocultural factors be tackled by changing the thought process through awareness generation, mass appeal and social action. In addition to this all concerned i.e. the religious and social leaders, voluntary organisations, women’s groups, socially responsible media, the doctors; the Medical Council/Association (by enforcing medical ethics and penalties on deviant doctors) and the law enforcement personnel should work in a coordinated way.” Karlekar(1995) reported that “ Of the 1,250 families covered by the study, 740 had only one girl child and 249 agreed directly that they had done away with the unwanted girl child. More than 213 of the families had more than one child whereas half of the respondents had only one

daughter.” The Hindu (on 9th October 2012) published an article titled “India loses 3 million girls in infanticide.” It further noted that “According to the report, female child population in the age group of 0-6 years was 78.83 million in 2001 which declined to 75.84 million in 2011. The population of girl child was 15.88 per cent of the total female population of 496.5 million in 2001, which declined to 12.9 per cent of total number of 586.47 million women in 2011. Similarly the male children population has also declined from 85.01 million in 2001 to 82.95 percent in 2011. During the period, 1991-2011, the child sex ratio declined from 945 to 914, whereas the overall sex ratio showed an improvement from 927 to 940.” A statistical appraisal on Children in India 2012 revealed that “As per Census 2011, the State/ UTs with alarmingly low (<900) child sex ratio are, Haryana (830), Punjab (846), Jammu & Kashmir (859), Delhi (866), Chandigarh (867), Rajasthan (883), Maharashtra (883), Uttrakhand (886), Gujarat (886), Uttar Pradesh (899). The State/ UTs which are having better (>=950) child sex ratio are Mizoram, (971), Meghalaya (970), A & N Islands (966), Puducherry (965), Chattisgarh (964), Arunachal Pradesh (960), Kerala (959), Assam (957), Tripura(953), West Bengal (950). “

4. Malnutrition

Malnutrition during babyhood is the major impediments of holistic development of children during early years. Since nutrition is central and critical to physical, mental, social, motor, moral and aesthetic development at all stages, babyhood through childhood account for more than three quartile of cognitive development continuum by the age of eight years of every normal child. All such development are interrelated to significant extent and grossly affected by malnutrition. Girls are more likely to be malnourished than boys in India. India is

one among the many countries where child malnutrition is severe and also malnutrition is a major underlying cause of child mortality in India. The problem has caught the attention of policy makers and researchers for several decades. Various studies and surveys have been conducted to find out the root causes of child malnutrition. All these studies including the three National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) reveal that malnutrition is not the result of a single cause; the problem is multifaceted, the causes acting singly or in combination with other complex factors like poverty, purchasing power, health care, ignorance on nutrition and health education, female illiteracy, social convention etc. Higher is the percentage of underweight female children (< 5 years) than male children, whereas females are in a slightly better position compared to male children (< 5 years) while considering stunting and wasting. The NFHS 3 (2005-06) results also indicate that malnutrition is more prevalent among children in the higher birth order category. The rural India is witnessing more malnutrition among children < 5 years as higher percentage of stunted, wasted and underweight children were reported from rural areas. High malnutrition of all types prevails in the group of illiterate mothers and mother's with less than 5 year's education. Malnutrition among children is highest for underweight mothers. The percentage of underweight children in the lowest wealth index category (56.6%) is nearly 3 times higher than that in the highest wealth index category (19.7%). The States with more than 50 percent children under five years of age underweight are Madhya Pradesh (60%), Jharkhand (56.5%) and Bihar (55.9%). District level Household Survey (DLHS -3 2007-08) shows only 40.5% children are fortunate to be breastfed within one hour of child birth. Among male and female children (6-59 months) the percentage of children with any anaemia was reported as 69% and 69.9% respectively, severe anaemia was reported for 3.2 % male children and 2.7%

female children. Anaemia was more prevalent in Rural areas (71.5%), than Urban areas (63%). For 81.9% severely anaemic mothers, their children were anaemic whereas 61.5 % mothers without anaemia reported anaemia among children. Percentage of children with severe anaemia among severe anaemia mothers was nearly seven times higher than that among mothers not anaemic. About 76.4% of children (6-59 months) in the lowest wealth index are suffering from anaemia whereas 56.2% children of the highest wealth index are suffering from anaemia. Anaemia prevalence among children of (6-59 months) is more than 70 percent in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Jharkhand. Anaemia prevalence among children of (6-59 months) is less than 50 percent in Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, and Kerala. For the remaining States, the anaemia prevalence is in the range of 50% - 70%. National Nutrition Policy was introduced in 1993 to combat the problem of under -nutrition. It aims to address this problem by utilizing direct (short term) and indirect (long term) interventions in the area of food production and distribution, health and family welfare, education, rural environment during these critical years of life leaves lasting impressions on girls to become useful and productive resources for the nation. Infant mortality, feticide, infanticide, and malnutrition are found to be primitive social problems and can be compared to animal world. Girls are nurtured not like human rather animals.

1. 3 Early Childhood through Late Childhood

Though years of life after birth is more meaningful and important as during young adult and adulthood, there is to

have a consensus or general standardized agreement on what constitutes early years. How many years are to be given top priority—has always been a search for scholars. A Victorian Government initiative (2010) revealed that “People use the term ‘the early years’ in slightly different ways. To some it means the years from birth to eight years; to others it means the years before school; while others focus mainly on the first three years of life. All these periods are critical in every child’s life. The important thing is that we provide real opportunities for children to learn develop and have fun during those years, regardless of what term we use.” While environment provided by home and school are quite important for all children, an intra-gender study on high and low achieving rural scheduled caste rural primary school girls (Mohanty 1999, Mohanty, 2013) revealed an interesting finding. It was found that academic achievement of rural scheduled caste primary school girls is not influenced by home and school environment. Since there are no significant differences in mean scores of home and school environment, it means both high and low achieving rural Scheduled Caste girls are drawn from similar home and school environment; but what makes some girls to achieve high while rest achieve low scores in academic achievement. Environment is narrowly defined in rural context. It is not the infrastructure, or any ICT equipments only, more critical aspect of the environment is activities that are carried out in home and schools. Healthy interactions and instructions could sufficiently promote each child during these years. What are some of these important areas of learning? “Health and physical wellbeing are the basis for all learning and development. Such areas include eating habits, attitudes towards exercise and self care routines build from the child’s earliest experiences. One of the most important things children learn early years is about themselves—that is they develop a picture of themselves that affects the ways they approach any situation, task, or

relationship with another person. An important part of that self concept is the picture they have of themselves as learners” (Victorian Government initiative, 2010). The experiences drawn by the author(Mohnaty, P.) from the Child to Child—Project Motivation in Delhi(1994), Curriculum analysis of Nutrition Health Education and Environmental Sanitation component at Primary stage (1996), Balika Shiksha Shivir(1997) in Bikaner, Rural SC Primary School Girls in Rural Haryana(1999,2005), Adolescent Girls in Tigri Slum in Delhi(1995), Girl Children of Scavengers in Lucknow(2010), Scholarship and educational status of Children including girls in Ambedkar Villages(2012), display more of a deprivation among girls of under privileged communities. Girls are found to be in jeopardy— born as girl in rural context within the lap of class and caste based society

1. Child Labour

Especially girls, the moment they start walking and running, parents start sharing many domestic tasks and put them into local indigenous vocations, either at tea stalls or near the road side restaurants, or in any local shops. In villages, girl children of low socio economic status are employed to domestic chore jobs and serve families of higher economic status. Girls are very often used by their mothers to carry food and water to the fields for their fathers. Child labour prompts girls to pick up many social evils since they come in contact with a wide range of community members with wide variety age groups. International Labour Office, Geneva (2009) reiterated through a publication titled “Give Girls a Chance: Tackling Child Labor, a key to the future” that “the majority of girls who work are in agriculture, with large numbers also working in services and small scale manufacturing. The report looks at the nature of girls’ work in a number of sectors and gives examples of the problems confronting girls. It also considers what can be done to tackle various types of child labour and notes that urgent

action is required to remove girls from the worst forms of child labour. It also points to the need for strategies that prevent girls entering the workforce at an early age and for stronger enforcement of laws against child labour.” Save the Children (India) cites on its web portal that “India is home to more than 12.6 million children who are forced to work in order to survive. These children are working as domestic help, on streets, in factories and farmlands silently suffering abuse. Save the Children works to end exploitative Child labour.” The NSSO survey 2009-10 puts the number of working children at 49.84 lakh and 19.25 percent were female. However, UNICEF’s data of 2004-05 had put the number of working children at the much higher figure of 60 million. Child labour as a practice is not only against the violation of child rights rather it is the illegitimate social practice that exclude children including girls from the other subsequent rights in life. Child labour appears early in societies and empower the children with employment. The earning (economic) helps children to live with delimited needs and aspirations. Though they have imaginations and abilities to go beyond and work much more beyond than what they do as child labourers, yet lack of facilities (educational and recreational) coupled with social and emotional deprivation at home and neighborhood drag children to away from developmental pattern. Those who survive by the grace of almighty tend to lead a deprived life all across all stages of their development. This brings a challenge before the law to curb such practice because the law can never provide funds rather it can detect the ill or bad and practices but remedial and corrective measures are taken by the local and national government with the help of social welfare department.

2. Child Marriage

Child marriage has kinship with child labor. India has inherited child marriage practices from the medieval period. Though political turmoil during pre-British period was the root

cause of child marriage practices in India, yet social, economic, and cultural factors continue to be the major factors alike other countries of the world. When the female partners become ill or inactive due to reasonable grounds, males of the family seek for the house hold services from girl who gets married to the son of that family. Therefore, child marriage has kinship with child labor because the main motive of such child marriage is not the sexual exploitation alone rather exploitation in terms of physical labor and emotions. UNICEF(2011) cited in an Information Sheet that “Child marriage is social concern and a violation of children’s rights—whether it happens to a girl or a boy—as it denies the basic rights to health, nutrition, education, freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation and deprives the child of his/her childhood.” It further reported that nearly half (43%) of women aged 20 to 24 are married before the age of 18. A decline trend is noticed in incidence of child marriage in nearly all states (from 54% in 1992-3 to 43% in 2007-8). UNICEF (2010) reported that 47% of girls are married by 18 years of age, and 18% are married by 15 years of age. For every women aged below 18 getting married in urban areas, they are doing the same in rural areas. Jammu& Kashmir has seen the largest dip in under aged brides at 83%. Kerala is the only State that has been a 50% increase in girls getting married by the age of 18. Child marriage affects 48% women in rural areas and 29% in urban regions. In 2006, the Government of India replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 with the prohibition of Child Marriage Act, violation of which is punishable with rigorous imprisonment. Despite the Delhi High Court declaring the child marriage a violation of human rights, the practice is still rampant. The states with the highest incidence of child marriage in the country are Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Some of the factors (reported by the UNICEF, 2011) that bring child marriage in India to

ponder include, unmarried girls are considered a liability to family honour; child marriage is a way to ensure chastity and virginity of the bride; dowry perpetuates child marriage as it encourages parents to marry off their girls early to avoid an increase in the dowry amount (more educated girls usually require a higher dowry). Girls are considered an economic burden for their family of origin and a “paraya dhan” or property that belongs to the marital family.

3. Education

One of the prime reasons of deprivation among girls is the level of education. Parents seldom keen to invest more on education of girls mainly because of two important reasons. One of them is relating to the social and cultural biasness towards education of boys than girls, and secondly girl children sooner or later will be the member of marital family. “Investing in girls’ education is not considered worthy as girls will be moving to the groom’s household and will be employed in household chores. On the other hand, the limited education and livelihood options for girls lead to marriage being one of the few options for girls’ future”(ibid). Malnutrition at babyhood and child hood, social and cultural biasness, negative attitude of parents and community, male dominated educational set up, male dominated class rooms, gender biased pedagogy make each girl child to suffer from negligible to significant extent than a boy. Regular participation of girls in educational programme is adversely affected due to their involvement in household chores and often taking care of younger siblings. There is 20-40% short fall of attendance for girls in Rajasthan, Bihar, Utter Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Orissa. The shortfall in female schooling is 5-10 % in Assam, Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The Right to Education was enacted in 2010 that ensured all children in the age group of 6-14 free and compulsory education. But by the

age of 6 years, before they could avail the constitutionally enacted education, many girls disappear and remain away from educational networking; either they are being abused or married or being trafficked.

4. Child Trafficking

Since children are soft, tender and easily convinced, people take advantage of this age and start doing lucrative business especially with girls. Hameed et al(2010) reported that India's trafficking patterns indicate that 90% of Trafficking in persons(TIP) is domestic(i.e. intrastate or interstate trafficking), with only 10% taking place across international borders. In addition to being a source for trafficking, India is also a destination and transit country. Factors such as economic development and vulnerability to natural disasters highly impact TIP patterns from region to region. Issues like poverty increase individual's vulnerabilities to the manipulations of traffickers and social norms (e.g. sexism towards women and girls) allow communities and families to subject their loved ones to the scourge of trafficking, sometimes voluntarily. Trafficking creates long-lasting social, economic, and health impacts. India's legal framework is severely flawed. Instead of protecting victims and prosecuting offenders, more often than not, victims are prosecuted and offenders are protected. There are two million child commercial sex workers between 5-15 years of age. They form 40% of the total population of commercial sex workers in India. Five lakh children are forced into this trade every year. Section five of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act of PITA of 1986 states that procuring or inducing a child into prostitution will be met with a minimum seven years prison sentence which can be extended to a life term. The Juvenile Justice(care and protection of children) Act 2000' intends to help the large number of children in need of care and protection but many fall victim to abuse at

state home too. Minor continues to be forced into begging, prostitution, pornography, the organ trade and sex tourism. It is often difficult to distinguish between the cause and purpose of trafficking. Cultural and religious sanction is the cause of trafficking for religious prostitution. Marriage becomes cause or purpose for trafficking young girls for labor or prostitution. People also traffic children especially girls by making adoption a plea.

1. 4 Late Childhood through Late Adolescents

1. Sexual Violence

Violence against girls and women is universal and causes of such aggression by males have never been explained well. Sheela(2000) cited that physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution. Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs. Raman(1995) opined that unlike many other countries, laws in India don't distinguish child sexual abuse from rape. Indeed, the laws against child abuse are only in their developing stage. Bloom (2008) reported that the most common type of violence that women experience worldwide is intimate partner violence (IPV). The WHO multi-country study observed that lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner was reported by 15-71% of women from 15 sites in ten countries. Women who reported being abused at least once in their lifetime were also more likely to experience a range of poor physical and mental health outcomes than those who had never been abused. Sexual, psychological and emotional violence inflicted by an intimate partner is also widespread. It is estimated that at least one in three women are

subjected to some type of IPV over their lifetime. One out of two children in schools have faced sexual abuse according to “Study on Child abuse India 2007” conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 63% of girls in Delhi have experienced child sexual abuse at the hands of family members (Sakshi, 1997). India does not have law on marital rape so even if a husband has sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent, he cannot prosecute for rape.

2. Atrocities against girls at home, neighborhood, schools

Lack of freedom for girls is the single most variable that influences other vital variables that accounted for the highest level of actualization. Families that are educated or semi educated or illiterate (who produce first generation learners), either they are located in urban, semi-urban and cosmopolitans, all families by and large restrict girls to significant extent than boys. These restrictions are imposed on girls by mothers and on boys by fathers. Such restrictions are not the brainchild of mothers rather these are governed and informed by the masculine thoughts. These are considered to be certain form of atrocities against our own girl children that marginalize them in terms of self concept, personality pattern, and learning abilities. Physical abuses are equally critical as the sexual violence. Since they are perceived by society as emotional, society takes the advantages of girls as weaker and abuse physically.

3. Psychological deprivation among Adolescent Girls

Adolescent is the stage where children transform significantly than any other stages in the entire stage of human

development. Physiological changes coupled with psychological factors play significant role in each of the adolescents including girls. Loeber, Rolf et al (1999) reported that the prevalence and onset of abuse in adolescent girls with behavior disorders is discussed. Conduct disorder and major depression were more prevalent in abused girls, and internalized symptoms and truancy were much higher in the dual abuse group. Results from interviewing 49 girls with behavior disorders and their parent indicated a poorer psychiatric prognosis in victims of dual abuse. Middle adolescence, from age 14 to 17 (Blos, 1962), is marked by an increasing intensity of separation from parents, with the emergence of more conflict with parents, who become devalued in the teenager's perception. This is a period of heightened narcissism, a feeling of grandiosity, and a sense of invulnerability that is facilitated by a pervasive use of denial. The teenager at this stage angers parents, who often complain of his or her selfishness and arrogance. Parents feel exploited and unloved and experience a heightened anxiety as they learn of their teenagers' risk-taking behaviors. The adolescent experience of loss of the parents intensifies and cognitive capacities increase as abstract thinking (Pulaski, 1971) becomes a new tool available for coping with psychological distress. Teenagers who have grown up in environments that encourage and facilitate expression of thought (oral or written) as an alternative to action may resort to keeping journals in which they record their sometimes confusing, conflicting and fluctuating feeling states. Where such a psychologically healthy outlet (referred to as sublimation) is not available to a youngster, impulsive action may be the outcome of distressing feeling states. Stansfeld et al (2004) concluded that high rates of depressive symptoms in non-UK White girls may be related to recent migration. Low rates of psychological distress in Bangladeshi pupils in this sample relative to White pupils, despite socio-economic disadvantage, could be associated with

cultural protective factors that require further investigation. While substantiating the finding of the study on educational aspirations of adolescent girls, Kaur(2011) reported that Home environment was also found that to be correlated with the educational aspirations of the adolescents. These results are in line with the findings of Garg et. al (2002) who found that the personal factors like home environment had a strong a direct influence on educational aspirations. Marjoribanks (2003) emphasized about family background differences among adolescents achievement, aspirations and their educational attainment. Though Leigh and Gill (2004) found substantial expansion in the educational aspirations of the adolescents student's, but their families environment and background had played no role that. Li et al. (2006) emphasized on creating conducive home environment conditions for student's high educational achievements and aspirations. Further, the results of the study as reported by Roberts and Moss (2007) showed that there was a negative correlation between family environment and educational aspirations. On the contrary, Singh (2011) revealed that home environment and educational aspirations have no significant relationship with each other in a sample of school students.

4. Sanitation

According to a 2010 survey by AC Nielson, nearly 90% women in India use ashes, newspaper, dried leaves, even husk sand during their periods due to unaffordability of sanitary napkins (SNs). Menstrual hygiene is lowest in eastern India with 83% women saying their families can't afford SNs. Due to inadequate protection during menstruation, adolescent girls miss 5 days of school every month, 23% drop out of school after they start menstruating and over 70% of the women have some

kind of Reproductive Tract Infection in their lifetime increasing the risk of contracting associated cancers.

1. 5 Young Adults through Pre-geriatric Stage

1. Domestic violence

Domestic violence has turned into a severe epidemic across the globe and has taken away the lives of a lot of women and might persist to do so, if not prevented. Though it is difficult to end it completely but awareness is among the top priorities for breaching the cycle of domestic violence. According to the United Nations (1996), domestic violence is defined as "violence that occurs within the private sphere, generally between individuals who are related through intimacy, blood, or law". The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is 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." Violence in the domestic sphere is usually perpetrated by males who are, or who have been, in positions of trust and intimacy and power – husbands, boyfriends, fathers, fathers-in-law, stepfathers, brothers, uncles, sons, or other relatives. Domestic violence is in most cases violence perpetrated by men against women. Women can also be violent, but their actions account for a small percentage of domestic violence. Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though most societies proscribe violence against women, the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the garb of cultural practices and norms, or through misinterpretation of religious tenets. According to Black's Law Dictionary, "Domestic violence means

violence between members of a household, usually spouses, as assault or other violent act committed by members of a household against another.” Domestic violence occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate or harm other. Domestic violence includes all actions/behaviour of family members which causes either physical injury or emotional trauma, or both to a woman. The available statistics indicated that in India 1.5 lakh crimes against women were registered annually, out of which, nearly 50,000 were related to domestic violence only. Around two-third of married women in India were victims of domestic violence and one incident of violence translates into women losing seven working days in the country, a United Nations report reveal. As many as 70 percent of married women in India between the age of 15 to 49 are victims of beating, rape or coerced sex, the United Nation Population Fund report said. The rate of domestic violence is much higher in Egypt (94%) and Zambia (91%) followed by Pakistan (91%), Russia (75%), Japan (59%), Bangladesh (50%) and India (45%).

Domestic violence in India came into sharp focus in 1980s when there was a widespread coverage by the mass media of the growing incidence of torture of brides, dowry deaths and protests against such heinous incidents. Domestic violence has a debilitating effect on women’s physical as well as psychological health.

2. Honor Killing

It is estimated that 1000 honour killings take place per year across India, against the global figure of about 5,000 across the World. (India figures according to 2010 independent study by lawyers Anil Malhotra and Ranjit Malhotra of Malhotra & Malhotra Associates, Chandigarh. Global figures according to UNHRC, 2010).

3. Dowry

Although legislations against dowry system are in place – the first one becoming law in 1961 and another stringent one against dowry deaths formulated in 1986, the practice continues largely because Indian society internalizes a patriarchal culture, which is becoming increasingly consumerist.

4. Sexual Harassment at Work

According to an all India study by NGO Sakshi, 80% women confirmed that sexual harassment existed in their work place. The Supreme Court defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome gesture, behavior, words or advances that are sexual in nature.

5. Divorce

Indian divorce laws are skewed against women because most of them do not enjoy high economic status. Even in the case of claiming maintenance, men can feign loss of wealth. Tracing property in India is tough and women seldom have the means to do so. Men often buy property in the name of their relatives and plead poverty in divorce courts.

1.6 Pre-geriatric to Post-geriatric Stage

1. Socio-psychological Deprivation

The stage is characterized by decreasing physical contact with male partners by the females. Emotional detachment is also noticed that create a gap in the marital relationship between the inmates. This brings substantial amount of socio-psychological deprivation among women than men. Such deprivation is more commonly found among urban non-working but educated females. It is only because the urban environment is not conducive for the socialization because of its structure. In rural areas, the concept of neighborhood helps women to share

emotional feelings. In this stage, family members seek maximum economic support and lack of adequate funds for the welfare of children and family is found to be one of the main reasons because of which both males and females face significant level of deprivation. Since male members get sufficient avenues for ventilation of their frustration and depression, females fail to adjust with such social turmoil.

2. Widowhood

Women in their old age become subject to more subjugation as they are discriminated against for share in property by inheritance or otherwise. Widows, who are left with no socio-economic standing of their own after their husband's death, are abandoned by their families in the religious town of Vrindavan. A Supreme Court appointed panel has highlighted their pathetic condition.

1.6 Conclusion:

Towards the later days in life, women exerts more physically, mentally, emotionally than men. The old stage of women is support less when they support to all throughout their lives. In real terms, in each stage women suffer substantially and lead a cursed life. A very few women are fortunate to have comfort at each stage, but they also enjoy relatively less than males. How to overcome such practices relating to gender inequalities or gender disparities? The only solution to such a massive social problem is to practice the best equally for both boys and girls within each and every family—after all, it is said that” charity begins at home.”

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