



# Gender Based Violence in Different Communities in Rural Area of Gujarat

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## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

This Research paper focuses on Gender-Based Violence in the different communities in rural area special focus on a man using domestic violence against his female partner, to control her. In the Gujarat launched police station-based Support Centers for Women in Gujarat is a new initiative aimed at providing short term/long term counseling and guidance to the needy women –victims of domestic violence and family problems, besides other forms of irritation in coordination with the local police and other Administration agencies. Violence against women is an appearance of power lopsidedness between men and women. This paper attempts to report causes & effects of Gender-Based Violence: Conditions of chronic conflict across the globe make it imperative to draw attention to its gendered health consequences, particularly the violation of women's multiplicative and sexual privileges.

**Keywords:** Gender-Based Violence; Gujarat State, mental & sexual harassment

## 1. Introduction:

The effects of sexual violence in Gujarat resemble those seen in other situations of conflict, including particularly the physical impact as well as the psychological and social effects of rape upon the victims, their families and the community. Women experience trauma to reproductive organs, deaths in childbirth, miscarriages and difficulties giving birth, a rise in and dangers of illegal abortions, sexually transmitted infections, possibly leading to HIV infection because of tears in genital tissues and the resultant bleeding, especially due to gang-rape. The psychological and social effects of rape are devastating. Terrified of being divorced, ostracized, infected with HIV or abandoned by their families, survivors cope as best as they can with their mental health problems in silence and isolation. Despite its particular history and continuing social conditions, the Gujarat case raises questions about the responses of health systems to these patterns of violence that are applicable to many similar situations. Conflict and war have existed through history, and rape and other kinds of sexual violence have always been used as weapons to subjugate the "other". However, in the post-colonial period, because of majoritarian nation-state building, violent struggles and military repression have increased in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic countries of the world's Resurgence of conflicts over ethnicity and nationality, politicized religion, globalization-driven economic policies, revolutionary class struggles, separatist and autonomy struggles and the general failure of

## 2. Social Responses to Gender-Based Violence:

### Sexual violence

The sexual violence perpetrated against Muslim women and young girls was unimaginable. Many women were killed after being raped and mutilated. Those who survived report that sexual violence consisted of forced nudity, mass rapes, gang-rapes, mutilation, insertion of objects into bodies, cutting of breasts, slitting the stomach and reproductive organs, and carving of Hindu religious symbols on women's body parts. Fact-finding reports of several citizens and other groups documented the nature of the violence experienced by women in various parts of Gujarat.

### **Community Networks and Interventions**

A number of studies have shown that involving entire communities in recognizing, addressing and working to prevent GBV is one of the surest ways of eliminating it. To be optimally effective, community networks must bring together all of the responses outlined above, integrating members from all sectors of the community: families; businesses; advocacy groups/civil society; public services such as police, fire fighters and medical examiners; social services such as welfare, unemployment, public housing and health; education; the media and officials from national, state/provincial and local/municipal governments. Community interventions must send a clear message about what gender-based violence is, the different forms it can take, why it is wrong and how to prevent it.

### **Health Care**

Training health care providers to recognize and respond to gender-based violence is one of the most important ways of identifying and assisting victims. Not just obstetrician/gynecologists but all health care professionals must learn to recognize the signs: hospitals (especially emergency room staff); public and private health clinic staff; general/family practitioners; internists; pediatricians; psychiatrists; nurses and the staff of family planning clinics.

### **Working with Perpetrators**

Working with the perpetrators of violence (batterer-intervention programs) has been a controversial and occasionally successful response. While victim assistance services are a useful bandaid to address an existing problem, this approach targets efforts at the source of the problem, attempting to change violent men's behavior

### **Victim Assistance Services**

These are services created or incorporated to respond to gender-based violence, such as: battered women shelters; homeless shelters; financial assistance programs; women's police stations or services; victim advocacy programs; rape crisis, domestic violence and suicide prevention hotlines; legal services; runaway programs; social welfare programs; psychological support services (including individual counseling and support groups) and teen sexuality programs/health services.

### **Support Groups**

While support groups can fall under the heading of victim assistance services, they merit special mention because they are not always externally organized services. Support groups can be a important way for victims themselves to organize pro-actively and take charge of their own situation. Beyond emotional support, group members can also provide one another with a sense of security and even, if needed, a place to go.

### **International Conferences and Conventions**

The international community has come together to address gender-based violence through a variety of conferences, conventions and agreements. Though these do not have the same binding force as domestic law, international conventions such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women can be demonstrative of a state's willingness to acknowledge the problem of GBV and seek solutions. International conventions also hold states accountable to an international and externally monitored standard. International conferences on GBV bring together groups and actors from all over the world, giving them the opportunity to share their own experiences, and learn from others.

### **Media Information and Awareness Campaigns**

The media is a key conduit for making GBV visible, advertising solutions, informing policy-makers and educating the public about legal rights and how to recognize and address GBV. Newspapers, magazines, newsletters, radio, television, the music industry, film, theatre, advertising, the internet, posters, leaflets, community notice boards, libraries and direct mail are all channels for providing information to victims and the general public about GBV prevention and available services.

## **2.2 Role of civil society and women's organizations:**

During conflict, women's organizations and health activists have to support survivors of sexual violence to seek medical help and to register police complaints. Pressure groups like the Jan Swaasthya Abhiyaan (People's Health Movement) also have to ensure that they are present as watchdogs to monitor the quality of sexual and reproductive health services being provided.

## **2.3 Government initiatives**

- ✓ National Commission For Women
- ✓ Gujarat State Commission For Women
- ✓ Panchayati Raj Amendments
- ✓ National Empowerment Policy For Women
- ✓ Nari Gaurav Niti-Gujarat State Policy For Gender Equity

#### **2.4 Realities from Social Counselors:**

When we talk about violence, it is easy to focus on the physical effects. The injuries on the body can be life-changing and can even result in death. It is important however to consider the impact of this incident can have on victim's mental health. Depression, anxiety and low self-esteem are typical repercussions of a violent experience. These psychological effects can be incredibly destructive. Many victims report feeling suicidal tendency. The psychological effect may completely change the personality of the victim. Hence it is important to extend the psychological support to the victim. This support is well extended to the victim through the process of counseling. When we say counseling, it is the provision of professional assistance and guidance in resolving personal or psychological problems. It affects their ability to function normally in the workplace and develop healthy relationships. Hence the role of the counselor in the life of domestic violence victim is considered very important.

#### **3. Conclusion:**

Legislature by itself would not suffice because violence against women is a deep-rooted social problem. It is worth quoting late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who remarked: "Legislation cannot by itself normally solve deep rooted social problems. One has to approach them in other ways too, but legislation is necessary and essential and hence that it may give that push and have educative factors, as well as the legal sanctions behind it, which help public opinion to be given a certain shape." Breaking the cycle of abuse will require concerted collaboration and action between governmental and non-governmental actors including educators, health-care authorities, legislators, the judiciary and the mass media. Education of both men and women will lead to change in attitudes and perceptions. It is not easy to eradicate deep seated cultural value or alter traditions that perpetuates discrimination. In the final analysis, we come to a perspective that gender violence is a violation of human rights that needs to be combated more strongly by both men and women who believe in justice for all citizens irrespective of their class, caste, racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds. It is mammoth task. We are just doing bits and pieces. A way ahead is obscure but in our sphere with concrete and pronounced steps.