



LAW MANTRA THINK BEYOND OTHERS

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CORONAVIRUS CATASTROPHE: NO LOCKDOWN FOR DOMICILIARY BRUTALITY *

ABSTRACT

The term domestic violence is used in many countries to refer to intimate partner violence, but it also encompasses child and elder abuse, and abuse by any member of a household. While women alone don't face domestic violence, the rates of violence and abuse directed at women are high, particularly from perpetrators known to them.¹ *National Legal Services Authority's* Latest statistics vouchsafe that the nationwide lockdown has led to a swift upsurge in cases of domestic violence. The state of isolation or restricted access instituted as a security measure has brought the nation to a halt. The lives of women across the nation, who are in obnoxious relationships, have also come to a standstill. One and the same bestiality is reiterated and carried out repeatedly, and on a sustained basis during the lockdown.

If the tanking economy is the principle concern of the administrations then can they include alcohol an essential commodity? Then they have to decide which their priority is; filling their coffers or protection of these vulnerable women. Electronic media, Print media and social media platforms must be decisively made use of, analogous to the way in which the administration has positioned campaigns propagating for physical distancing and hand washing to resist the contagion.

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¹ Mandatory stay-at-home rules, economic uncertainty, and anxiety caused by the pandemic have led to an increase in domestic violence <https://idronline.org/the-link-between-lockdown-covid-19-and-domestic-violence/> accessed on 6th June 2020.

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“It doesn’t matter how rich or poor a person is, what gender or social class, or how much fame or education she possesses. Verbal, mental, and physical abuse can happen to anyone. It doesn’t matter what a woman’s ethnicity is because the only distinguishing color of abuse is black-and-blue.”

— **La Toya Jackson**

The term domestic violence is used in many countries to refer to intimate partner violence, but it also encompasses child and elder abuse, and abuse by any member of a household. While women alone don’t face domestic violence, the rates of violence and abuse directed at women are high, particularly from perpetrators known to them.² *National Legal Services Authority’s* Latest statistics vouchsafe that the nationwide lockdown has led to a swift upsurge in cases of domestic violence. The state of isolation or restricted access instituted as a security measure has brought the nation to a halt. The lives of women across the nation, who are in obnoxious relationships, have also come to a standstill. One and the same bestiality is reiterated and carried out repeatedly, and on a sustained basis during the lockdown.

The expression ‘lockdown’ itself is to a certain extent is putting on a display an inhospitable or uninviting quality and gives a sense of being trapped. **National Commission for Women** has outstretched a desperate ready to act call about the snowballing number of domestic violence cases since the national lockdown. As an appendage to indecent assault on human rights, sitting ducks of domestic violence can face quite a lot of physical and mental health hitches such as menace of enduring disease, downheartedness, sensual sicknesses, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse etc. If domestic violence was an infection in itself, the lockdown has not only augmented its dissemination rate but has also transformed its DNA to make it a more stubborn metamorphosis.

The courts have taken cognizance of this issue. On ‘April 18’, the *Jammu & Kashmir high court* passed an order taking suo moto cognizance of domestic violence cases during the lockdown, and offered a slew of directions including creating a special fund and designating informal safe spaces for women like grocery stores and pharmacies, where they could report domestic violence/abuse without alerting the perpetrators. The *Karnataka high court* too asked the state government about

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the helplines, and action taken on domestic violence complaints. *The Delhi high court* recently directed the state and Centre to take measures to protect women from domestic violence, following a petition filed by an NGO.³

Can alcohol prompt domestic malice? Conventionally Alcohol and domestic abuse are considered complementary. But if one can carefully probe into this matter, despite the fact that alcohol is every so often enmeshed in matters of close companion ferocity it is not the solitary reason behind it. There is a qualm, Can Alcohol Trigger Domestic Abuse? Even though there is much deliberation expressing a doubt or choice between alternative to weather alcohol can be a solitary prompt in domestic abuse, it cannot be repudiated that it is statistically and additionally intertwined than it isn't. It will be heart-rending to note but statistics reveal, two-thirds of victims of spousal nastiness blazon that the guilty party had been drinking at the time of the eventuality.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that roughly 55% of domestic abuse perpetrators were drinking alcohol prior to assault. Women who are abused are 15 times more likely to abuse alcohol. 68% of the delinquent youths in Oregon treatment programs had witnessed their mother's abuse or been abused themselves.⁴

Recently, numerous anarchic and unwelcoming scenes of crowds inundating at just now re-opened liquor shops in India went viral. Such scenes on the streets of the nation, which has used its wisdom or prudence many times while handling such crunches brings forth a pertinent question, what will be its impact, if any; will such events have on abuse in the home?

When nation was nonresponsive, a number of women's rights connoisseurs cautioned that moves to lift a ban on alcohol would inflame domestic violence, as Husbands' alcohol use has been linked with family-level stress and intimate partner ferocity against women in India. During the time of enduring contagion, one supplicates to inquire - why the liquor shops were unlocked in the first

³ Domestic violence during Covid-19 lockdown emerges as serious concern, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/domestic-violence-during-covid-19-lockdown-emerges-as-serious-concern/story-mMRq3NnnFvOehgLOOPpe8J.html> accessed on 6th June 2020.

⁴ Alcohol and Domestic Abuse, <https://www.alcoholrehabguide.org/alcohol/crimes/domestic-abuse/#:~:text=Alcohol%20and%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Statistics,more%20likely%20to%20abuse%20alcohol,> accessed on 6th June 2020.

place. If the tanking economy is the principle concern of the administrations then can they include alcohol an essential commodity? Then they have to decide which their priority is; filling their coffers or protection of these vulnerable women.

Distressingly, the authorities turned a deaf ear to the pleas of these tormented women and are maintaining annoying indifference at the plight of these women. Though the existing protection of women from domestic violence act, 2005, gives some hope, yet, India needs some specific acts to address this quandary.

“I Can't

I can't tell you how I really feel. You'll just get mad and yell.

I can't do the things I really want. You cop an attitude.

I can't feel things the way I really do. It hurts too much.

I can't talk to you about my dreams. I had to give them up.

I can't cut or dye my hair without you getting mad.

I can't be free to make my own choices, you don't like them.

I can't see the light; your darkness is too over-powering.”⁵

- *Anonymous*

Domestic violence is greater among poorer sections is One of the big myths about domestic violence. In veracity even the rich and middle-class women are not invulnerable to it. Helpdesks, shelter homes and legal help for those who experiences or is subjected to something bad or unpleasant like domestic violence are distressingly insufficient at these testing times. With the unexpected lockdown, when womenfolk find themselves sequestered, unaccompanied and susceptible, what are their options? The answer will be practically none.

The need of the day is belligerent countrywide crusade to endorse wakefulness about domestic violence, and bring into light the different ways through which grievances can be registered. Electronic media, Print media and social media platforms must be decisively made use of, analogous to the way in which the administration has positioned campaigns propagating for physical distancing and hand washing to resist the contagion.

⁵ I Can't http://www.hiddenhurt.co.uk/domestic_violence_poems_1.html#cant accessed on 6th June 2020.