

Violence against Women –Safety and Security of Women: A Perpetual Study in Nagaon District, Assam

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ABSTRACT

India is well known its great tradition and culture where women have been given the most respected place in the society. It is the country where the woman was considered safe and most respected. Women were given on the Goddess place. Now, Indian women are working in all around the fields like aeronautics, space, sports, politics, banks, schools, police, business, army and many more. Through Indian women are found good respect and status in our society, but we cannot ignore some of the negative aspects where on every day some women are getting harassed, molested, assaulted and victimized at various places all over the country. Thus safety and security of women is key issue for the society. We should not blame other as it is the responsibility of each and every person especially men who need to changed their mind set towards women. To solve the problems of conflicts, care should be taken to socialize people to foster a culture of peace that upholds justice and tolerate for all. To do this, the women should be encouraged through education, training, community action, awareness programme, and youth exchange programme.

Key words: Nagaon, violence, women

INTRODUCTION

Women in fact, not only in primitive society, but also in this modern global world irrespective of rural or urban, poor or rich is treated as tool in kitchen room and toy in the hand of her husband and collaterals. Women are being treated inferior to men as if the women cannot act independently since the immemorial time one of the serious problems of human kinds in violence. All over the world, violence is one of the main causes of mortality among people with ages between 15 to 44 years. Violence against women is present all over the world and involves women of all ages, social classes, races, ethnic groups and sexual

orientation. Irrespective of the type : physical sexual, psychological or related to assets, violence is associated to power and to inequality in genders relations, due to general domination by men, and it is also associated to the dominant ideology that support it.

Stages of Violence against Women:-

- **Pre Birth:** In this stages include-Sex selective abortion, effects of battering during pregnancy on birth.
- **Infancy: Female infanticide, sexual and psychological abuse.**
- **Girlhood: Child marriage, physical sexual and psychological abuse, incest, child**

- **prostitutions and pornography.**
- **Adolescence and Adulthood: Acid throwing, economically coerced sex, incest, sexual abuse in the work places, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking in women, partner violence, marital rape, dowry abuse and murders etc.**
- **Elderly: Forced “suicide” or homicide of windows for economic reasons, sexual, physical and psychological abuse.**

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is not a new one because it has been continuing since long ago. Some of the evidence against in this regards:-

- Devadasis
- Satidah Pratha
- Purdah Pratha
- Jauha

Some of the socio-cultural and religious factors are the roots of violation of women’s rights of Indian people. Here on one hand, the people worship women as goddess like Lakshmi, Durga, Kalimaa, Arnapurna, Saraswati etc., on the other hand in the same household she is tor-

mented, beaten, rape and burnt to death. In Ramayana, Sita has to undergo “agnipariksha” to prove her satittwa i.e. purity and again she was exiled by Ramachandra (husband of Sita and God of Hindus) under especial compulsion even when she was pregnant. Again in Mahabharata, Pandava lost their wife in a game of dice and finally could not protect her from the trauma of Vastraharana. In the time Muslim rule in India, the customs of paardah, child marriage, keeping Haren by rich persons were human rights. During the time of Manu, a woman was nothing but a domestic slave. In satidah pratha, after the death of husband, a wife has no meaning of her life, so she was forced to die with husband dead body. These are the examples and clear pictures of violation of women’s rights in ancient India.

Assam continues to be unsafe for women, with at least 3009 rape cases and 17106 cases of violence against women registered since the Honorable Chief Minister Sarbanandra Sonowal government took charges in 2016. The Table no: 1, which is given below shows the cases of dowry deaths in India and Assam during 2008 to 2012. The Table 2, which is given below shows the numbers of rape cases in India and Assam during 2008-2012.

Table 1. Numbers of Dowry deaths in India and Assam

Year	Nos. of Death in India	Nos. of Death in Assaam
2008	8172	103
2009	8383	170
2010	8391	175
2011	8618	125
2012	8233	140

Source: National Crime Report Burea, 2014

Table 2. Numbers of Rape Cases in India and Assam

Year	Nos. of Rape Cases in India	Nos. of Rape Cases in Assam
2008	21467	1419
2009	21397	1264
2010	22172	1721
2011	24206	2011
2012	24923	1716

Source: National Crime Report Bureau, 2014

The safety and security of women is key issue of nowadays and everyone has to play important role to make female aware around you about their safety and security.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the importance of Women Safety and Security.
- To Understand the Strategies adopted for women Self-Safety.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, an attempt has been made to know about safety and security of women of Nagaon District in Assam. The study is mostly based on primary and secondary data. For collection of primary data, a Likert type five point's scale is

adopted to the questions as per applicability. The questionnaire was distributed to the selected women's of the district. It was also collected personally from them. After collection of data, it was analyses, interpreted and tabulated. Finally, a simple percentage technique is applied to make data meaningful and give significance to the values in Pie diagrams and bar diagrams.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table: 3 reveals that only 72 percent of women feel that there is no safety and security in their life when they are going to outsides from their residence. Only 11 percent of women feel importance of safety and security in their life. 15 percent of women have no responds in regards of safety and security in their life.

Table 3. Respondents Feeling in Regards of Safety and Security of their Life (Figures in Percentage)

	Very High	High	Neutral	Low	Very Low	NR
How much is important women safety and security in your life	4	7	2	25	47	15

Source: Primary data.

(NR=No Responds)



Figure 1. Respondents Feelings in Regards of Safety and Security (Source:- Primary Data)

Table 4. Strategies Adopted For Self Safety and Security

Types of Strategies Adopted	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	NR
Keeping Cell Phone	71	26	3	-	-	-
Keep Alert about Surrounding Activities	50	27.5	12.5	4	-	6
Down Loaded Apps in mobile	5	10	8	42	30	5
Moves in groups & Relatives	27	25.5	17.5	16	3	11

Source: Primary Data

Table:4, shows that 71 percent of women always keep mobile phone with them and 50 percent of them are always alert about the surrounding activities. Very few numbers of respondents (5%) are using and have download

security apps in their mobiles. It is also observed that about 27 percent of women move outsidess in groups and relatives when they were leaving their residence.

Table 5. Avoid Situation

Types of Situations	Always	Often	Some Times	Rarely	Never	NR
Isolated & Dangerous Places	52.5	23.5	15	4	-	5
Waking in Odd Hours Alone	35	18	16	5	14	12
Hidden and Lonely Place	38	12	28	7.5	9.5	15
Dangers/Bluff/Cheat Women/Bed Elements	41	13	13	14	10	-

Source: Primary Data

Table 5, reflects that 52.5 percent of women always avoid isolated places and dangerous locations. Even 35 percent of respondents never do walking in odd hours alone. It is also found that a good numbers of women (38 %) avoid to room at hidden and lonely places and moreover 41 percent of women avoid dangerous, bluff and bad elements.

Table 6, observed that women are not satisfied to Government and Administrative system with their infrastructural facilities available in their locality. 60 percent of women never satisfied about the police patrolling in their areas and 62 percent women feel that there is no female security staff with police persons in patrolling duty. More than 57 percent of respondents said that there are no proper lighting facilities during night, avoid remote isolated places.

Table 6. Expectation of Safety from Government and Administrative

Types of Expectation	Highly Adequate	Moderate Adequate	Adequate	Less Adequate	Inadequate
Sufficient Police Patrolling	2	7	13	18	60
Proper Lighting at Night	8	12.5	21.5	40	18
Proper Lighting in Remote Area	7	13	23	38	19
Female Staff in patrolling	3	8	12	15	62

Source: Primary Data

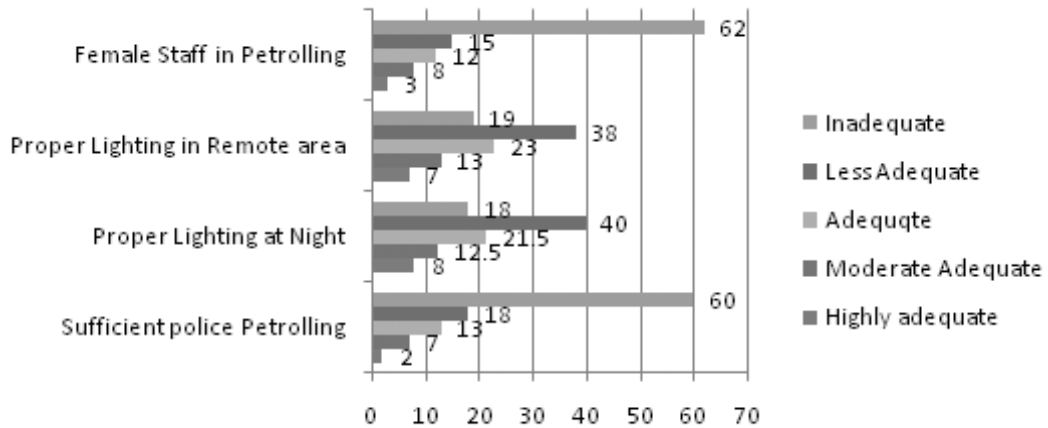


Figure 2. Expectation of Safety from Government and Administrative (Sources: Primary Data)

Table 7. Satisfaction of Women, the efforts are being made by Government and Administration

Satisfaction Scale- ->	Highly Satisfied	Moderate Satisfied	Satisfied	Less Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Percentage of satisfaction	-	12.5	23.5	25	49

Source: Primary Data

Table 6, observed that only 23.5 percent women are satisfied, 12.5 percent women are moderately satisfied and 49 percent women are not satisfied in efforts being made by the Government and Administration in totality for satisfy and security of women.

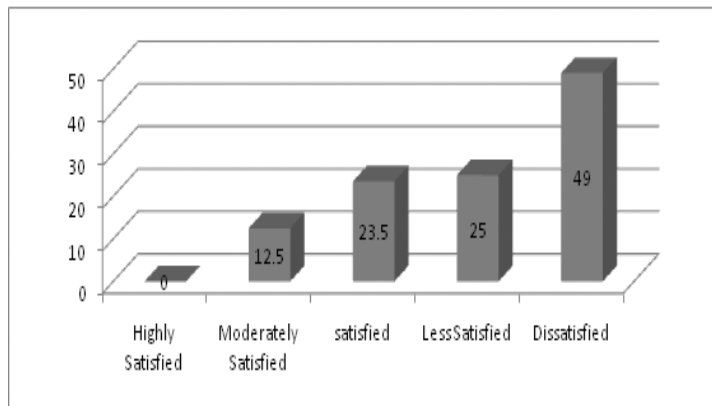


Figure 3. Satisfaction of Women, the efforts are being made by Government and Administration (Source: Primary Data)

FINDINGS

From the discussion, it is found that 72 percent of women feel that there is no safety and security in their life. 71 percent of women always keep mobile phone with them and most of them always alert about the activities happening around them. It is also observed that a good number of women are always movement with their groups and relatives.

Many women always avoid isolated places, hidden places and dangerous locations. 41 percent of women avoid taking with strangers dangerous, bluff and bed elements 35 percent of women avoid walking in odd hours alone.

From the discussion it is also found that most of the women feel that there is inadequately

in respect of efforts made by Government and administration for safety and security of the women in the district. Most of the women in the district are not satisfied with the infrastructural facilities available in the district such as improper lighting at night and remote areas.

In nutshell 74 percent of women are not satisfied and only 12.5 percent of women are moderately satisfied in efforts being made by the Government and administration for safety and security of their life.

SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

Safety and Security of women is very essential both in and outside the home. Despite the formation of various rules and regulations by the

central as well as state government to control the crimes against women, the numbers and frequently of crimes is against women are increasing day by day. Women are doubtful about their safety and security while going anywhere outside their home. Actually, we the people should not blame the government because women safety is not only the responsibility of each and every citizen especially men who need to exchange their mind set for women.

Women safety and security is a big social issue which needs to be solved urgently by the efforts of all. In order to improve the condition of women regarding safety and security, the following suggestions are given in the state with special reference to the Nagaon district.

1. To increase the educational status of the women because most of the women belongs to low educational status.
2. To increase the awareness level of the women about their rights and provisions that is included in the Indian Constitution as well as different Acts.
3. Train girl child in self-defense techniques and also focus on gender discrimination and sensitization programmed in rural and urban areas.
4. Establishment of toll free help Numbers (24/7 days) for receiving and attending complains, counseling, police help etc.

5. Extent equal treatment by parents from childhood to make girl child also physically strong.
6. Immediately give punishment and take disciplinary action in case of crime against women.
7. Provide proper lighting facilities in night time, in remote areas and isolated areas.
8. Introduce police patrolling with female police regularly.
9. Introduce CCTV cameras on the streets.

Thus Safety and Security of women is key issue for the society. We should not blame others as it is the responsibility of all citizens especially men who need to change their mind set towards women.

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