

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

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Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Twenty-First Century and Measures to Stop It

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Abstract

Violence occurs around the globe, and thousands of people die every year as a result. There are various forms of violence, from domestic violence to violence against children and women. Domestic violence is physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a partner in a relationship. It is not only debated within our society, but also around the rest of the world. The amount of violence that occurs can range from a single infraction, to ongoing battering. Domestic violence is a complex issue that affects society repeatedly. Many studies have indicated that the perpetrators of domestic violence are men, while others have argued that women are also perpetrators of violence. With the increasing cases of domestic violence in society, it should be stopped. This paper examines scholarly articles on the subject of domestic violence, in an attempt to measure its prevalence in today's society, and determine ways to stop domestic violence. Keywords: impunity, abuse, enforcement

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How does a person feel when his father is beating his mother, or the other way around? Would you be able to handle the situation after seeing violence occur between your parents? The effects of domestic violence have been felt in society since the dawn of human existence. In the modern era, the trend has continued, with people often getting injured, psychologically tortured, sexually abused, and even killed. The government and other agencies need to join hands and fight this vice, which has continued to be a major cause of separation and divorce that people experience every day. Victims of domestic violence have suffered a lot without involving other people in their neighborhoods because they fear they will not be helped, thus suffering psychologically and emotionally. This kind of problem in society has to be stopped, since what parents are teaching children is a problem that will continue as long as human beings exist (MedlinePlus 2014).

The government should involve children and make them aware of the problem. They should be taught that domestic violence is not right. They should be informed that cultures that support it are already outdated. They should be taught about the effects of domestic violence. When the government does so, it will save lives, save money for therapy, and diminish the occurrence of domestic violence in the future. Children are an opportunity to be agents of change in society, and they should not be ignored or uninformed about what is happening in society. Otherwise, the

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same problem can still happen to them later in their lives. It is important to note that about five million children are affected by domestic violence annually, and about forty million adults in the United States grew up witnessing domestic violence. In order to put an end to this problem, children should be taught how to handle issues, even when they are angry or unhappy when something concerning them has failed to be fruitful as they had planned (“Childhood Domestic Violence Association” 2014).

The majority of people claim that when two people are living in the same house, they fight. Therefore, with these kinds of thoughts, many people continue to live in abusive relationships. After domestic violence has occurred and the psychological effects have worsened, various organizations and the government intervene. It is agreeable that domestic violence is a crime. A person cannot physically traumatize someone while everyone else keeps quiet about the issue. In this situation, justice should be exercised since someone has violated another person’s rights.

Lakshmi Puri, the acting head of the United Nations women’s panel, said that the least prosecuted issue in society is domestic violence. She stated that impunity and abuse against women should be stopped. Therefore, it is evident that domestic violence is a global issue, and it should be treated just like any other criminal act. Leaders and other influential figures who believe the same should break the silence and address the issue that has continued affecting people in society. About 70% of women continue to live in abusive relationships by being battered, while others are intimidated. These women do not want to address the issue because they do not want to be seen as exposing the issues of their families. Moreover, about 140 million

women and girls suffer from female genital mutilation, one million are trafficked, and rape cases
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have increased. It is important to address the issue in the best way. If this problem is not addressed with the seriousness it deserves, people will continue torturing and isolating each other. Moreover, more serious consequences will continue being felt afterward, affecting future generations. Many countries have already enacted laws that address violence against women, but the enforcement part is lacking. Puri (2013) believes that in order to stop this matter, the laws addressing the issue should be emphasized, and women should be informed about their rights.

Women in society should be empowered so that they can fight for their own rights. With domestic violence against women being felt so strongly in society, women need to be trained on gender equality and empowered to speak out about the issues affecting them in their families. There are many women who suffer in abusive relationships because of their cultural values. For women who have suffered abuse, it is time that they are empowered to speak for their rights and learn possible ways of solving issues in an amicable way. Seminars organized for married couples have proved to be essential in preventing domestic violence. In addition, during the seminars, they are taught about the rights each party has, as well as the best ways of solving their issues rather than engaging in violence (“UN Women”).

Even though there are some people who claim that domestic violence cannot end as a result of the beliefs of their communities and the environments they were brought up in, I believe that when people are provided with the right information, the problem can come to an end. The only way it can come to an end is through education and by ensuring that the community is organized and that such things cannot happen. Moreover, women in families should be given free

information and guidance to show them how to solve their issues, as well as how to respect each

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other's rights. When people have an organized community that is known for its good behavior and support of moral values, especially in the ways family issues are handled, it will help fight against domestic violence. In an ideal situation, people are taught and given guidance on sustainable ways of living as husband and wife, which would be effective in ensuring that everyone is happy and satisfied in that family (Nonell 2013).

Overall, domestic violence involves psychological, emotional, physical, and verbal abuse from one spouse to the other. Domestic violence has been affecting society and family members for a long time. Proper education for children, enforcement of laws, women's empowerment, and the establishment of a stable community that emphasizes the best practices of living as a family can help bring the issue to an end. Even though the majority of people claim that ending domestic violence is difficult because of cultural beliefs, early exposure to violence, and discrimination against women, I believe that the problem can come to an end once and for all. It is the duty of every person to respect the rights of others and learn to solve issues in a logical manner without engaging in any violence.

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