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M.A Political science IV Sem
Human Rights(402)
UNIT-III

TOPIC NAME-WOMEN & THE MARGINALIZED

Introduction

- Physical and psychological violence, sexual abuse, acid burning, genital mutilation, femicide, human trafficking, slavery. These and many others are the risks faced every day around the world by millions of women of all ages, social classes, and cultures. Violence against women is the consequence of inequalities in the power distribution between men and women within society, both past and present, which if not properly and promptly tackled will remain a cause of future death among women. This thematic issue on "Women, marginalization, and vulnerability" is meant to be a contribution to the international debate on the status of women in the world.

Definition

▶ The definition of marginalization is the process of making a group or class of people less important or relegated to a secondary position.

▶ When one class of people is grouped together as second class citizens, this is an example of marginalization.

Concept of marginalized woman

- women' like widows, dalit women, tribal women, refugee women, so on and so forth. The deliberations made me think as to who constitute 'marginalized women' when 'women' being women are marginalized in the patriarchal world. Women as a 'category' or as a 'group' in comparison to 'men' have been relegated to margins due to systemic and structural discrimination within the society. Women, irrespective of their hierarchical status, ranking or background, face violence within public and private spaces, they are being doubly discriminated and denied of the basic rights and are often oppressed by norms, culture and customs in a male dominated world where capitalism and globalization commodifies and objectifies women. Considering this aspect, the term 'marginalized women' needs rethinking as to which of the subgroup of category 'women' may be classified as 'marginalized women' and whether these marginalized women can use marginality as a site to contest for their rights and entitlements.

What marginalized women?

▶ to relegate to an unimportant or powerless position within a society or group

▶ **:** to assign to a place of insignificance or of oblivion **:** put out of sight or mind

▶ **b:** to assign to an appropriate place or situation on the basis of classification or appraisal

▶ **c:** to submit to someone or something for appropriate action **:**

▶ **d:** to transfer (a sports team) to a lower ranking division

What are the types of marginalization?

▶ Though there are various **types of marginalization**, we identifl some broad **types**, such as social, economic, and political margmdization. bringing more and more people into its system, more communities are dispossessed of lands, livelihoods, or systems of social support.

Women From Marginalised Communities Are More Vulnerable To Hate Crimes

► In the indian context For instance, it is extremely hard to forget the incident that took place in early January, where the gang-rape and murder of an eight year old girl in Kashmir was motivated by communal hatred. The child was not just targeted for her gender, but also her religious identity. A lesser-known fact is that she came from an indigenous community, which made her even more vulnerable.

► Many women in the country have faced several layers of discrimination, which has been reflected in Amnesty International India's website, 'Halt the Hate'. In the first six months of 2018 alone, 30 incidents of alleged hate crimes have been reported where the victim is a woman from a marginalised community.

► On 23 February, an 18-year-old Dalit woman while on her way to the market was doused with kerosene and set ablaze. In another reported case in February, 48-year-old Sangeeta Devi and her sister-in-law, 38-year-old Sarita Devi, went to farm a plot of land. Allegedly, upper-caste Hindu men attacked them with axes and sticks. So far, in 2018, there have also been 11 incidents of sexual violence that have been reported against Dalit women.

► In most of these cases, one can see that these women have faced hate crimes not just because of their gender but also because of their caste or religion. It is important for authorities to recognise the complexity of the discriminatory motives behind these crimes, and not just record these cases as crimes against women.

► We must do better for victims and survivors of hate crimes. While recording data on hate crimes, civil society organisations and authorities must ensure that hate crimes against women from marginalised communities are recorded in a disaggregated manner so that we can better recognise their increased vulnerabilit.

Gender Based Violence

- Violence against women and girls in India is widespread. Despite some progressive legislative measures in recent years, brought about due to pressure from women's rights movements, the media and public campaigns, many women continue to experience discrimination and violence in their everyday lives Gender-based violence takes place in both public and private spheres. It is often under-reported as a result of systemic and social barriers, and formal mechanisms to address it remain ineffective.

- Women from Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised communities are disproportionately affected by sexual violence. Their marginalisation also narrows their avenues to access justice.

Scope of the problem

Population-level surveys based on reports from victims provide the most accurate estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. A 2013 analysis conduct by WHO with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the South Africa Medical Research Council, used existing data from over 80 countries and found that worldwide, 1 in 3, or 35%, of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence *(3)*.

Global & Regional Astimates of voilance against women

▶ Almost one third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. The prevalence estimates of intimate partner violence range from 23.2% in high-income countries and 24.6% in the WHO Western Pacific region to 37% in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region, and 37.7% in the WHO South-East Asia region.

▶ Globally as many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners. In addition to intimate partner violence, globally 7% of women report having been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner, although data for non-partner sexual violence are more limited. Intimate partner and sexual violence are mostly perpetrated by men against women.

Ending violence against women

▶ Violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights. Its impact ranges from immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental consequences for women and girls, including death. It negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. Violence not only has negative consequences for women but also their families, the community and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater health care and legal expenses and losses in productivity, impacting national budgets and overall development.

▶ Decades of mobilizing by civil society and women's movements have put ending gender-based violence high on national and international agendas. An unprecedented number of countries have laws against domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of violence. Challenges remain however in implementing these laws, limiting women and girls' access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished

Our Solutions

- Women's right to live free from violence is upheld by international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women(CEDAW), especially through General Recommendations 12 and 19, and the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. UN Women works with countries at the global level to advance the international normative framework through support provided to inter-governmental processes, such as the General Assembly and the CSW. At the country level, UN Women supports Governments in adopting and enacting legal reforms aligned with international standards.

- We partner with Governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other institutions to advocate for ending violence, increase awareness of the causes and consequences of violence and build capacity of partners to prevent and respond to violence. We also promote the need for changing norms and behaviour of men and boys, and advocate for gender equality and women's rights

Sexually violent acts can take place in different circumstances and settings.

- **harassment**

- Sexual harassment includes non-contact forms, like sexual comments about a person's body parts or appearance, whistling, demands for sexual favors, sexually suggestive staring, stalking, and exposing one's sexual organs at someone. It also includes physical contact forms, like grabbing, pinching, slapping, or rubbing against another person in a sexual way.

- **Rape**

- Rape is non-consensual vaginal, anal or oral penetration of a sexual nature of the body of another person with any bodily part or object. This can be by persons known or unknown to the survivor, within marriage and relationships, and during armed conflict.

Marginalization of Women in the Society

▶ most women in the society are faced with numerous challenges and problems. Some of the major challenges that women face in the society today include gender discrimination and marginalization. Despite various calls by human rights activists and non-governmental organizations to abolish and eliminate discrimination and marginalization of women, there are still numerous reports that indicate that women are highly marginalized in the present society.

▶ which women have been marginalized in the society. It also looks at the negative impacts that marginalization has caused on the victims. The last paragraph gives personal views and suggestions on how marginalization of women may be reduced within the society. It postulates that various approaches and measures that may be taken to prevent further marginalization and discrimination of women.

Gender Discriminations in the Workplace

- marginalization of women has also resulted into dominance of men in the workplace. Today, many powerful positions in most large organizations are dominated by men due to marginalization of women from holding such positions. In my opinion, this has resulted into gender discriminations in the workplace, inadequate utilization of the abilities and capabilities of women and gender imbalance at the workplace. Additionally, most women who get discriminated at the workplace based on their gender often get demoralized and discouraged from working.

- Consequently, they develop low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence and lack of intrinsic motivation, hence may perform poorly at the workplace. This finally results into reduced productivity at the workplace which negatively affects the society as a whole. Marginalization of women in the society has also resulted into reduced number of female role models within our communities. In extreme cases, women who are leadership positions may also be demoted or dismissed from their employments without any solid reason.

- In certain communities, especially in Africa and India, women have been marginalized towards educational opportunities, for example, girls are rarely awarded scholarships and educational grants. This has resulted into reduced numbers of educated women in those communities. Most traditional societies view women as housewives who should neither get education nor go to work

Conclusion

► In conclusion, I would argue that marginalization of person often results from various stereotypes and other preconceived notions that people develop in the society. Therefore, it is important for the society to avoid such destructive stereotypes and assumption about its members. As Oprah Winfrey states in her television talk-show *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, marginalization of women depicts serious flaws in assumptions that the society has developed towards women. I would suggest that the society should take the sole responsibility to ensure that women are not marginalized within the society in any way or manner whatsoever.

► It is the responsibility of members of the society to guarantee and provide women with adequate support they may require in relation to employment, education, policy formulation activities among other roles. The society should make certain that the needs and concerns of women are fully addressed. Gender discrimination and other maltreatments that might be directed towards women should be highly discouraged, condemned and stopped.

► Additionally, women should be empowered by providing them with adequate resources such as finances that would enable them start their own business. This would reduce over-dependence of women in the society. Women should also form professional groups where they can share their experiences on leadership and learn from one another.