

# Violence against Women: Use Technology to Protect Women or Girl in Problematic Situation

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**Abstract:** Few topics today draw the attention of researchers in social science, government, planning groups, social workers and reforms as the problems of women do. One important problem relating to women who have been greatly ignored and shunned is the problem of violence against women. The problem of violence against women (VAW) is not new. The history of violence against women remains vague in the scientific literature. This is in part due to the fact that many kinds of VAW (specifically rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence) often go unreported or under-reported, often due to societal norms, taboos, stigma and the sensitive nature of the subject. It is widely recognized that even today, a lack of reliable and continuous data is an obstacle in having a clear picture of VAW, so a historical picture of violence against women becomes even more difficult to capture. This issue of the social problem will lead a social action into deeper reflection on the status and struggles of women and stimulate our thinking to end violence against women. The United Nations Secretary Campaign UNiTE campaign orange day will focus use technology to prevent violence against women. There are many new technological tools that can help to protect and alert women and girls in a problematic situation. In this regard, the researcher proposed to conducted to the study "Violence Against Women: Use Technology To Protect Women Or Girl In Problematic Situation" to find out various technological ways to protect women. These data have been collected from various research books on the subject and also some articles.

**Keywords:** Violence on Women, Forms of Violence, Need and Use of Technology

## 1. Introduction

Newspapers and periodicals of all hues in India often carry reports about violence against women. Women dying in abnormal circumstances, Rape on hapless women and molestation of young girls. On the other hand, domestic violence suffered by women on a regular basis in the form of psychological or physical abuse goes unreported. The problem of violence against women is not new. Violence against women is now widely recognized as a global problem and one of the Women in Indian society have been victims of humiliation (Joseph Xavier, 2014).

Studies have shown that violence against women is an obstacle to development. It is impossible to take the country in the path of development leaving behind half the sky (Joseph Xavier, 2014). A number of evidence-based studies have shown that the family is not always a safe and secure place for women. Rather, domestic violence is one of the most pervasive and common types of gender-based violence (Aruna Goel et.al 2006). Gender-based violence stems from the failure of the society, starting from family, to recognise the human rights of women and the lack of political will of the state which is dominated by the patriarchal mindset.

The cases regularly exposed to news of extremely disturbing and increasingly violent incidents, including of gang rapes, molestation and sexual harassment of women and minor children through the print and electronic media (Sheela Saravanan,2000). The issue of violence against women in India was brought to the forefront after the brutal gang-rape of a 23-year old woman on Delhi 16 December 2012. The December incident led to a sudden outpouring of anger and frustration about the situation that allowed such attacks to take place (Deepa Singhal & Akhlaq Ahmed, 2013).

## 2. What is violence against women and girls?

Violence against women and girls is 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women or girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life' (Ram Ahuja, 2009). Girls and young women under the age of 18 years are further subjects to violence when they suffer the 'neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation' that is part of the broader definition of violence against children (Deepa Singhal and Akhlaq Ahmed, 2013).

## 3. The Scope of the Problem

Violence against women (VAW) is, collectively, violent acts that are primarily or exclusively committed against women. Sometimes considered a hate crime, this type of violence targets a specific group with the victim's gender as a primary motive. Violence is connected to power and dominance and manifested through unfavourable power dynamic, violence devised by a patriarchal ideology is not only a crime but a violation of human rights of women. Women across all regions, ages, religions, classes and political affiliations are vulnerable to violence; their safety is guaranteed neither in the home nor in public spaces (Dr P. M. Nair, 2007).

Violence is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace, In further asserts, In all societies to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse (Prugl, E.2013).

Violence against women is a basket of crimes. In this basket one can dig out the elements of abduction, kidnapping, illegal detainment, illegal confinement, criminal

intimidation, hurt, grievous hurt, sexual assault, outraging modesty, rape, unnatural offences, selling and buying of human beings, servitude, criminal conspiracy, abetment etc. Violence against women can fit into several broad categories. This issue of the social problem will lead a social action into deeper reflection on the status and struggles of women and stimulate our thinking to end violence against women. In this regard, the researcher proposed to conduct the study "Violence Against Women: Use Technology To Protect Women Or Girl In Problematic Situation" to find out various technological ways to protect women.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

- To determine the prevalence and characteristics of violence against women.
- A brief analysis of social and statistical dimensions on the subject
- Finding new ways to restrain the problem of violence against women.
- Propose relevant technological and remedial measures for its prevention

#### **Forms of violence against women:**

Violence against women and girls has many manifestations, including forms that may be more common in specific settings, countries and regions. Violence manifests itself as physical, emotional/ psychological and economic violence. The most universally common forms including domestic and intimate partner violence, Sexual harassment, psychological violence.

Other widespread forms around the globe include: sexual exploitation, women trafficking and harmful practices, forced and child marriage, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, acid throwing, elder abuse.

After marriage or dating, some men use emotional, financial, physical, or sexual violence against a wife or girlfriend, and violence often persists throughout the relationship, although it occurs most commonly at younger ages. Rape and intimate partner violence occur in all cultures, with varying prevalence, and culturally specific forms of violence might be locally common, such as honour killings or female genital mutilation (FGM). The perpetrators of violence may include the state and its agents, family members (including husband, husband family members), friends and strangers (Fulu E, Jewkes R, 2013).

#### **In India**

Violence in the domestic sphere is usually perpetrated by males who are, or who have been, in positions of trust and intimacy power: husbands, boyfriends, fathers, fathers-in-law, stepfathers, brothers, uncles, sons, or other relatives.

The Nirbhaya incident reminds us of increasing savageness and brutality of human beings and also the increasing crime against women in our society. It paints a horrible picture of the status of women in our country ending violence against women in our families, communities and societies remains the greatest challenge facing humanity on the eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Domestic violence is in most cases violence perpetrated by men against women. Domestic violence using verbal, mental, physical, sexual and emotional violence on

the women/wife remains very common in our society (Fulu E, Jewkes R, 2013).

There is no one single factor to account for violence perpetrated against women. Increasingly, research has focused on the inter-relatedness of various factors that should improve our understanding of the problem within different cultural contexts. "violence is perceived to be a necessary tool that serves to discipline wives". This is can be easily proved by the findings of the National Family Survey 3. More than 34 % women in India in the age group of 15-49 have experienced physical violence and 9% have experienced sexual violence. An alarming figure is that 85% of women who have suffered Physical violence never reported anyone or ever told anybody about it Domestic violence National Family survey 2005-06 (2007).

#### **4. Status of Crimes in India**

In India, we have various civil laws which cater the gender equality but those laws are not in practice, they are just on the sheets of paper at the same time crimes against women also on the sheet a statistical paper. The official statistics showed a declining sex -ratio, health status, literacy rate, work participation rate and political participation among women. While on the other hand, the spread of social evils like dowry deaths, child marriage, domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, exploitation of women workers are rampant in different parts of India. Humiliation, rape, kidnapping, molestation, dowry death, torture, wife beating etc. have grown up over the years The recent spate of crimes against women has also triggered a sharper analysis of historical data, particularly in the public domain and the number of reported cases continued to shock legislations (Dr D. Kumuda, 2014).

The BBC investigates, analysing crime data and hearing the testimony of victims, crimes against women reported in 2013 118,866, Domestic violence, 70,739 Molestation, 51,881 Kidnapping, 33,707 Rape, 34,353 Other BBC News (29 October 2014).

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (2013), an average of 92 women is raped in India every day. The total number of reported rapes cases to 33,707 in 2013 from 24,923 in 2012. About once every five minutes an incident of domestic violence is reported in India, under its legal definition of "cruelty by husband or his relatives". The NCRB data 2012 shows 69% decadal (over the decade) jump in crimes against women. The number of kidnappings and abductions of women and girls have jumped a whopping 163.8% since 2002. Violent crimes or crimes that fall under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) have jumped about 34% over the last 10 years, from about 1.7 million in 2002 to 2.4 million in 2012. On an annual basis, violent crimes rose 3% from the previous year's 2.3 million. The only comfort perhaps lies in the annual data, particularly over the last two years which suggests a 3% overall drop in the total number of crimes between 2011 and 2012. But on the other hand, crimes against women registered a 6.3% increase since 2011. As you can see from above, there were about 236,608 crimes affecting life that were recorded in 2012. This is an increase

of 2% from 2011. Out of these, murder accounted for 34,434 of the cases.

### The need for Technology

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has been defined by the ever-evolving repertoire of technology, devices, and inventions that ultimately connect us across temporal and spatial boundaries. This has been the era of smartphones, tablets, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, amongst many others. The challenge of ending violence against women has not remained static but has similarly morphed to join the digital era. Violence against women now not only occupies its traditional spaces: cyber bullying, cyber stalking, digital voyeurism, and a whole gamut of new forms of violence have become prevalent. It is a fun way to address a series topic (Emma Saloranta 2013).

The United Nations Secretary Campaign UNITE campaign orange day will focus use technology to prevent violence against women. The Internet and mobile technologies are constantly creating new ways to connect, share, experiences and build communities. The Technology community has an important role to play in collaborating on the development of technological tools to prevent and end violence against women. There are many new technological tools that can help to protect and alert women and girls from violence. New technologies are paving the way for creative approaches to battle violence against women and sexual abuse, and as mobile phones are becoming more and more common and available in even the most remote locations, these solutions can offer support, information, help and protection to women and girls across countries, cultures and socio-economic classes. The degree to which this mobile phone application promotes the notion of 'stranger danger' distracts attention from the urgent and more prevalent issue of family and intimate partner violence (Linda Raftree, 2012).

## 5. Technological Apps to Protect Women in a Problematic Situation

### Apps against Abuse

The APPS against Abuse was a challenge sponsored by The United States Department of Health and Human Services, along with the White House In 2011 Office of Science and Technology to facilitate the design of applications for handheld devices that could be used in the fight against violence against women. App developers were challenged to include real-time check-in capabilities, privacy safeguards, links to domestic violence resources, and social media integration (Lindsay Rosenthal 2013).

### Circle of 6

Circle of 6 is an iPhone and Android app, released in March 2012, that allows users to access six of their closest contacts when faced with a threatening situation. The discrete app is built with an easy interface and with just 2 touches of the screen, one's circle can be contacted. It allows a user to send a text message, such as "call and pretend you need me. I need an interruption" or "come and get me, I need help getting home safely" that can easily be sent to the people programmed into the circle to pre-selected contacts to inform them of her location and how they can help. Don't let violence happen in your circle! lets you pick six friends to

alert if you need a ride, help, or if there's an emergency (Rashad Brathwaite 2012).

The app's inventor and developers released a new version of Circle of 6 in Hindi, targeted particularly for Indian users. limit the number of people who can really use it, Circle of 6 is an innovative, simple and extremely useful tool for women all over the world to feel safer and more secure, knowing that the people in their circle – people they trust – are only a couple of taps away.

**Fight Back:** In India a similar app called "Fight Back" was developed to protect women against "eve teasing", a term used in India to describe men's unwanted attention towards women ranging from uncomfortable and threatening to stare to unwanted physical contact. Fight Back sends the user's location via GPS to pre-programmed contacts along with an SOS message with one push of a button, and it can also be linked to Facebook.

**EyeWatch:** EyeWatch is an Indian personal safety app. Eyewatch has some unique features, including free fall and shaking activation. The inbuilt audio/video/image support enables the application to even send the images, videos and sound bytes along with the location in SOS alerts ( Rashad Brathwaite 2012).

Guard My Angel

**Guard My Angel** is a free iPhone and Android app, which alarms your emergency contacts, even sending them your GPS coordinates. A unique feature of this app is that if you are immobilized, the Guard My Angel servers will trace your last known location to help others trace your whereabouts from that point (Rashad Brathwaite 2012).

**Harassmap:** Harassmap is a social initiative launched in 2011 in Egypt. It aims to protect women through an SMS reporting system for sexual harassment. The SMS system provides safe and reliable ways to report sexual harassment while referring users to essential services. All the reports are updated on a map in real-time, which gives a viewer an overview of where possible "harassment hotspots" and dangerous areas are located. Not only does it offer women the ability to avoid places where harassment seems to be common, but it can also provide authorities important data on areas where women's harassment is concentrated and security measures need to be increased. Reports can be categorized as, for example, cat-calls, comments, phone calls, rape, sexual assault, stalking or touching, and users are able to add details about their experiences anonymously to the map. (Rashad Brathwaite 2012).

### OnWatch- A Mobile App

Effortlessly send information by phone, email, text, and social media to your chosen networks, campus police, and even emergency services. An online site that provides even greater information such as safety-plans and what a bystander can do protection this incredible app. Stay Onwatch and Watch Over Me is a subscription-based service that notifies your contacts via text or social media if you haven't told it you're safe. With the free version, though, you can be watched for only five minutes.

**Guardly** is a subscription service designed for college campuses or employers. It sends a message and a GPS location to your contacts, campus police, or 911 (Lyndsey Gilpin, 2014).

**Panic Button** sends a location and emergency alert to your contacts, as well as a message on your Facebook wall (Lyndsey Gilpin, 2014).

**Stay Safe** is a similar check-in service, but is possibly not password protected, according to some reviews Lyndsey Gilpin (2014).

**Sex Offender Tracker:** Sex Offender Tracker gives citizens and residents of the U.S. access to The National Sex Offender Registry in a second. This informative app provides users with detailed knowledge of the offender, a bio, and keeps users up to date with email alerts of any additions to the registry (Steven Woda, 2014).

**Not your Baby:** Being Harassed? Not sure how to respond? There's an app for that! The "Not Your Baby App" is an app designed for the iPhone and created through a partnership between Hollaback and METRAC. Once installed, this modern fun-styled app allows a user to indicate their social setting and the person who's harassing them. Not My Baby uses the experiences of others then creates suggestions to help the user get out of this situation (Rashad Brathwaite, 2012).

**FIR help** need an app and so many apps may use women in a problematic situation, but it will need a mobile phone. But there is one study by the General Social Survey was recently brought to light that showed women were twice as likely as men to say they were afraid to walk in their neighbourhoods alone at night, But knowing the technology is available is the important part, and it's good to know it could be used at particularly important or dangerous times. There's also the possibility of missing the message and creating a false emergency.

**Public awareness campaigns and organizing tools:** The power of social media to raise awareness alone should give us hope Lindsay Rosenthal (2013). In this particular issue, using technology always not the solution to the problem, but it can change the course of how we think about it and ultimately, how we address it as a society. Implementation of the legislation, awareness of the people may control the problem of violence against women. People also be implemented themselves.

## 6. Final Word

The experience of violence undermines the empowerment women and certainly is a barrier to the socio-economic and demographic development of the country through the present findings are silent about the legal side of the issue, stringent laws against the perpetrators of the violence, laws giving more rights to the women will always be beneficial to curb the issue Far too many women and children live under the shadow of fear and truncated potential and are immersed in a culture that accepts violence as a way of relating. Although this will not end in the next five years, we are determined to

invest our energy and resources in challenging the status quo and committing our creativity, passions and intelligence to create pathways that will ultimately lead to our destination.

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