



## INDIAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UN

### STUDY GUIDE

#### COMMITTEE: UN-WOMEN

**AGENDA: Ways to foster gender equality and women's right with special reference to the rising domestic violence.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The world is developing swiftly, we are more advanced today than we are yesterday and keep striving for a better world and society. In this race of being the best and doing our best, we tend to forget the needy, the suppressed and the weak.

Our world is developing at an alarming rate and so are we, but some challenges remain constant like the battle against gender-inequality and the suppression of women in some societies. Social issues and concerns don't change for the better overnight, it requires meticulous efforts. Most people feel that there isn't anything they can do, because they don't know what they can do.

Gender inequality is prevalent in most nations, even in developed nations that are economically well to do. People tend to ignore issues concerning the society because they don't realize how important the social status and well-being of their citizens are. The fact of the matter remains the same, it is a major concern and reforms have to be made.

Gender disparity has been seen for centuries now and only little progress has been made.

Increasing gender equality and quality of life of the oppressed is in best interest of all countries, as a better social life will increase the general well-being of the citizens of said country.

Majority of gender discrimination cases are related to the suppression of women and has hence raised a very necessary wave of feminist ideals and uprisings. This has now caused large-scale awareness and has brought justice to many.

Gender equality is considered vital for sustainable development and is the 5th sustainable development goal. It focuses on increasing the equality between the two genders and decreasing wage gap, the gap in working hours and safety of suppressed too.

Increase in gender-inequality leads to crimes against the suppressed, which is in most cases, women. One such issue faced by women is domestic violence - an issue not given as much attention as it deserves. Domestic violence can happen in any region, to people of all walks of life and at any magnitude and that's why measures have to be taken to reduce this and help victims rehabilitate, so that they can lead life the way they deserve to.

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.

Years 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 formed, 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, leaving the victims disabled and the criminal free.

## **HISTORY**

Domestic violence cases are not new to our societies. It has unfortunately been in practice for many years. It is especially common in third-world countries where women lack education and skill to support themselves and are hence left helpless and in the shackles of domestic violence. Most women are scared to stand up against their husbands as they fear being tortured more. On the basis of data from 2005 to 2016 for 87 countries, 19 per cent of women between 15 and 49 years of age said they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey. In the most extreme cases, such violence can lead to death. In 2012, almost half of all women who were victims of intentional homicide worldwide were killed by an intimate partner or family member, compared to 6 per cent of male victims.

Most women stay not because they can't leave it's because they are taught to not. Knowledge about the forms, incidence, causes and consequences of gender-based violence against women, as well as measures to confront it, has greatly developed over the last twenty years. Much of this can be attributed to the work of the United Nations which has transformed what was once perceived as a domestic criminal problem, into an issue deserving of sustained and priority international attention. Critical to this transformation have been the efforts of non-governmental organizations within United Nations forums, and particularly the cycle of world conferences, which characterized violence against women as an issue of human rights. All these forms of violence go beyond oppressive behavior or discrimination generally and constitute harm which results from force or coercion. Moreover, they are not examples of random victimization, but are associated with inequality between women and men, and strategies to perpetuate or entrench that inequality. The following are a few notable and important events that have taken place in the Oat that has changed the scenario:

- **World Conferences on Women in Mexico, Copenhagen and Nairobi: 1975 – 1985**

In the initial stages the development of policy within the United Nations with regard to violence against women was concentrated on violence against women in the family. The World Plan of Action adopted by the first World Conference on Women in Mexico in 1975 did not refer specifically to violence but drew attention to the need for the family to ensure dignity, equality and security of each of its members. The 1980 Conference in Copenhagen, which marked the middle of the United Nations Decade for Women, adopted a resolution on "battered women and violence in the family" and referred to violence in the home in its final report.

At the 1985 Nairobi World Conference, and especially at its parallel non-governmental forum, however, violence against women truly emerged as a serious international concern. The Forward-looking Strategies adopted by the Conference linked to the promotion and maintenance of peace to the eradication of violence against women in both the public and private spheres. The Conference included violence as a major obstacle to the achievement of development, equality and peace, the three objectives of the Decade.

A number of areas of special concern, including "abused women", "women victims of trafficking and involuntary prostitution" and "women in detention and subject to penal law" were identified. Governments were urged to intensify efforts to establish or strengthen forms of assistance to victims of violence through the provision of shelter, support, legal and other services and to increase public awareness of violence against women as a social problem.

- **General Assembly Resolution (1985)**

In 1985, the General Assembly adopted the first resolution on domestic violence based on a recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Economic and Social Council and the outcome of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

- **Expert Group Meeting on Violence in the Family (1986)**

The implementation of the 1985 resolution included the 1986 Expert Group Meeting on Violence in the Family, with special emphasis on its effects on women. This Meeting adopted concrete recommendations with regard to legal reform, police, prosecutor and health sector training, social and resource support for victims. It also made clear that domestic violence was a global phenomenon which was significantly underreported.

- **Publication on Violence against Women in the Family (1989)**

This publication described the manifold contexts and manifestations of violence against women; and also showed that violence may be tolerated and, indeed, condoned, by the community or the State. Economic, social and political developments were seen as well as ethnic, religious, communal and political conflicts to contribute to and/or exacerbate violence against women.

With a growing understanding of the link between gender and violence, the approach to the issue within the United Nations shifted. First, it became clear that violence in the family was not the only form of violence against women. Second, the gender-based nature of violence against women and its linkage to subordination, inequality between women and men, and discrimination, led to its categorization as a matter of human rights.

## **CURRENT SCENARIO**

As horrifying as it sounds and is, domestic violence is still rampant in the world today with around 35 percent of women still in the shackles of domestic violence. Almost all nations have made laws to counter domestic violence, but they lack enforcement and funding to actually work as well as they are intended to. Some national studies show staggeringly large numbers like 70 percent of the total women who experience violence against them from their significant others. Some countries like Pakistan have a percentile of 90 women who face domestic violence despite them having ample laws and measures. This just goes to show how important it is for us to work as a world community to help countries help themselves, effectively. In the majority of countries, less than 40 per cent of the women who experienced violence sought help of any sort. Among those who did, most looked to family and friends as opposed to the police and health services. In almost all countries with available data, the percentage of women who sought police help, out of all women who sought assistance, was less than 10 per cent. Women's reluctance to seek help may be linked to the widespread acceptability of violence against women. In many countries, both women and men believe that wife-beating is justified in certain circumstances. However, attitudes towards violence are beginning to change. In almost all countries with available information for more than one year, the level of both women's and men's acceptance of violence has diminished over time. More than 125 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to female genital mutilation across countries in Africa and the Middle East where this specific form of violence against women is concentrated. Prevalence tends to be lower among younger women, indicating a decline in this harmful practice. However, it remains commonplace in a number of these countries, with overall prevalence rates of over 80 per cent. Most women know their attackers. 35% of women worldwide have experienced violence and, according to a new report from the World Health Organization (WHO), that figure only falls to 30% when they studied violence against women that was by intimate partners. Most women know their attackers. 35% of women worldwide have experienced violence and, according to a new report from the World Health Organization (WHO), that figure only falls to 30% when they studied violence against women that was by intimate partners. It is also extremely

important for nations to get together and help women in regions of conflict as they have a much higher chance of being abused.

The matter of discussion raised in the world forum is now finding ways to effectively implement laws of countries and to reform laws to fit the needs of said country. It is also necessary for us to determine the sources of funding to fuel future projects and the various aspects of the lives of women in question that will be heavily influenced. The current scenario is very sensitive as people are awoken and alert and know that a structural change has to be made to influence positive change.

### **SUGGESTED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS:**

- 1) Ways to increase literacy among women in Asia.
- 2) Ways to decrease wage gap in third world countries.
- 3) Effective measures to be taken by governments to increase employment opportunities for women.
- 4) Measures to improve quality of life of women who are subjected to domestic violence.
- 5) Methods of increasing the awareness programmed relating to domestic violence.
- 6) Steps to be taken to help victims of domestic violence to empower themselves and lead a happy life.
- 7) Challenges faced by governments in implementing the measures taken to decrease domestic violence.
- 8) Discussing the possibility of appointing commissions in respective countries to check the status of women.
- 9) Was to educate children on gender equality and male chauvinism.
- 10) Ways to increase literacy among women in the Middle east.
- 11) Effective ways to provide fast legal action for domestic violence cases.
- 12) Provision of healthcare at hospitals and health centers with special regard to domestic violence.
- 13) Increasing the punishment of offenders in respective countries.
- 14) Helping sexually abused women rehabilitate and lead independent and safe lives.
- 15) Discussing progress of nations in checking domestic violence.
- 16) Providing mental health care and counselling to victims of domestic violence.
- 17) Shortlisting countries that need special help in working for domestic violence.
- 18) Finding effective ways to increase literacy among women in Africa.
- 19) Confronting dowry-related violence in nations with special regards to India.

## **RESEARCH LINKS**

- 1) <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
- 2) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
- 3) [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf)
- 4) <http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/issuesbrief-e.pdf>
- 5) <http://www.unwomen.org/en>
- 6) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/global-norms-and-st>
- 7) [Andards](#)
- 8) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/passing-strong-laws-and-policies>
- 9) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/prevention>
- 10) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/12/shelter-visit-in-new-york>
- 11) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/2/estimating-the-cost-of-domestic-violence-against-women-in-viet-nam>
- 12) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/5/news-new-progressive-law-on-domestic-violence-adopted-in-kyrgyzstan>
- 13) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/3/tajikistan-moves-towards-a-law-to-prevent-domestic-violence>
- 14) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/2/better-services-for-survivors-of-domestic-violence>
- 15) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/4/in-timor-leste-communities-mobilize-to-confront-domestic-violence>
- 16) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/eu-wide-protection-for-victims-of-domestic-violence-becomes-law>
- 17) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/4/un-women-welcomes-the-passage-of-the-domestic-violence-bill-in-the-maldives>
- 18) <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5>
- 19) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/3/georgia-violence-reports-rise-as-public-attitudes-towards-domestic-violence-shift>
- 20) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/12/from-campaigning-to-monitoring-making-domestic-violence-laws-meaningful-to-women-in-india>
- 21) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/11/feature--georgia-businesses-step-up-to-support-survivors>
- 22) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/11/kazakhstan-domestic-violence-crisis-centres-save-lives-need-funds>
- 23) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/7/financing-for-development-press-release>
- 24) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/01/ending-gender-inequality-through-the-post-2015-agenda>
- 25) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/4/speech-ed-phumzile-johns-hopkins-roundtable>
- 26) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/5/announcer-new-programme-addressing-gender-inequality-of-risk>
- 27) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/4/speech-ed-phumzile-w7-event>
- 28) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/10/speech-ed-phumzile-five-days-of-violence-prevention-conference>
- 29) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/components/gender-terms/undp-human-development-report--gender-inequality-index-gii>
- 30) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/step-it-up/commitments/liberia>
- 31) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/5/in-the-words-of-yuan-feng>
- 32) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/12/confronting-dowry-related-violence-in-india-women-at-the-center-of-justice>