

Abstract

Domestic violence is physical damage or harm, or a display of physical force. It is usually done as an abusive, angry, hostile, or malicious act. It may also be used as intimidation. Aggressive behavior only becomes violent when it takes a physical form. Extortion or coercion may involve the threat of violence.

Domestic Violence is the vicious predicament of many refugee women in the Bhutanese communities of Sanichare camp. It is all forms of physical, psychological or sexual violence which affect both people who has had or intend to have an intimate relationship as a couple and people who, within a more or less extended family, share bonds of bond or affection. In order to understand the complexity of domestic violence it is important to be aware of its mechanisms and its consequences, above all the psychological consequences. The result is a clash, with reciprocal emotional and/or physical abuse, in a continuous see-saw of dominance of one and then the other prevailing.

In domestic violence, one person (usually the man) controls and dominates the other (usually the woman) precisely by virtue of a series of gender privileges (usually male privileges) which he is afforded on the social level. A specific characteristic of domestic violence is the victim's fear of the abuser. Moreover, the abuser is often perceived as all-powerful and all-knowing.

In the Bhutanese refugee community, women have faced the different domestic violence in their life time. Some women despite facing domestic violence, do not consider violence seriously neither they reports or brings it to the concerned authority. It is because some women think that if they bring their family issues to the public's attention; it would mess up their social status because society might blame the victim along with the perpetrator. Similarly some women think that it is their destiny that brings the violence in life and it is the result of sin that they committed in their previous birth.

Domestic violence also represents a hidden obstacle to economic and social development. By sapping women's energy, undermining their confidence, and compromising their health, gender violence deprives society of women's full participation.

This paper draws together the existing data on perception of domestic violence of refugee women of Sanichare refugee camp.

To assist policymaker to addressing this issue the paper explores the best possible way and suggestion to eradicate the DV from refugee women's life, programs to assist victims, and treatment and reeducation program for perpetrators. It argues that any strategy to combat violence must attack the root causes of the problem in addition to treating its symptoms.