



SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND PREVENTION OF GENDER VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

In this article gender violence was pointed out that violence is often committed against women, and that the main aspect of violence is the belief that women do not have equal rights with men in society, and that women are looked down upon. The main manifestations of gender violence, its causes and influencing factors and conclusions and suggestions are presented to eliminate the problem of violence.

Introduction

Gender-based violence is a combination of physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuse against a person. This type of violence is most often committed against women, but children and men can also face this problem. Gender-based violence is a widespread social problem on a global scale, which has a negative impact on human rights violations, health, education, labor rights and social development. According to the UN, one in three women has experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in her life.

The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PK-3808 dated June 27, 2018 "On approval of the Concept of strengthening the institution of the family in the Republic of Uzbekistan", the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 472 dated June 7, 2019 "On measures to further improve the system of training personnel in the field of psychology and prevent violations in society", the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men" and "On protection of women from oppression and violence" dated September 2, 2019, and the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PK-4602 dated February 18, 2020 "On the organization of the activities of the Ministry of Community and Family Support of the Republic of Uzbekistan" are the main laws in preventing domestic violence. serves as documents.¹

Any form of violence against people based on their gender, in short, gender-based violence, exists and continues to exist as a persistent problem that currently affects millions of people around the world. It has a significant impact on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and constitutes an obstacle to economic development and the advancement of human rights and opportunities.

¹ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-4947 dated February 7, 2017 "On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan". -<https://lex.uz>

Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights and gender inequality that is perpetuated by patriarchal structures and cultural norms that place men above women. Its consequences are wide-ranging and can have immediate and long-term impacts on physical, psychological and social well-being.

Domestic violence is a form of gender-based violence that usually occurs within intimate relationships between spouses, partners or family members. It can take many forms, including physical, emotional and sexual violence, as well as psychological and financial abuse. Domestic violence can occur in any type of relationship, regardless of gender, but global evidence shows that women are disproportionately affected.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately one in three women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a stranger in their lifetime.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem of gender-based violence and domestic violence. The pandemic has led to a sharp increase in domestic violence cases globally. Its scale is so extensive that UN Women has called it a “hidden pandemic.” The lockdowns, economic instability, and social isolation caused by the pandemic have created an environment conducive to the emergence and perpetuation of gender-based violence, making it more important than ever to address this problem and provide assistance to victims.

Domestic violence is a widespread problem that can affect people from all walks of life, regardless of age, ethnicity, education level or socio-economic status. However, women from marginalized or minority groups may be at higher risk of experiencing domestic violence due to the intersection of different forms of discrimination.

For example, women from ethnic minority groups or with disabilities may face greater barriers to seeking help and support. These women are also more likely to experience discrimination and bias from service providers or law enforcement agencies, which can exacerbate this problem. It is therefore crucial to recognize and address the specific challenges these individuals face and to provide them with appropriate support and resources to exit abusive situations.

Gender-based violence causes significant economic losses both globally and in specific regions. Studies have shown that the global economic cost of violence against women could be around 2% of global GDP, which is approximately \$1.5 trillion – the size of the Canadian economy. In addition, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has estimated that the economic cost of gender-based violence in the European Union is around €366 billion per year.

These costs include direct costs, such as medical and legal costs, as well as indirect costs, such as lost productivity, missed workdays, and impacts on mental health and well-being. The economic burden of gender-based violence affects not only individuals and families, but also has serious consequences for national economies. Addressing gender-based violence and its economic consequences requires a comprehensive set of policies, programmes and interventions that prioritize prevention, protection and support for survivors. By strengthening these efforts, societies can build a safer, more just and prosperous future for all.

Recognizing that domestic and gender-based violence is widespread and has a devastating impact on individuals and communities, the UN has taken a number of steps to eliminate these forms of violence. Key initiatives and measures in this direction include the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993; the establishment of the UN Trust Fund to Support Action to End Violence against Women in 1996; the launch of the UNiTE campaign to raise awareness of the problem of violence against women and mobilize efforts to eliminate it; The adoption of the UN Spotlight Initiative in 2017, among others, can be included.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports national governments, civil society organizations, women's groups and the private sector in addressing the root causes of gender-based violence, in particular gender-based discrimination and inequality of rights. One way UNDP supports this effort is by promoting policies and legislation that protect women from violence. This includes working with governments to develop and implement laws that criminalize gender-based violence and ensure access to legal, medical and psychological support for victims.

UNDP works consistently to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including domestic violence. This includes training and supporting law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges to effectively investigate and prosecute perpetrators. Working with national governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, UNDP seeks to address the root causes of gender-based violence, including gender-based discrimination and inequality, and to support the development of policies and legislation that protect women from violence.²

In 2019, Uzbekistan made significant progress in addressing gender-based violence by adopting a legal definition of violence against women. The law recognizes domestic violence and harassment against women and establishes preventive measures to prevent and protect against it, including court-ordered restraining orders and shelters. The government has trained law enforcement officers, judges, and other officials to respond effectively to gender-based violence. In addition, the government has adopted a National Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, established a Commission on Gender Equality under the Senate of the Oliy Majlis to promote women's rights, and enabled women's participation in political and economic decision-making. Nevertheless, much work remains to be done to completely eliminate gender-based violence in Uzbekistan.

The Oliy Majlis is currently considering the issue of criminalizing domestic violence in its legislative system. This is in line with the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the Government of Uzbekistan to "amend existing legislation, including the Criminal Code, the Code of Administrative Offenses, and the Law on the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence, to ensure that domestic violence is criminalized, prosecuted by the courts, and subject to appropriate sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime."

²United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) — Gender-based Violence Analytical Report, 2022.

General Recommendation No. 19 of the CEDAW Committee confirms that domestic violence against women constitutes discrimination on the basis of gender, and such discrimination is prohibited under the Constitution of Uzbekistan. General Recommendation No. 35 of the CEDAW (ratified by Uzbekistan in July 1995) calls for criminalizing “all forms of gender-based violence against women in all areas that result in a violation of their physical, sexual or mental integrity, and for ensuring the prompt introduction or strengthening of legal remedies commensurate with the gravity of the violation, as well as civil remedies.”³

Gender-based violence is one of the most deeply rooted problems in society, negatively affecting the lives of many people. This type of violence is a factor that violates the rights and freedoms of not only women, but also men and other social groups. To combat it, it is necessary, first of all, to conduct a thorough analysis of its causes and factors influencing it.

Gender-based violence is a complex socio-psychological phenomenon closely related to social norms, stereotypes and psychological factors formed in society. Patriarchal views, gender inequality, stereotypes justifying violence and unhealthy family relationships play an important role in its origin. In some societies, views on the superiority of men and the subordination of women create a permissive attitude towards violence and prevent victims from defending their rights.

The socio-psychological characteristics of gender-based violence are manifested in the emergence of situations such as fear, anxiety, self-doubt, social isolation and depression in victims. In the perpetrators of violence, factors such as aggression, desire for dominance, inability to control emotions, negative childhood experiences and use of alcohol or psychoactive substances can be observed. Economic dependence, unemployment and lack of financial independence are also important social factors that contribute to the continuation of violence.

Also, the repetition of gender stereotypes in the media and social networks can reinforce misconceptions about the roles of women and men and lead to the formation of a permissive attitude towards gender-based violence. Therefore, in order to eliminate this problem, it is important not only to improve legal mechanisms, but also to improve the gender culture of society.

Prevention of gender-based violence requires the implementation of comprehensive preventive measures. In particular, the promotion of gender equality, increasing the legal and psychological literacy of the population, forming healthy relationships in families, expanding psychological counseling services, providing social and psychological support to victims of violence, and forming an uncompromising attitude towards violence through the media are the main areas of prevention. These measures will help reduce cases of gender-based violence, ensure the psychological well-being of the individual, and establish a healthy social environment in society.

One of the important areas of prevention is psychological prevention. In this, the formation of a healthy psychological environment in families, the development of constructive conflict resolution skills, the expansion of psychological counseling and therapy services, and the organization of psychocorrectional work with individuals prone to violence play an

³ M. Dimovska "Gender-based violence will not disappear by itself - now is the time to act." [/2023/03/13/gender-based-violence/](https://2023/03/13/gender-based-violence/)

important role. At the same time, the promotion of the ideas of gender equality, increasing the legal and psychological literacy of the population, social support for women, and the development of the activities of shelters and rehabilitation centers also increase the effectiveness of prevention.

A 2023 United Nations (UN) report found that one in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in their lives. In addition, every 11 minutes, a woman or girl is killed by an intimate partner. These incidents often occur in family settings and are hidden from the public.⁴

According to data released by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021, more than 27% of women over the age of 15 have experienced violence by a spouse or former partner in their lifetime. This figure exceeds 40% in some regions.⁵

According to official data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022, more than 11,000 women across the country reported cases of domestic violence. Although many of them were issued "protection orders", in some cases the problem was not fully resolved due to the weak functioning of legal mechanisms. In a 2021 survey conducted by the UNDP in Uzbekistan, almost 30 percent of women surveyed said they had experienced violence at least once in their lives.⁶

Statistics show that gender-based violence often remains hidden because victims often do not report it due to shame, fear or social pressure. Therefore, official statistics may not fully reflect the true situation, indicating that gender-based violence is a much deeper problem.

Conclusion

Gender-based violence is not only a personal but also a social problem, and its elimination requires a comprehensive approach. If this problem is not addressed, it will only worsen. Respecting the rights of every citizen, promoting gender equality, and combating violence are essential conditions for building a stable and just society.

Combating gender-based violence is a priority not only for law enforcement agencies, but also for society as a whole. This problem can be eliminated by promoting gender equality through education, eliminating gender stereotypes, supporting women economically, and punishing perpetrators. Everyone has the right to live a life free from violence, safe and with dignity..

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