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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY: A BLOT TO HUMAN CIVILIZATION

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#### ABSTRACT

Violence against women and children with disability is a serious public health concern, with costs at multiple levels of society. Although violence is a threat to everyone, women and children with disability are particularly susceptible to victimization because they often have fewer rights or lack appropriate means of protection. In some societies certain types of violence are deemed socially or legally acceptable, thereby contributing further to the risk to women and children. In the past decade research has documented the growing magnitude of such violence, but gaps in the data still remain. Victims of violence of any type fear stigmatization or societal condemnation and thus often hesitate to report crimes. The issue is compounded by the fact that for women and children the perpetrators are often people they know and because some countries lack laws or regulations protecting victims. Some of the data that have been collected suggest that rates of violence against women range from 15 to 71 percent in some countries and that rates of violence against children top 80 percent. These data demonstrate that violence poses a high burden on global health and that violence against women and children is common and universal.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Violence against women in India is very old social issue which has taken its root deeply to the societal norms and economic dependence. There are many violence against women in India because of the male dominated society here. Women generally face various kinds of crime like dowry death, child marriage or Vani, acid throwing, bride burning, murder of pregnant women, human trafficking, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, sexual violence, rape, female genital cutting, domestic violence and even the killing of innocent women in the name of the family's honour. The meaning of term violence is striking someone physically and causing injury. It may involve verbal abuse or psychological stress without the actual hitting which cause injury to the mind and harm the reputation. Rape, murder, abduction, kidnapping cases are criminal violence against women however dowry deaths, sexual abuse, wife battering, maltreatment at home or offices are the cases of domestic violence against women. Some of the social violence cases against women are eve-teasing, forcing wife or daughter-in-law for the female infanticide, forcing widow to commit sati, etc. All the violence against women are affecting the large section of the society. A big incident of violence against women was happened in Delhi on 16th of December in 2012. It was a brutal gang rape of the 23 year old woman in India. A huge crowd of anger people come out to the street by having a call for change.

Even after happening such type of cases regularly in the society, it is not going to change the societal norms against women. It is going very complex and deeply rooted in the Indian society even after increasing education level of the people. Violence against women happens because of inefficient legal justice system, weak rules of law and male dominated social and political structures. According to the research it is found that violence against women begins at home in the early age especially in the rural areas by the family members, relatives, neighbors, and friends. Disability is an impairment that may be cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory, or some combination of these. It substantially affects a person's life activities and may be present from birth or occur during a person's lifetime. [1] According to CRIN over 150 million children worldwide have a disability. 50% of children with a hearing impairment and 60% of those with an intellectual impairment are sexually abused. There are many medical professionals who kill children with disabilities and right them of as mercy killings. 90% of the children with disabilities will not survive past twenty years of age. Children with disabilities face discrimination not only in services but also in the justice system as they are often not considered credible witnesses. According to a UNICEF survey, 30% of street youth are disabled. Some countries where IMR rates are high, mortality rates for children with disabilities is as high as 80%. Some suspect that children with disabilities are being purposely weeded out. 90% of children with disabilities worldwide do not attend school. Conflict areas find that for everyone child that is killed, three are injured and permanently disabled.

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Children with disabilities are at a 1.7 times greater risk of being subjected to some form of violence. In India children with disabilities mainly comes under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Some of the issues are dealt with by the health ministry. But no single ministry has been assigned the protection of these children, which leads to varying data about occurrence of disability amongst children. In India 1.67% of the 0-19 population has a disability. 35.29% of all people living with disabilities are children. Other estimates say that India has 12 million children living with disabilities. Only 1% of children with disabilities have access to school and one third of most disabilities are preventable. Under-nutrition is a severe problem with children who suffer from cerebral palsy. In India 80% of children with disabilities will not survive past age forty. Both children and adults with disabilities are at much higher risk of violence than their non-disabled peers, according to two systematic reviews recently published in the Lancet.

The reviews were carried out by Liverpool John Moores University's Centre for Public Health, a WHO Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention, and WHO's Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability. These are the first studies to confirm the magnitude of the problem and they provide the strongest available evidence on violence against children and adults with disabilities. They also highlight the lack of data on this topic from low- and middle-income countries. The review on the prevalence and risk of violence against children with disabilities, published in July 2012, found that overall children with disabilities are almost four times more likely to experience violence than non-disabled children. The review indicated that children with disabilities are 3.7 times more likely than non-disabled children to be victims of any sort of violence, 3.6 times more likely to be victims of physical violence, and 2.9 times more likely to be victims of sexual violence. Children with mental or intellectual impairments appear to be among the most vulnerable, with 4.6 times the risk of sexual violence than their non-disabled peers. Factors which place people with disabilities at higher risk of violence include stigma, discrimination, and ignorance about disability, as well as a lack of social support for those who care for them. Placement of people with disabilities in institutions also increases their vulnerability to violence. In these settings and elsewhere, people with communication impairments are hampered in their ability to disclose abusive experiences.

"The impact of a child's disability on their quality of life is very much dependent on the way other individuals treat them," stresses Dr Mark Bellis, Director of the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University, a WHO Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention, and lead researcher on the review. "This research establishes that the risk of violence to children with disabilities is routinely three to four times higher than that to non-disabled children. It is the duty of government and civil society to ensure that such victimization is exposed and prevented." Proven and promising programmes to prevent violence against non-disabled children and adults – reviewed in WHO's Violence prevention: the evidence, Preventing child maltreatment, and Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women – should be implemented for children and adults with disabilities, and their effectiveness evaluated as a matter of priority. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities reinforces the need to protect the rights of children and adults with disabilities and ensure their full and equal participation in society. This includes avoiding the adverse experiences resulting from violence which are known to have a wide range of detrimental consequences for health and well-being. When prevention fails, care and support for children and adults who are victims of violence are vital to their recovery. In 2008, CHILDLINE India Foundation published a study on Mentally Challenged Children in Sholapur District, Maharashtra. The study looks at information at all three levels: village, taluka and district. Key findings of the study were that in 24% of the mentally challenged children, one of the parents were mentally retarded. 11% of mothers of mentally challenged children were below eighteen years. 36% of mothers reported complications during pregnancy while 41.2% reported stress. Only 8% of mentally challenged children attended school past II grade pr up to VII grade in normal schools. 33% of parent didn't allow their children to interact with other children due to fear of them being teased, accidents, aggressive behaviour, etc. Many of the causes of disability are preventable by providing expecting mothers will better prenatal and post natal care as well as proper nutrition for infants and mothers.

The main causes of disability in children are

- Communicable disease
- Infection in early childhood
- Early motherhood
- Insufficient or inaccessible health care services
- Inadequate sanitation
- Inter-family marriages
- Nutritional deficiencies

Malnutrition in the form of iodine deficiency is the most common preventable cause of mental impairment worldwide (Kenton R. Holden, 2008). Even moderate deficiency, especially in pregnant women and infants, lowers intelligence by 10 to 15 I. Q. points, Shaving incalculable potential off a nation's development. In areas where iodine deficiency is endemic the average child loses 13 I. Q points (Micronutrients initiative, 2006). Iodine deficiency affecting approximately 2 billion people worldwide is the leading preventable. Cause of mental disability in areas of developing world where iodine deficiency is endemic. Malnutrition is a common cause of reduced intelligence in parts of the world affected by famine such as Ethopia (Durtein *et al.*, (2000), wines (2006). Lack of adequate availability of iodine from the mother restricts the growth of the brain of the fetus and leads to a condition called hypothyroidism. More common than full-fledged cretinism as retardation caused by severe iodine deficiency is called mild impairment of intelligence (Gaitan and Dunn, 1992). Certain areas of the world due to natural deficiency and governmental inaction are severely affected. India is the most outstanding with 500 million suffering from deficiency, 54 million From goiters, and 2 million from cretinism. Among other nations affected by iodine deficiency, China and Kazakhstan have begun taking action, Whereas Russia has not (Mc. Neil, 2006). Tay-serchs disease occurs when the body lacks hexosaminidase A. This is a protein that help break down a group of chemicals found in nerve tissue called gangliosides. Without this protein, gangliosides, particularly ganglioside GMz, build up in cells, especially nerve cells, in the brain, without Hex A this substance accumulates abnormally and causes progressive damage until the nervous system can no

longer sustain life. Phenyl Ketonuria (PKU) is a rare genetic condition that causes an amino acid called phenylalanine to build up in the body. Amino acids are the building blocks of protein. Phenylalanine is found in all proteins and some artificial sweeteners. Our body uses an enzyme called phenylalanine hydroxylase to convert phenylalanine hydroxylase to convert phenylalanine into tyrosine, a nonessential amino acid. Our body needs tyrosine to create neurotransmitters, such as epinephrine, norepinephrine, and dopamine. PKU is caused by a defect in the gene that helps create phenylalanine hydroxylase. When this enzyme is missing, the body is unable to break down phenylalanine. This cause a buildup of phenylalanine in the body. Early diagnosis and treatment can help relieve symptoms of PKU and prevent brain damage. One a specific diet and other necessary treatments are started symptoms start to diminish. People with PKU who properly manage their diet usually don't show any symptoms (Slightham, C. 2016). Cretinism can be prevented by the correction of iodine deficiency before conception (Pharoah, buttfeld and Het zel (1971) Controlled trials in which mothers were injected with iodine on placebo before or during pregnancy in areas where iodine deficiency was prevalent showed benefits on infant cognitive development in Democratic Republic of cango (Thilly, Legasse et al, 1979). In an iodine deficient region in China 4 to 7year old children whose mothers were given iodine during pregnancy performed better on a psychomotor test than those who were supplemented beginning at age 2 years (O' Donnell et at, 2002). Infants with PKU can't be feed breast milk and must consume a special formula that's often known as Lofenalac. When baby is old enough to eat solid foods, we will need to avoid letting them eat foods high in protein (Slightham, 2016)

### Conclusion

Hence the results of this present study suggest that to prevent mental retardation to control our diet. But when it happens we prevent complication by following a special diet and taking medications. But when both does not provides any result, then we try to give love and affection to bring them in mainstream of the society. The vulnerability of women around the world to this type of violence will only be reduced when these

patriarchal mindsets are challenged and effectively confronted. Another, great liberator may be the economic status of women. Education can also play an important role. An economically independent woman can be more powerful, and capable of taking her own decisions. This kind of change in our socio, economic conditions and stringent law can only be helpful in reducing the number of violence against women.

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