



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AFRICA CAUSES AND MEDIA AS A REMEDY

**Prof. Iranna Ronad, MSW, KSET**

*Department of social work, Shree Sangameshwar Arts and commerce college Chadchan-586205  
Karnataka state, India.*

### **Abstract**

*Domestic violence is another form of violence that needs to be preventing across the Africa. Almost African women have experience like physical or sexual violence at the workplace, they may be working women or domestic worker, but they come across these types of violence. According to a research, 51% of African women experience beating from their husbands. Husbands are beating women for the reason neglecting the children, arguing back; refuse to home sex and for most common reasons. Domestic violence is becoming so common in South Africa. Many women are victim, a women is murdered every three hours according to the Africa health organization. African women are facing violation of rights, inequality, human trafficking and gender base violence throughout the history. A government and policy maker needs to take proper actions against these problems, awareness in community members and proper education is very important. Media is playing key role in creating awareness about these problems, organizing the people and mobilizing recourses. The main object of this study is to finding out the causes and associated facts pertaining to domestic violence in Africa, and ultimately analyzing the role of the media in preventing them.*

### **Introduction and background**

Men and women are like two faces of a coin. They are like two eyes of every society. Gender is very necessary to form and run any society. Women have equal rights and opportunities in every democratic society. Of course, these are very much necessary to lead their life satisfactorily. But anyhow, man based society is not allowing to enjoying their rights. Rights of women are violating in home and outside the home as well. Domestic violence is also termed as spousal violence and partner violence. It is occurred by a partner male on partner female. Here, generally, women are victimized by rude, violent and abusive behavior. Abusive behavior, these can be physical or emotional. Domestic violence is one of the women crises all over the world. It's an alarming issue and global crises. Especially, domestic violence is high in South Africa. Being a guardian, African woman are responsible for providing education, food, water, nutrition, health and protection to their children's. According to a recent statistics, 51% of African women have beaten by their husband for going out without the permission, neglecting the children, refusing to have sex, arguing back and for their common mistakes. Statistics says that, a third of all African women experience domestic violence and a woman kills for every eight hours by domestic violence in Africa. Cases and forms of domestic violence are rising day by day, women's are in abusive relationship. Africa is not except from this. Each country is starting the separate departments to tackle this problem with providing counseling, legal protection and helping services. Domestic violence includes aggressive behavior, abuse and harm on women in home setting.

Being a developing country, Africa is well known for its geographical features, languages, education, and cultural diversity. Most powerful women personalities from the Africa are women icons, dynamic personalities, activists, change makers and reshaping the society from negligence and inequality. They fought for the rights of women, equality in education, employment, and social, political, economic, avenues/opportunities. Some eminent global leaders and personalities are Bonang Matheba, Graca Machel, Chimamanda Ngozi, Adichie, Aya Chebbi, Lupita Nyong'o, Agnes Matilda Kalibata, Aisha Yesufu.



## **Literature review**

The term Domestic Violence (DV) is become very popular now days. Some of the violence will settle in family setting and local courts. Only few of scholarly works were produced and few books were rarely written on the topic Partner Violence (PV) or Spousal Violence (SV). Rinki Bhattacharya is a well-known columnist, writer and documentary film maker and women activist. Who wrote the book “Behind closed doors.” she states that, the abuse, assault and rapes are happening against the woman is not considered as real violence, if it’s done by a husband or lover. Abuse is common in nature, it is experienced by every women and it is countless. Further she states that, all forms of domestic violence needs to attract the law makers, so they can enact the appropriate laws and legislations for enabling the women.

## **Theoretical framework**

Domestic violence is one of the major problem, issues or crisis of every woman, a feminists are always against to this problem. Women are working in all the fields of society and contributing a lot to development of any society or nation. Apart from the house wife, they are serving in the fields of education, agriculture, science, technology and aviation etc. women are facing violence in home and sexual harassment in workplace also. Especially, the researcher needs to research on this problem and come out with the appropriate solutions. Theory always provides a real causes and facts of a problem. So, before going to search a solution, researcher should study the theory and associated facts.

## **Relationale of the chapter**

Domestic violence is a global issue, which is happening in every home and society as well. Domestic violence can break the women rights and freedom. So, they can’t able to lead satisfactory life and contribute nothing to development of a nation. This is only possible when they are free from inequality, harassment and abuse. The main purpose of this study is to recognize the causes behind domestic violence in Africa. Media can helpful to prevent the domestic violence through creating awareness in the mass. It is our culture that we should treat women very well in every aspect of their life. So, they can able to perform their role very well. Here, Researcher tries to find out the role of media in preventing the domestic violence. Research work carried out to finding the causes and solution for the domestic violence in Africa.

## **Problem statement**

Problem statement always describes the issue that is in need of the study. Domestic violence is one of the major problems faced by every woman all over the world. Hence, to find out the causes and associated facts for Domestic Violence especially, the country like Africa, And also tries to find out the role of media in preventing the domestic violence in Africa. Researcher selected the topic for research is “Domestic violence in Africa; causes and Media as a remedy. “

## **Objectives of Research**

### **The main objectives of this research are as following**

1. To study and analyze the causes and associated facts pertaining to the domestic violence in Africa.
2. To finding out the role of media in preventing the domestic violence in Africa.
3. To enhance and encourage power of media professionals to work in the field of Domestic Violence.



### **Forms of Domestic Violence in Africa**

Even there is good governance, administration, laws and constitution existing, Gender based violence is increasing day by day in South Africa. We confront different type of violence like, discrimination based on sex, rape, sexual assault, abusive behavior, physical injury, physical violence, sexual violence, psychological abuse, emotional and economical abuse, human trafficking, touches girls for sexual purpose, intimate partner violence, spiritual violence, verbal abuse, financial abuse, neglecting, beating by stick and so on.

### **Factors responsible for domestic violence in Africa**

We can formulate the solution plan by studying the root causes for the domestic violence in Africa. In some cases, it might be rude/bad behavior/attitude of the partner wife or husband, the style of speaking with their husband, the way treating the partner, how to show love, affection and respect towards their husbands? Hence, the formal education/culture given by the parents/family plays very important role i.e. how to build the cordial relation with their husband and family?, how to build and maintain amicable environment in the family?, how to take care of and showing the respect to family members husband/children/elders?, how to maintain the responsibilities in the family and outside the family?, this all key roles related to only for women, why because, being a house wife/manager of the house she need to maintain very well all aspects in all angles. So, good culture and responsibilities should be taught and cultivate to girl child in the beginning state or in the before marriage stage.

1. Anger and hostility
2. Aggressive or delinquent behavior
3. Heavy alcohol and drug use
4. Low self esteem
5. Low education and income
6. Depression and suicidal attempts
7. Lack of non-violent and problem solving skills

### **Methodology of research**

Thinking domestic violence as one of the familial issue and social problem; researcher used explorative research methodology to explore the concepts, nature and involving things of Domestic Violence in Africa and the role of media in preventing the domestic violence. This paper is prepared by studying and analyzing secondary source of data like., Books, journals, magazines, news papers, opinions and websites of reputed organizations like, World Bank and world health organizations (WHO), literature sources, manuals, and statistics of some government (GO), non government organizations (NGO) and humanitarian organizations in Africa.

### **The Role of media in preventing domestic violence in Africa**

Media professionals are visiting to the field and reporting the actual data that they have observed. As quote saying “The pen is mightier than the sword “. A pen has the ultimate power to change the society. Media is the one of the industry that can change the society and nation in wide sense. Media addresses the issues and things that can cause obstacle or mislead an individual, family and society as hole in Africa. Media represents a nation at global level. They have also fear of death from the dictator party, power of political parties and government officials as they are producing and presenting the actual matters that they come across transparently. Media can play a pivotal role in preventing violence against women in Africa and reporting on violence against women.



1. Promoting the gender equality
2. Pressure on government to enact laws and legislations that reducing the domestic violence.
3. Creating awareness in the mass regarding causes and effects of domestic violence.
4. Treating women as a human being
5. The role of lobbying/lobbyist

### **1. Promoting the gender equality**

Gender inequality is the one of the major problem. It will happen when not providing the equal opportunities to women in all the fields like education, employment and remuneration. Most of the media are working on this to bring gender equality in African society, at the same time; we cannot forget the roles of Non-Government organizations in this field. Women have knowledge and strength; they are capable to compete with the men in all spheres of society. They should be valued and respect, and it's not only the work of media and non-government organizations to bring the gender equality, the liberal country like Africa, needs to adopt and promote the gender equality by conducting necessary plans and programs.

### **2. To bring Pressure on the government to enact laws and legislations**

To bring pressure on government to enact/establish necessary laws and legislations is one task. It can be done by adopting the Social action (one of the popular method of social work profession). Medias usually, disseminate the issues and problems like domestic violence in the mass, through that, they can bring pressure on government to enact the appropriate laws and legislations to reduce or eradicate the problem Domestic violence in Africa. Here, media professionals can work as mediator between the government and the people. Media can organize the people, recourses and initiate the procedures and suggestions to reducing the mass problems like, poverty and domestic violence in the country Africa.

### **2. Creating awareness in the mass to reduce the effects of domestic violence.**

It is one of the roles played by a media. In some forms of the domestic violence i.e. Physical violence, beating, burning, spreading the acid on women can cause severe death/wounds and life time disablement and divorce. In some cases women become psychologically ill or face psychological disorders, and the husband can face bereavement losing their partner by committing domestic violence by knowingly or unknowingly. Media can create awareness among the mass spreading the affects of these kind of violence and through that media will educate the people. Media can give the advertisement from the popular Actors, Models in the newspapers, magazines and local T.V channels.

### **3. Treating women as a human being**

We need to treat women as human being inside and outside the home. They too have freedom, equal opportunities, needs and necessities. We value and respect the women as they are also human, then only harassment and violence can be reduce against women. We need to tackle problems like treating women like inhuman and sexual harassment on women in work place. So, media can play a very important role in educating the people by disseminating the information i.e. using and printing the pictures and irony pictures of violence and inhuman activities against women in newspapers, magazines and local media channels.



#### **4. The role of lobbyist**

The media is one of the popular tool it is disseminating the information and facts that happening in the society. It is always working on the principle of democracy, justice, development, equality and transparency. It addresses the problems of women, who are victimized by the domestic violence, so that they can able to bring lobby (facilities, legal aid, alimony or monetary compensation) to victim women from the government and party husbands. Here, media personals can use the techniques of interviewing, home visit, discussion with the particular victim women and reporting.

#### **Discussions of the findings**

Domestic violence includes partner abuse, harassment, and beating the women for various reasons in African country. It is said to affect on women, children, aged people and general public also. Continuity of violence in home can bring severe negative changes in interpersonal relationships (feelings of partner can change towards their husbands), family and society also. Due to Domestic violence, we can see the absence of peace in family. It will break the family and deviate the society. The children grown in same familial environment can become child delinquents and also face severe mental disorders. They can lose love, affection, respect and control towards their parents. Thus, this can affect negatively on the individuals, family, society and nation as well. Thus domestic violence ends up with breaking the interpersonal relations (divorce), bodings of family and society. So, African government needs to take it as a severe family and social problem, and initiate the necessary procedures, formulate the appropriate laws and legislations to fight with this problem.

#### **Practice based recommendations of the chapter**

To reducing the effects of domestic violence in Africa, researcher has come out with these suggestions,

1. African government needs to take it as a severe problem but not the common problem, and appropriate procedures should be implemented for the favor of victim women.
2. Separate department/wings should be open and starts the counseling, Tele counseling, toll free number and rehabilitation service to the victim women's. Recruit the right person/officials for dealing with this problem i.e. Doctors, nurses, Counselor, family counselor, social worker, case manager and rehabilitation worker.
3. The African government needs to give scope with providing financial assistance to research work and research projects on the particular issue. Because without the research we cannot give solution to the any problem.
4. Here, prior finding of the problem and necessary procedures are to be taken.
5. To educate the family and community about the effects of domestic violence.
6. Here, counseling and rehabilitation services can heal the severity of the problem soon.

#### **The implication of the chapter**

This chapter would be fruitful source, reference for upcoming research projects. Here, researcher tries to explore the things in actual manner. To solving the any problem, we need to give attention and study the root causes of the problem; we need to do it in this case also. So, this chapter would be a great source for educators, students, government, policy makers, social scientists and public in general.



## Conclusion

Domestic violence or partner violence is one of the major problems of family and society. It is a universal problem. We can see it in under developed, developing and developed country also. Even though, the South African government ensures that the role of women in all sectors of the society (including socio-economic, political), African women are facing and experiencing a large number of cases Domestic Violence in Africa according to human rights commission. Eradicating the Domestic violence is not possible only for government, but efforts of non government organizations and general public will also be highly encouraged. No one should neglect the problems like domestic violence if they come across in the surrounding environments. They can call the police or intimate the respective departments.

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