

Comment on the power and control relationship in GBV.

Introduction

Gender based violence is a pervasive and deeply rooted social issue that has been spread across the cultural, economic and geographical boundaries. In relationships, Gender based violence is often the manifestation of power and control, where one individual seeks to gain power to control the other member or his partner on the basis of their gender. This form of violence encompasses the spectrum of behaviours including physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence and affect the women or marginalized group. There are different stages of power and

control in relationships which are given as follow.

Intimidation

At this stage the abuser intimidates his partner through verbal and non-verbal actions and frightens her to doing those things, he wants to do her. For example, when a man wants to control her wife or any woman in his family he will intimidate by verbal actions, like abusing, character assassination or by distribution of misinformation about her or non-verbal actions including destruction of property and displaying weapons etc.

Coercion and Threats

In this stage, the abuser uses threats as a technique in order to control the woman. For example in spouses the male partner threatens her female partner that he will leave her or he will take away the children from her. In other threats may include the threat of another marriage or to lock the doors for her. By practising all these threats man compels her to act as he wants. In this way he takes control over her wills, thoughts and actions too.

Emotional Abuse

At this step, abuser tries to control the woman emotionally. Emotional violence is

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more devastating than the physical violence. The tactics include in emotional abuse are humiliating her, making her feel guilty and using dirty language. For example, a woman which is emotionally attached with a person and that person wants to control her. He will use the above tactics by jilting her or by bashing her in front of her friends and relatives. The abuser keeps her disturbing by blaming her as a cause of every problem in his life. At the end - this emotional abuse will results in the mental illness of women.

Isolation

This element involves controlling what a woman does, who she sees or talk to and where she goes. The offender may ~~keeps~~ ^{restricts} the woman from visiting her friends or workplace. For example, it has been seen in the rural societies that when a woman gets married, her husband restricts her to not to talk even with her parents, and stops her to visit the her parental home on events. This increases his power and control over the woman by causing an isolation for her.

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming

At this stage abuser tries to compensate his violence by minimizing his

actions or by denying them completely. He will make lame excuses. He will tell the victim that she is imagining the harm, he didn't do so, by saying "I did not hit you, I was just kidding. He may also blame the woman for abuse. If we see this in the context of our society, it is happening around. An abuser, in his aggression or frustration, abuse women either it is intimidation or physical violence. After that he will show himself as he loves her by apologizing, by minimizing or denying his action and ^{keep} attaches a woman emotionally with him. Through this, the abuser controls her and maintains his image and power on her.

Children

Abusers often use the children to maintain power and control over their partners. In this way he either physically harms the children or threatens to harm them. He might also threaten his partner that he will withhold support if she decides to leave him. As it can be seen that a number of women who get fed up from the behaviour of abusers go to courts and file their cases of maintenance of children. A data shows that almost 20% cases, out of all, are of maintenance of children.

Use of Male Privilege

In this type of control the abuser make all of

decisions in the household by using a patriarchal values. Sometimes he will take the cover of religion to control women. He places the women in a subservient position.

Economic Abuse

The abuser maintains control over the woman's finance and assets in order to control her. This makes it more difficult for her to leave. Because if she leaves her, there will be a lot of hurdles in the society for her. Her survival will be difficult. So she will never even think to leave and remain under control of the abuser.