

Violence against Women and Children: Men and Masculinity What is the Covid Connection?

What Could be The Role of Men and Boys

April 28, 2020

Webinar Series for Practitioners

Addressing VAW Within the Covid Pandemic Response – Working with Men and Boys



Objectives:

We will discuss and understand why there is a sudden increase in violence against women and children

Is there any connection between the Covid pandemic and its management and 'Masculinity' which is contributing in violence against women and children?

Can we engage men in a positive manner to reduce violence against women and children?

What is the problem?

The News around us

April 27, 2020

Google के दिखाए
यह विज्ञापन देखना बंद करें

ताज़ा खबर

Hindi News / नुर्खी

ये है 'आगरा मॉडल'? टैस्टिंग के नाम पर ना क्वारंटाइन सेंटर में बंद किए गए COVID-19 से

भोपाल:अस्पताल जा रही लड़की को गाड़ी से अगवा कर रेप, पीड़िता ने कहा - 8

से अगवा कर रेप, पीड़िता ने कहा - 8

किलोमीटर तक किसी चेक पोस्ट पर पुलिस ने नहीं रोका: केस दर्ज

India Lockdown, Rape in Bhopal: दहशत की वजह से लड़की इस दिन खामोश रही और उसने अपने घरवालों को कुछ नहीं बताया। अगले दिन लड़की की दोस्त ने उसे पुलिस स्टेशन जाने की सलाह दी।

जनसत्ता ऑनलाइन Edited By Nishant Nandan

While Battling COVID-19, We Can't Let the Pandemic of Domestic Violence Continue

For many women, 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' means nothing as 'safe' and 'home' are not synonymous.

Home > All India > 53-Year-Old Bank Manager Allegedly Raped in Her Bhopal Home Amid Lockdown

53-Year-Old Bank Manager Allegedly Raped in Her Bhopal Home Amid Lockdown

Bhopal Lockdown: The woman had been living alone in the flat as her husband was stuck in his hometown in Rajasthan because of the COVID-19 lockdown.

All India | Written by Anurag Dwary | Updated: April 18, 2020 01:18 pm IST

लॉकडाउन में मायके में फंसी पत्नी के नहीं आने पर प्रेमिका से कर ली शादी

पटना, बिहार

Last updated: Fri, 17 Apr 2020 02:00 PM



लूडो में पत्नी ने हराया, गुस्साए पति ने तोड़ दी रीढ़ की हड्डी
कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण को बढ़ने...
www.livehindustan.com

लूडो में पत्नी ने हराया, गुस्साए पति ने तोड़ दी रीढ़ की हड्डी

<https://www.livehindustan.com/national/story-wife-defeats-husband-in-ludo-game-during-lockdown-man-beats-and-breaks-her-spine-at-vadodara-3178126.html>

Sent from Hindustan Android App.
Download from here

What Women are facing

- Women and children are facing physical, sexual and emotional violence
- Women and children are facing threats, fear and tension
- Women's dignity and safety is challenged
- Women's workload is increased - Domestic work and carework related
- Burden to manage her spouse's expectations and stress related anxieties

There is reinforcement of patriarchal role expectations

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Covid 19 infection - Containment/Disease-treatment related anxieties and misinformation

What Men are facing

- Loss of jobs/livelihoods and income uncertainty
- Taking risk to reach home from the place of job
- Targetting by others/violence against migrants, minorities, people outside the house – Police action/violence
- Helplessness – lack of the disease, fear of death

Consequences

- Violence on those over whom men have power – women, children, minorities, older people
- Violence on Self - Committing suicide, collective suicide with family, substance abuse

Is there any connection of Covid and increasing VAW & Children?

Interactive discussion

There is need to understand

- Why men are behaving in this manner
- What do we know about masculinity
- Is there possibility that Covid management is affecting men's own self-concept
- Is there possibility that men can be engaged

How Men and Masculinities are implicated

- There are pressures on men to fulfil their socially prescribed gender roles as providers and protectors due to upset of livelihood
- Never engaged in care work and not familiar with spending more time at home
- Men are not allowed to share own emotional crisis, as per social norms. Men's own fear damages women and children and others in the family
- Men have learned to manage their tension through showing anger, committing violence towards others or on self and using their own power in negative ways like controlling everyone
- Not ready to easily accept their failures and limitations due to patriarchal socialisation
- Masculinity expects men to be "Tough" and "In-charge". Men are totally overwhelmed by Covid - uncertain, information is lacking, state-based coercions are 'emasculating'

Masculinity related role-expectations are disrupted

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Violence on the weaker is a socially 'accepted' response to deal with 'failure'

What is your analysis?

Interactive discussion

The changes we have seen
in Men and Masculinities in our work

Men: New Roles in the Family

- Men from the groups we mobilise have started performing many domestic chores in the home like cooking, cleaning, bringing water, firewood, washing clothes and utensils, and so on.
 - 39.4% of the members of men's groups have started cooking (total 1662)
 - 24.8% have started sweeping and cleaning their house (total 1662)
 - 27.3% have started washing clothes (total 1662)
- 67.4% married men's were using contraceptives (total 804)
- 77.5 % men with child below 1 year were using contraceptives (total 169); 39 % wash their child's nappies; 70% support in household chores so wife can rest
- 74% with children between 3 – 6 years feed their children (total 282) ; 74% bathe their children ; 56% wash their children's clothes
- 65% men with children between 7–14 years feed their children (total 255); 66% prepare their children for school; 60% help their children with their studies

(Maharashtra Samajdar Jodidar Project)

Men as Husbands

- **Respect**- Men start to consider their wives as partners. They make decisions concerning their family together as a couple. Most of the women also felt that the husbands respect them and they now always have mutual agreement to perform most of the activities in the home.
- **Time spent together** – Time spent with wife and children depended on employment and whether it was a nuclear or extended family. In extended families couples spent much less time together. This has changed
- **Decision Making** – Household purchases done after joint decision making
- **Sexual coercion** – Women said they are not forced and have consensual sex. Women are expressing their choice
- **Support to women's leadership** – Women becoming entrepreneurs, operating independent bank accounts, participating in local village leadership forums – men supporting them by taking over domestic responsibilities and not placing restrictions

Baba Sahib and his wife, Maharashtra

“I have always wanted a son, and when we had a daughter I thrashed my wife and kept pushing her to have a son.

Once I became a member of the group, I realised the unwanted pressure I was putting on her to bear a son. I was really ashamed of all the hurt and violence that my wife had to bear because of my behaviour.

When in one of the group meetings we talked about NSV I knew what I should do and went and underwent NSV

My behaviour towards my wife has changed. And I adore my daughter she is my life. Now I know how important it is to respect family life and give my daughter the best of education.”



Wife's Testimonies (Maharashtra)

"My husband has started taking care of the children when I go to the anganwadi centre. I also have access to money now."

Manisha Bokade, wife of an animator (community group leader)

"My husband does chores like washing utensils, sweeping the floors and cooking now. He has also given up drinking."

Kanta Bai, wife of a group member,

"My husband allows me to run the shop. He leaves the entire business and transaction to me. He is now spending more time in agricultural work."

Asha tai, wife of an animator

The project brought about a great change in him. He has become a sensitive person. He has started taking up responsibilities of domestic work. He started taking care of our daughter. The villagers started taking him more seriously after observing the change he was able to bring in at his personal level. They now come to him for advice and mediation. My friends tell me that my husband is a very good person. They say that he loves me and takes care of my feelings, something their husbands don't do. I advise them to motivate their husbands to join the men's group.....

Jaishree, wife of an animator

“I used to think men and women’s roles are divided, but now I contribute to domestic work and encourage my wife to work outside the house. We take joint decision for family planning” - **Shankar Deen, 32 yrs, U.P**



Involvement in childcare and immunisation – **Mantosh, Jharkhand**

How Masculinities Change

- Greater concern for women's needs
- Greater respect for women's choices and autonomy
- Contribution to support women's needs/choices
- Respecting children's needs, choices, rights
- From control of women – to acceptance and celebration of women's achievements
- Increasing peer group relationships - 'gehri dosti'
- Men provide support to each other and counselling

What are your experiences in
working with Men and Boys on
VAW or Gender?

Interactive discussion

What are the options

Option one:

Men live with their imagination of patriarchy and masculinity which is based on control and violence;

Try to establish power and control through violence on others/ the weaker;
Self-destruction

Option two:

Understand the root cause;

Use the opportunity to articulate new role and equitable norms in the home and community;
build empathy;
inspire for action to reach out to women who are facing violence

Moving Ahead

What can we do in the Immediate and Medium Term?

Discuss and explore collectively

Possible Actions

Reaching out to men in the community:

- Express empathy, understanding, failure is OK, look at who else is struggling
- Develop system to keep in touch with each other (other men)
- Encourage/inspire to action –
 - Reach out to others who may be in greater distress, try and arrange for help
 - Support for domestic work and childcare at home
 - Emotional care and support to women and children in the family
 - Check whether public support systems are working

Next Session

Topic – *Preventing Violence in the Home and in the Community :*
Role of Men and Boys

Date – 29th April 2020 Wednesday 3pm to 4pm

Link – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82906843333>

Thank You