

VIOLENCE IN LOVE AND AFFAIRS IN INDIA: A SOCIO-CULTURAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

A love affair is a romantic relationship in which two people have sexual relations without marriage. It also includes extra marital affair. The cases of violence in love affairs are increasing day by day in India, which is a matter of concern and has become a burning issue now. This study explores the socio-cultural basis, legal aspects and psychological factors of violence in love affairs by studying various cases and media reports. It also discusses recommendations for intervention and policy.

Keyword

Love affair, love and affair, romantic relationship, extra marital affair, socio-cultural, analysis

Introduction

Love affair refers to a romantic relationship in which two people have sexual relations with each other without marriage, extra marital affair is also included in it. It has been observed in various studies that more than 50% of women and men have been found to be living in extra marital affairs. In India, cases related to violence in love affairs are increasing day by day, which is a matter of concern and has also become a burning issue. Intimate partner violence can be in any of the following four forms.—physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (CDC, 2015). According to the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau NCRB, cases of domestic violence and violence by intimate partners are at their peak. In this figure, more than 30000 cases were registered in 2022, which is 15 percent more than the figures obtained last year (NCRB, 2022). The reason for this may be India's rigid culture, rude traditions and religious beliefs.

The need and importance of studying socio-cultural analysis of violence in love affairs is extremely important as it highlights the complex and sensitive issues prevalent in society. Violence found in relationships in our society, such as physical, mental, and emotional abuse, is often linked to cultural beliefs, traditional values, and gender inequalities. Such studies not only develop a deeper understanding of these problems, but also help in raising awareness in society, making policy reforms, and strengthening support mechanisms for victims. Also, this study can provide the right guidance towards healthy and respectful relationships among youth, leading to a more equal and secure society.

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The aim of this study is to explore the socio-cultural foundations, legal aspects, and psychological effects of violence in romantic relationships and to discuss recommendations for policy making and intervention.

The nature of this study is analytical which is based on qualitative method approach. In this study, media reports related to various cases have been analyzed.

Recent Cases and Media Reports

Recent high-profile cases have highlighted the severity of the issues.

Case of Domestic Violence Leading to Murder in Bengaluru

In Bengaluru, a woman was brutally murdered by her lover following an argument. This incident highlights the extreme forms of violence that can erupt in romantic entanglements.

The Times of India, March 2024.

Honor Killing in Haryana Over Love Affair

A young couple in Haryana was killed by the girl's family in an honor killing incident. The family disapproved of their relationship, leading to a tragic end.

NDTV, February 2024.

Acid Attack in Delhi Over Unrequited Love

In Delhi, a man threw acid on a woman after she rejected his advances. This case underscores the extreme retaliatory measures some individuals take when faced with rejection.

The Hindu, April 2024.

Extramarital Affair Leading to Domestic Abuse in Mumbai

A woman in Mumbai suffered severe domestic abuse after her husband discovered her extramarital affair. The violence escalated to the point where legal intervention was required.

Hindustan Times, January 2024.

Teenage Couple Commits Suicide in Rajasthan

Facing immense societal pressure and family opposition, a teenage couple in Rajasthan committed suicide. Their tragic end highlights the severe consequences of societal disapproval.

India Today, December 2023.

Violence Against Woman Over Suspected Affair in Kerala

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A woman in Kerala was beaten by her husband on the suspicion of having an affair. The incident raises concerns about the lack of trust and communication in relationships.

The New Indian Express, May 2024.

Discussion

The media reports presented above illustrate the diverse and alarming nature of violence in romantic relationships and affairs in India. From honor killings to acid attacks and domestic abuse, the spectrum of violence is wide and deeply concerning. Several factors contribute to this violence:

Cultural Norms and Honor: Traditional values and the concept of honor often lead to extreme actions, such as honor killings, when families disapprove of a relationship.

Rejection and Retaliation: Rejection in romantic pursuits can lead to violent retaliatory actions, such as acid attacks, highlighting a lack of coping mechanisms and respect for personal choices.

Extramarital Affairs: Infidelity can result in severe domestic violence, driven by betrayal and mistrust.

Societal Pressure: Young couples, especially teenagers, face immense pressure from families and society, sometimes leading to tragic outcomes like suicide.

Recommendations

Legal Reforms

Strengthening the implementation of existing laws and introducing stricter penalties for perpetrators of violence in romantic relationships are crucial steps.

Awareness Campaigns

Educational campaigns to challenge patriarchal norms and promote gender equality can help change societal attitudes towards love and relationships.

Support Systems

Establishing robust support systems, including shelters, counseling services, and hotlines, can provide immediate help to victims.

Economic Empowerment

Programs aimed at empowering women economically can reduce their dependence on abusive partners and give them the means to escape violent situations.

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Conclusion

Violence in romantic relationships and affairs is a multifaceted issue in India, rooted in deep-seated cultural, societal, and individual factors. The media reports highlight the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address this violence, including legal measures, societal awareness, and support systems for victims. It is crucial to foster an environment where relationships are based on mutual respect and understanding, and where individuals can seek help without fear of stigma or retribution.

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