

**Social Consequences Of Human Rights Violation Based On Marital Status Among
Tribal Women Of East Garo Hills In Meghalaya, India**

Kethy Mary D Sangma

1. (Ph.D Research Scholar in Political Science, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, Annamalai University)

Dr. J. Subramaniyan

2. (Associate Professor & Co-Ordinator, Political Science & Public Administration Wing DDE, Annamalai University)

ABSTRACT: Human rights are commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights entitled to every individual simply for being human. The world is filled with the abuses of human rights and violations of basic rights. The rights of women have been violated and ignored in many ways. So, the study attempts to examine the social consequences of human rights violation based on marital status of tribal women of East Garo Hills in Meghalaya, India. The self structured questionnaire was adopted to collect the data from 339 respondents through survey method. The sample was by using a systematic random sampling technique. The mean and ANOVA was used as a statistical tools to measure the human rights violation against women. The findings revealed that women lost their social respect in the society when they violated by male individuals, possibility to increase the number of divorce rate or prefer to live separately due to the domestic violence. Violence has a negative impact on women education and on social norms besides women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children. Based on marital status of women, the analysis demonstrates that the respondents who are separated (mean=4.35) face a high level of social impact due to the violence against as compared to other marital status groups. So, the F-value is 30.65 of the one way ANOVA model is significant at a p-value of 0.001. Hence, it is concluded that women were effected socially due to violence.

INTRODUCTION

Human rights are commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights entitled to every individual simply for being human. Every human being has a natural right from the time of their birth till death. (Dalal, 2015) It is our birth right that every individual deserve to be treated equally with respect to dignity and should not be discriminated on the basis of sex, religion, caste, colour and ender in our community or society. The United Nations define human rights as “those rights which are inherent in all human beings by virtue of their humanity and without which we cannot live as human beings”. (Mishra, 2000) However human rights are violated by unjust act in both national and international structures.

Violence against women is a problem across the World. It affects women of all races, ethnic groups, classes and nationalities. It is a life-threatening problem for an individual woman and a serious problem for all socio-economic and educational classes. It cuts across cultural and religious

barriers, impeding the right of women to participate fully in society. Violence against women takes a dismaying variety of forms, from domestic abuse to rape, to child marriages and to female circumcision. All of them are violations of the most fundamental human rights.

The world is filled with the abuses of human rights and violations of basic rights. The rights of women have been violated and ignored in many ways. Women are always discriminated and dishonoured in every society (Muntaqim). Women have been denied for their basic human rights for centuries such as right to vote, right to work, freedom of speech and thought and abused by men sexually in the society. Women have been denied for their basic human rights for centuries such as right to vote, right to work, freedom of speech and thought and abused by men sexually in the society.

AN OVERVIEW OF EAST GARO HILLS

East Garo Hills District is one of the eleven districts of Meghalaya. The district constitutes the majority of Garo tribe. At present the district is also a home for other non-tribal communities like Bengalis, Nepalis, Biharis, Marwaris, Rabhas, Hajongs, Koches, Dalus, Banais and Boros. The Garos are the second largest tribe after Khasis in Meghalaya. They are distributed over five Garo Hills Districts among eleven districts of Meghalaya. (District of Meghalaya) The District is bounded by South Garo Hills on the south, West Garo Hills on the West, West Khasi Hills on the East and North Garo Hills on the north.

The East Garo Hills District covers an area of 1715 sq. km. According to 2011 censuses, the total population of the district was 1,45,798 persons, scattered in the 3 C&RD blocks comprising of 492 villages and one town. Williamnagar, being a headquarter of the district is neatly planned township, named after Capt. Williamson A. Sangma, the first Chief Minister of the state of Meghalaya. Williamnagar has all the facilities of a modern town and is the largest growth centre in Garo Hills next to Tura in West Garo Hills. The density of the population is about 96 persons per sq. km. and the sex ratio is 961 females per 1000 males. The average literacy rate of the district is 73.95% (male 77.72%, female 70.05), the urban and the rural literacy rate is 90.18% and 71.17 % respectively. A large part of the Garo community follows Christianity but the Garo ancestor's religion is Songsarek. At present the traditional Songsarek religion is declining due to the conversion to Christianity (India).

The Garo women in Meghalaya are expected to be better than any other society as the society practice matrilineal system but the position has not been favourably affected by the matrilineal system. According to this system, the title, inheritance, residence after marriage and succession are followed through maternal line. One may expect that garo women can enjoy the special social status in the society. However the society is rooted in patriarchy, men's superiority over women was not viewed as violent or deviant. Women themselves let the crimes to happen as many of them are not aware of their basic rights. It also proclaimed that there is a practise of power imbalance between men and women in the society.

With the flux of time, the district has experienced the rise in crime against women. Most of the cases remain unreported due to lack of support system and fear of shame. Women face discrimination not only at home but also in the society which holds the idea of inequality between men and women. The society as a whole and the vice chair-person of National Commission for Women (NCW) Miss Gamchi Timre R. Marak shows their concern over the rising crimes against women as many of the women are still not aware of right victims services and legal assistance.

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

Social Consequences Of Human Rights Violation Based On Marital Status Among Tribal Women Of East Garo Hills In Meghalaya, India

The consequences of violence against women are far broader than the impact on the women victims. Their families and friends may be affected. In the case of intimate partner violence, there is increasing evidence of the negative impact on children of exposure to violence in the family. Society suffers economically, both in the use of resources and in the loss of productivity due to fear and injury. Understanding the consequences of violence is necessary for planning and implementing interventions to deal with those consequences. This section examines research findings about the consequences violence against women has on the individual victim, those closest to her, and on society as a whole.

Children in families in which the woman is battered are at risk of both physical and sexual abuse. Even if children are not themselves abused, living in a family in which there is violence between their parents puts children at risk. These children have been found to exhibit high levels of aggressive and antisocial, as well as fearful and inhibited, behaviors. Other studies have shown that children who have experienced parental violence have more deficits in social competence and higher levels of depression, anxiety, and temperament problems than children in nonviolent homes. Christopher- Little is known of the impact of trauma on social roles, life patterns, and timing of life transitions. A life-span perspective would look at differential effects on women's lives when violence involves multiple types and perpetrators, is on-going, cumulative, and becomes a chronic feature of the environment. Many social and public health consequences of violence are unstudied, including labor force participation, economic well-being, fertility decisions, divorce rates, and health status. However, the same act can have very different meanings depending on many features that shape perceptions and behaviour, including the age of the victim, her relationship with the perpetrator, culture, social class, sexual orientation, previous history of violence, perceived intent of the violence, and perceived causes and effects of the violence.

The social costs of intimate partner and sexual violence are enormous and have ripple effects throughout society. Women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children. Many women are forced to leave their homes to find safety because of violence. Research shows that half of all homeless women and children became homeless while trying to escape intimate partner violence (Goodman, 2011). Women who experienced sexual assault had to quit or were forced to leave their jobs in the first year after the assault.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to the past literature and statistical data, violence against women has a great impact on the lives of women which leads to reduction in self-confidence, inhibit women's ability to participate fully in social activities, disrupt women's health, reduce women's autonomy in the economic, political, social, cultural and physical fields (Jl. Ir. M. Putuhena, 2019). Violence against women has undoubtedly affected and suppressed the potential of practically every aspect of women's lives, and has prevented them from accomplishing and delivering their full potential as normal human beings (Jamir, 2014). Women are often subjected to a great degree of discrimination and deprivation in terms of access to education, health, income-earning opportunities or property rights which deny them the choices and opportunities for a decent and tolerable life (Thomas, 2018). The problems of crime against women like domestic violence not only rose in the family relationship, it transfers the problem from private stage to social stage with social consequences and costs. Violence of any kind has immediate repercussions on women leading to isolation, loss of self-esteem, anxiety and depression (Lavinia Elisabeta POPP, 2019).

OBJECTIVES

- To study the social consequences of human rights violation against Garo women
- To study the social consequences due to human rights violation against women based on marital status

SAMPLING AND METHODS

The descriptive research design was adopted. The self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data through survey method. For selecting the sample, the Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted to select the rural and urban areas. The East Garo Hills District of Meghalaya consists of 3 Blocks (Taluks) i.e. Samanda Block, Songsak Block and Rongjeng Block. Among these 3 Blocks, Songsak Block and Samanda Block were selected respectively. Among these two Blocks, the Songsak Block consists of 228 villages. Among these, five villages were selected randomly. The selected five villages from Songsak Block are; Mendal, Sanima, Akarok Songital, Raja Apal and Skera Apal. The twenty five (25%) per cent women belong to above 18 years were selected by using a systematic random sampling technique from each of these five villages.

The Williamnagar is a town in Samanda Block that consists of 10 Wards; among these, three Wards were selected randomly. The selected three Wards from Williamnagar are; Ward 5, Ward 6 and Ward 9. From each of these 3 Wards, 25 per cent of the women respondents belong to the age above 18 years were selected by using a systematic random sampling technique. The data were gathered from the respondents 8 January to 22 March, 2021.

DATA SOURCES

The study is based upon both primary and secondary sources. The data was collected from respondents directly and the secondary data was collected from book, articles, news reporters, internet websites etc.

STATISTICAL TOOLS

Mean and Standard Deviation and ANNOVA Test were used as statistical tools.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table. 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Social impact on Women with regard to Human Rights Violation against Women

Statements	N	Mean	SD
Women didn't want to go outside for work, feeling unsafe due to the fear of violence	339	4.1917	0.65844
Impossible to socialize due to the constant fear of Violence.	339	4.1298	0.57123

Social Consequences Of Human Rights Violation Based On Marital Status Among Tribal Women Of
East Garo Hills In Meghalaya, India

Breaks up in family/social relationships due to the domestic violence	339	4.2065	0.70825
Violence makes neighbourhood relationships restricted.	339	4.2566	0.83679
Violence led to an increase in the number of suicide rates.	339	4.2478	0.68194
Due to the domestic violence, possibility to increase the number of divorce rate or prefer to live separately	339	4.3658	0.75886
Violence has a negative impact on women education.	339	4.3333	0.74447
Women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children due to the sexual violence.	339	4.3068	0.82866
Women lost their social respect in the society when they violated by male individuals	339	4.3923	0.77463
Violence has a negative impact on social norms.	339	4.3097	0.77398
The use of alcohol/drug among women has increased due to violence against women	339	4.2655	0.74601
Domestic violence has changed the livelihoods of women.	339	4.2920	0.63453
Women lost their jobs due to the fear of harassment, rape, kidnapping, killing	339	4.2655	0.62043
Women faces social stigma due to the sexual violence against women	339	4.2094	0.70528
Violence against women creates possibility of out-migration among women.	339	4.1003	0.75092

Source: Primary data

The above analysis shows the mean and standard deviation of the statements of the scale towards the social impact of violence against women. The scale consists of fifteen statements with five-point Linkert scale. The mean value ranges from 4.39 to 4.01. The mean value shows that there is a minor difference in the statements. The calculated standard deviation lies from 0.84 to 0.57. It is found that the statements “Women lost their social respect in the society when they violated by male individuals” has shown highest secured of the mean value (4.39), followed by the statements “Due to the domestic violence, possibility to increase the number of divorce rate or prefer to live separately” comes second in the order (4.37). The statement “Violence has a negative impact on women education” comes third in the order (4.33), after comes the statements “Violence has a negative impact on social norms” and “Women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children due to the sexual violence” both came forth in the order (4.31). The next statement “Domestic violence has changed the livelihoods of women” comes fifth in the serial (4.29). Again, comes the two statements “The use of alcohol/drug among women has increased due to violence against women” and “Women lost their jobs due to the fear of harassment, rape, kidnapping, killing” has shown the same mean scored value comes sixth in the order (4.27). Followed by statements “Violence makes neighbourhood relationships restricted” comes seventh in the order (4.26), and “Violence led to an increase in the

number of suicide rates” comes 8th in the order (4.25). The statements “Women faces social stigma due to the sexual violence against women” and “Breakups in family/social relationships due to the domestic violence” has shown the same scored mean value comes 9th in the order (4.21). The next statement “Women didn’t want to go outside for work, feeling unsafe due to the fear of violence” has shown the mean scored value comes 10th in the order (4.19). The statement “Impossible to socialize due to the constant fear of Violence” comes 11th in the order (4.13), and “Violence against women creates possibility of out-migration among women” comes last in the order according to the mean value (4.10).

The above analysis reveals the standard deviation value concerning the social impact on women with regard to human rights violation against them is found to be at a similar level.

Human rights violence against women is a widespread problem; it affects women of every age, in every society and in every socio-economic group. “Violence against women refers to any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Which makes it very unsafe for women to move freely outside their homes and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation? Besides, the consequences of the domestic violence in detail can be broadly categorized under the effect on the victim and the family, effect on the society and the effect on nation's growth and productivity (Prescila; 2014). Another study was conducted by Chellamuthu (2016) found that women and children are often the soft targets. In Indian society the situation is really gruesome. A significant number of deaths are taking place on daily basis, as a result of domestic violence only. Illiteracy, economical dependency on men folk and the otherwise male dominated society is some of the attributing factors to the problem. Dowry is one of the leading causes that results in human rights violation against the newlywed brides.

Table. 2: Mean Difference in the Social Impact due to Human Rights Violation against Women with regard to Marital Status of the Respondents

Factor	Marital Status	N	Mean	SD	F	p	DMRT
Social Impact	Married	208	3.5733	0.75110	30.653	0.001	5,4>3,2>1
	Unmarried	113	4.0324	0.30010			
	Widow	9	4.1667	0.34089			
	Divorced	5	4.2876	0.33046			
	Separated	4	4.3554	0.32665			
	Total	339	4.2582	0.36536			

Source: Primary data

2. (2.3). **H₀**: There is no significant difference in the level of social impact of human rights violation against women based on marital status

The mean value of the above table shows that the respondents who are separated secured a mean value of 4.35, the respondents who are divorced secured 4.29 mean value, the respondents who

Social Consequences Of Human Rights Violation Based On Marital Status Among Tribal Women Of East Garo Hills In Meghalaya, India

are widows secured 4.17 mean value, unmarried respondents secured 4.03 mean value and the respondents who are married secured 3.57 mean value. Based on mean value, the analysis demonstrates that the respondents who are separated (mean=4.35) face a high level of social impact due to the violence against them than who are divorced (mean=4.29), widows (mean=4.17), unmarried (mean=4.03) and those who are married (mean=3.57). The Duncan Multiple Range Test under post hoc test highlights that the respondents who are separated and divorced differ significantly from the respondents who are widows and unmarried with respect to social impact due to the human rights violation against women. The respondents who are widows and unmarried differ significantly from the respondents who are married regarding social impact due to the human rights violation against women. The F-value is 30.65 of the one way ANOVA model is significant at a p-value of 0.001. Therefore, the framed null hypothesis no. 2 (2.3) is rejected.

So, it is concluded that there exists a significant variation in the level of social impact of human rights violation against women with respect to marital status of the respondents.

The women who are living separated, divorced and widows can't fulfill their economic needs providing by the state welfare division, possibility to involve in illegal activities. In some cases, they were deprived property rights by their husbands and father in laws. It was also observed that when they lost their financial support from their husband, family, neighbours and other relatives' support, the others getting chance to violate them like sexual violence, physical violence, humiliated, abusing etc.

FINDINGS

It is found that the statements that women lost their social respect in the society when they violated by male individuals, possibility to increase the number of divorce rate or prefer to live separately due to the domestic violence. Violence has a negative impact on women education and on social norms besides women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children due to the violence. Based on marital status of women, the analysis demonstrates that the respondents who are separated (mean=4.35) face a high level of social impact due to the violence against them than who are divorced (mean=4.29), widows (mean=4.17), unmarried (mean=4.03) and those who are married (mean=3.57). So, the F-value is 30.65 of the one way ANOVA model is significant at a p-value of 0.001.

SUGGESTIONS

Following are the suggestions which need to be applied in order to tackle the human rights violation against women in Meghalaya.

- a. Awareness programmes should be conducted more in rural areas where various aspects of violence committing against women.
- b. Public awareness should be increased on the importance of efforts to overcome violence against women, both in individual, social and institutional contexts.
- c. Counselling should be conducted more for victims of violence against women.
- d. Criminal justice system should be improved in order to ensure fair and equal justice.
- e. Health service system must be improved to access comprehensive essential services for survivors of violence.
- f. Guidance programmes should be conducted for both victims and perpetrators.

REFERENCES

1. Anjanjyoti, B. (2010, August). *Changing status of women in matrilineal garo society a case study of the resubelpara development block under east Garo hills district of Meghalaya*. Guwahati, Assam, India: Shodhganga.
2. Chacko, P. M. (1998). *Matriliny in Meghalaya*. New Delhi: Regency Publications.
3. Dalal, D. K. (2015). *Effectiveness of Human Rights*. New Delhi: Cyber Tech Publications.
4. District of Meghalaya. (n.d.). *The people & Culture*. Retrieved from eastgarohills.gov.in.
5. Donnelly, J. (2002). *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. Cornell University Press.
6. Goodman, L. K. (2011). *No Safe Place: Sexual Assault in the Lives of Homeless Women*. National Resource Centre on Domestic Violence.
7. India, C. (n.d.). *East Garo Hills Population*. Retrieved from Censusindia2011.com.
8. Jamir, W. (2014). The Issue of Gender Discrimination in Meghalaya With Special. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 101-107.
9. JI. Ir. M. Putuhena, P. T. (2019). Legal Politics and Strategy on Protection of Women from . *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*.
10. Kumar, V. V. (2016). Violation of Women Human Rights in India - A Review. *International Research Journal of Commerce and Law*.
11. Mishra, P. (2000). *Human Rights Global Issues*. Delhi: Kalpaz Publications.
12. Muntaqim, K. A. (n.d.). *Protection of Human Rights*. Law Publisher(India) Pvt. Ltd.
13. Sen, S. (1973). *Women in Meghalaya*. Delhi: Daya Publishing House.
14. Thomas, W. T. (2018). *Poverty and Inequality in the Matrilineal*. Forum for Social Economics.
15. Prescila, S. S. (2014). Domestic Violence against Women In India: A Family Menace. *Indian Journal of Applied Research*, 4(12), 147-148.
16. Chellamuthu, M. (2016). Violence against Women in India. *Shanlax International Journal of Arts, Science & Humanities*, 4(2), p-98.