

Test - 4

Section - B

⑥ Violence against women is a shadow cast by a society that still doubts the capabilities of its women

Start writing from the below line:

On a chilly winter morning in the month of december, 2012 the entire country woke up to a spine chilling news. The news is about the Nirbhaya incident which shook the conscience of the society. Days after this horrific incident all the culprits were arrested. ~~But the~~ story doesn't end here.

Few weeks later BBC has done an interview with one of culprit. As part of the

interview these are the few statements made by the culprit, "A decent girl shouldn't roam in the night after 9 o'clock", "Girls are responsible for rapes", "Housekeeping is for girls not discos and bars", "Girls shouldn't fight back when someone rapes". *good intro*

If we can analyse all those statements we can understand the societal prejudices and doubts on women capabilities in terms of what they can do, what they cannot do and how these wrong perception of women's capabilities paving a path in perpetuating violence against women.

Violence against women are not mere instances rather it is ingrained in the societal attributes and systemic structures that perpetuate violence. The preface of violence is often based on undermining of the capabilities of women which makes them more vulnerable to the evils of the society.

↳ Good -

Going forward in this essay let us try to understand different types of violence that women faces based on the wrong perception of their capabilities, who are those perpetrators?, violence across intersectionality of women, various dichotomies and measures to counter the violence.

The spectrum of violence

Often violence against women is mostly associated with physical abuse. In reality women faces wide variety of violence such as physical abuse, psychological/emotional violence, financial abuse, sexual violence and in some cases even death due to honour killings. Now

Let us try to understand how these forms of violence emerge due to various societal perceptions on women capabilities.

physical abuse often manifests in the form of domestic violence. Women are

Punched, kicked, choked and at times stabbed by husband and the extended family such as in-laws. This mainly arises due to

the perception called "Weaker sex". Society

in terms of capabilities calls women as weaker sex which gave control to men over women's body. *↳ why? Capabilities? not detailed*

When it comes to psychological/emotional violence women often face humiliation, manipulation, isolation and gaslighting. The

abusers in the society doubts the independence of women as a "capability". So people try to

create a psychological dependency on them by

breaking down women's self-esteem and

self-worth. Similarly they also face financial

abuse. Women are restricted to get access to

money, employment, inheritance and at times

they are forced to provide hefty dowry

as part of marriage. This is due to the

↳ write concisely

Societal perception about women's ^{lack of} Capabilities to manage finances and to take up employment.

Women also face sexual violence in the form of harassment, molestation, rapes, marital rapes. According to various societal norms married women lack the capabilities of bodily autonomy and sexual autonomy. This resulted in rising cases of marital rape in the world. The subjugation of women on the socially constructed aspects of masculinity and femininity results into sexual violence. The case of British Army Training Unit soldiers who are accused by the kenyan women for decades of rape and sexual violence is a case in point. apt

In its extreme forms, women are killed in instances like inter-caste marriage. Often these honour killings happens as society still believes that women don't have the capabilities to decide their partner. The recent honour killings in the state

of Haryana corroborates with the argument.

The Hands Behind the Harm

Now let us try to understand who are the perpetrators and why do they commit violence against women. Violence on women is not limited to one section of people or one particular place. Women face ^{well} violence in their homes by the family ^{women} members, in work spaces by their colleagues, outside by the strangers. With the rise of technology women also became vulnerable to the digital violence/abuse.

Often these violences happen when socially constructed gender roles are not followed by the women. Women are expected to act, speak, dress, groom and conduct themselves in a pre-assigned way as society believes women lack capability of conducting themselves

in an independent manner. Even in social media women are objectified and often face cyber bullying. The ^{horrifying and shocking} recent case of virtual gang rape of a woman in the virtual reality platform called Metaverse shows the intensity of violence women face at every walk of life.

Intersectionality and violence

When we talk about violence against women we often tend to consider them as a bunch of same flowers, but in reality they are like a bouquet with different flowers.

Different sections of women face different set of violence due to different reasons.

Patriarchy intersects with other systems of ^{well} oppression leading to different sorts of ^{written} violence against women.

A black woman often experience violence intertwined with racial discrimination.

A Dalit women often called as twice dalit due to double oppression. Lesbian women are at an increased risk of violence due to intersection of homophobia, transphobia and sexism. Women with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to gender based violence often from Caregivers, partners, staff. [The recent incidents of violence against lesbian couple in Kerala and the rape incident of intellectually disabled women in Andhra Pradesh shows the intersectionality in violence against women.]

Even in this intersectionality we can't ignore the role of societal doubts about women capabilities. Dalit women are exploited as they lack finances, social support and access to justice. Violence against Lesbian women linked to societal norms such as heteronormativity and lack of legal provisions.

Devi (Goddess) - Daasi (Slave) Dichotomy

Women holds a paradoxical position in our Society. On one hand women are seen in the form of Goddess Durga, Laxshmi and Saraswati and on other hand they are being subjected to various forms of abuse, violence and slavery. This dichotomy shows the hypocrisy in our society.

The very same society believes the capabilities of various goddess in protecting them and promoting their interests, but when it comes to women in the society they are stopped, rejected and abused at every stage of life on the negative perception of their capabilities. The recent incident of rape and murder of a medical student in Kolkata, the land of goddess Kali shows this dichotomy.

well written!

↳ Intro must discuss

^{male}
Violence : An outcome of ^{Ego} Empowerment

Line → All this while we have seen how the societal doubts on women capabilities resulting into violence. But on contrary to this, the society also perpetuates violence when they realise the true potential and capabilities of women.

Women who hold top positions in corporates often face resistance, hostility and professional backlash. Empowered women in male-dominated environments are often targeted. Even in the domestic sphere partners may feel threatened by woman's success, leading to power struggles and attempts to assert control through violence. Even at societal level, empowered women face pushback for defying traditional gender roles.

Pathways to End the Violence

Line
Countering violence against women requires a multi-dimensional approach that addresses the root causes, strengthens support system and enforces legal protections. It also needs co-ordinated efforts from different sections of the people in the society.

Ways include, raising awareness and education in challenging gender stereotypes, empowering women economically and socially, providing support systems in terms of counselling and safe houses in times of crisis. Strong laws in addressing new age problems such as online harassment are the needs of the hour.

Philosophically
—, *one more paragraph*
To summarise, violence against women in the society is majorly due to the lack of trust on women capabilities. The intersectionality among women adds more layers to violence.

Even empowerment leads to violence due to male ego.

Violence against women is like a toxic spill in a river. The spill contaminates not just the immediate area but spreads its effects downstream impacting the entire ecosystem. In a similar way, violence against women has ripple effects that contaminate relationships, communities and societies contributing to ~~the~~ climate of fear, injustice and inequality.

Therefore it is our collective duty to live upto the ideals of the Sanskrit Chant

"Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devata"

(Where women are respected, there divinity prevails and shines)

Decent Conclusion!