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Introduction

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a world problem catching the attention of many international humanitarian bodies. The media has also played a huge role in highlighting cases of GBV, hence intensifying the calls to an end in violence targeting women and other vulnerable members of the family unit. Besides, the emergence of a new global culture offers an avenue for cultural exchange, increased freedom, inclusion, and fluidity, giving individuals from different nations an opportunity to express their dissatisfaction or otherwise regarding gender-based violence. For instance, globalization has seen the number of people advocating for the end of GBV increase because of the wider reach of platforms like social media and mainstream media. Globalization and the advancement of the internet space have created a space where people from different cultural backgrounds interact, share their concerns regarding GBV. In the end, they can come up with solutions to the problem. This paper aims to discuss the relationship between gender-based violence in the global context to poverty.

Globalization has opened up a new era whereby victims and others who have witnessed GBV or want to report it can author their own stories and share them with the masses, highlighting their experiences with the rest of the world. The global economic field offers different channels where victims of GBV can come out and get much-needed assistance. For instance, many international non-profit organizations can link up with victims of GBV via social

media platforms, via websites, and in the mainstream media where they can easily get medical assistance, among other interventions (Pavan 70). In addition, victims can be linked with lawyers and doctors irrespective of their location globally. The ²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes gender-based violence as a form of violence against a person based on their gender expression or alleged devotion to socially prescribed expectations of what it is to be a woman, man, or child ³(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)). Gender-based violence leads to psychological, physical harm, sexual, as well as suffering of women. Also, GBV can take different forms like sexism, racism, classicism, and heterosexism, but GBV is complicated because it is constructed using cultural aspects of violence, where women are the victims. The term ‘gender-based’ is adopted because this type of violence is fashioned by gender, status, and gender roles in society. In addition to that, GBV never include all violent action a woman may undergo; for instance, threats using a gun by robbers does not qualify as gender-based violence. However, Kaufman et al. (5) suggest that an intricate amalgamation of gender-related beliefs and norms has led to an increase in GBV cases globally. Moreover, expectations, changing gender roles, sexual objectification, male entitlement, and discrepancies in status and power have played a huge role in perpetuating violence targeting women.

In addition to that, part of why different societies have not managed to deal with GBV is that many of the formal institutions used to combat GBV have limited resources and limited understanding of the different forms of gender-based (Kaufman et al. 7). Most bodies try to deal with GBV on a case-by-case basis without understanding that this type of violence is systematic and institutional. Additionally, the existing global culture conceals and normalizes over deepening material inequalities of sexuality, race, and gender. In this regard, when there is a case of GBV, most entities will not manage it formally. Furthermore, in many governments, there

lacks representation of persons with knowledge and understanding of gender-related problems. Most of these positions are occupied by political appointees who are rewarded with such offices based on campaign promises instead of having experts in the field of gender-related issues occupying such positions. In the end, this mishap makes it hard for victims of gender-based violence to be heard. Again, in most developing countries, the non-governmental entities trying to address the issues of gender-based violence wield very minimal political influence. Also, most state agencies tasked with combating gender-based violence in developing countries lack adequate government funding and normally complain of budget constraints and limited human resources. However, the most notable aspect is that most of the individuals tasked with combating GBV lack the prerequisite knowledge or skills to combat GBV (Bhattacharya). In the end, hegemonic experience prevails, and those without the prerequisite experience are left to address GBV via other channels or by their understanding. The net result is normalization and concealment of the gender inequalities of class, race, nation, and age among different cultures.

Nonetheless, to bring about inclusive social change, gender-based violence must be understood within the parenthesis of poverty, unemployment and the lack of an alternative among the victims. For instance, in Africa, 51% of women who live below the poverty line are likely to experience gender-based violence from their husbands when they go out without informing their partners when they argue back, leave the children unattended, burn the food or argue back (Muluneh et al. 903). In addition to that, a third of African women have experienced gender-based violence. However, it is important to note that these attitudes reflect a wider societal problem, synonymous with GBV cases in countries like India and Pakistan. Women who have experienced gender-based challenges suffer various health complications that limit their capacity to partake in meaningful economic ventures. For instance, a woman who is injured and

engaged in business activities to earn income that can sustain her family will not operate such ventures. In the end, their families are likely to suffer economic consequences. According to North and Longlands (103), gender-based violence lowers economic output. It drains resources from the public kitty because many resources are used to treat and take care of victims of gender-based violence. Employers are forced to reduce their human capital formations.

In addition to that, most victims of gender-based violence, especially in developing countries, suffer in silence due to their economic status that makes them vulnerable. For instance, without a promise of sustaining themselves and their kids, most victims of GBV will not report their abusers to the authorities (Kendall). Besides, most victims in countries like the United States of America shy away from reporting their abusers because they fear the children's department will take away their children and place them in foster homes. These victims will only divulge information about their experiences with GBV during divorce proceedings or legal custody challenges in court. In essence, financial dependency is one crucial factor that deters victims of domestic violence from leaving their homes. In addition, unemployment is also cited as a factor in the poverty consideration in two ways. Number one, when a woman is jobless, which happens because of a cruel cycle of violence, they are threatened by their partners. On the other hand, they do not seek employment, the absence of financial means on the woman's part establishes dependency and deters the victims from leaving a household where they can get the three basic needs of life (Malgesini et al. 8). Secondly, when unemployment affects a man, who is also the head of the household, they cannot provide for their families and they are stressed. In the end, the men become violent and end up assaulting women, especially where the women are financially independent and have assumed the role of being breadwinners (Malgesini 9). In such

a case, the man views the woman's financial empowerment and social status as a threat, hence increasing gender-based violence.

Consequently, whereas there are gender disparities in employment and remuneration, they increase disadvantages for older women. For instance, older women who live alone face the likelihood of social exclusion and poverty. In this regard, older women's dependency on their partners is reinforced out of fear of poverty and exclusion, even when such relationships are abusive. Furthermore, women in old age are more likely to experience ill health. Consequently, they are more likely to need assistance and care, leading to situations where neglect and abuse are likely to occur. In a study conducted by the European Union (EU) in 2011 in different European countries, 28% of older women reported having experienced gender-based violence and abuse in the previous year (Malgesini et al. 9). In essence, poverty heightens the risks of gender-based violence via the effects on conflict, women's influence, and a man's identity, especially protracted poverty in developing countries in the wider Asia region and Africa. In this regard, gender-based violence towards women is viewed as a way of expressing male might together with domination over the female gender. Still, it is grounded in male weakness arising from societal expectations of unfeasible masculinity due to factors like poverty (Kendall). Also, in some developed countries like the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Europe, women's financial independence offers a level of protection, but this is not the case in most circumstances where the woman works rather than her partner.

Poverty has effects and significance on gender-based violence against women. Presently, many women across different jurisdictions, especially those from poor backgrounds in developing nations, are less likely to seek the services of the judicial system when they experience gender-based violence. Additionally, some of the vulnerable women who experience

GBV fail to report because they have previously sought assistance without any success from the relevant authorities (Kendall). This happens because some ministries, non-governmental entities, and agencies tasked with combating gender-based violence are underfunded, lack adequate resources or the holders of these crucial positions in government agencies lack the required skills to deal with the menace. Furthermore, in developed countries, victims of GBV from wealthier backgrounds are accorded adequate assistance, which is not available to those from a poor background. GBV is hardly reported among low-income earners, mainly because women living in poverty and uncertainty do not have an alternative to escape from their horrific experiences. In addition to that, the current global trend that has presented an open cultural exchange increases freedom of expression, where individuals from different cultural backgrounds get to discuss issues bordering on gender-based violence. From these deliberations, a solution can be found (Bhattacharya).

Conclusion

To sum it up, globalization has exposed people to different environments and cultures while opening up adequate space where people share their stories and ideas with the rest of the world. For instance, victims of gender-based violence can now share their stories online via social media, websites, or the mainstream media. However, in the global context, gender-based violence can be eradicated through a multi-agency approach that includes international cooperation between different countries and agencies like UNICEF, WHO, the CDC, and local authorities, working through partnerships. The international community must move to ensure that laws are enacted to protect vulnerable women and children against gender-based violence. In addition, victims of GBV should be encouraged to report such cases, either anonymously or otherwise, because lack of reporting will result in the perpetrators making it a habit to assault the

victims. Besides, societies that have normalized violence against women should be sensitized about the importance of treating women equally because they are a significant part of society, and their roles cannot be limited to house chores.

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