

# **The Sri Lankan Muslim women's domestic violence**

## **A study based on Koralipattu west Divisional Secretariat Area**

**A. R. F. Begum**

Lecturer in Social Sciences, Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic language, South Eastern University of Sri

Lanka, begum.rahman@gmail.com

### **Introduction**

In 2013 international women's day United Nations declared the theme "promise is a promise: time for action to end violence against women" (Sunday Observer, 03.March.2013). In this 21<sup>st</sup> century all the countries are facing by this violence against women. It is a wide spread phenomena across the world. Day by day the action is escalating without any ending. The violence against women has been in several categories such as, raping, sexual harassment, abusing in the working place, as well as domestic violence. The women against violence is not limiting to a particular segment of the society, race, or religion. It's every social class in most homes too. Therefore, this violence against women is not only affecting the particular group or race or any ethnic or religious context. All this violence is arising against to women due to their gender.

The violence against women can be divided in to two parts, one is physical violence and second one is psychological violence. On the other hand these two categories inter depended with each other. The physical violence was not only affecting their physical but also its affecting mentally too.

In additionally, the violence against women's major violence is domestic violence. It is a widespread problem in Sri Lanka according to the UN report; more than 60 % of Sri Lanka women are subjected to some form of domestic violence ([www.priu.gov.lk](http://www.priu.gov.lk)). The Domestic can be take many forms including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects, battery), or threats, thereof, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, stalking and economic deprivation ( shipway Lynn, 2004) this violence perpetrator is her intimate life partner. This violence occurs in private life and its veil in to the public life. The domestic violence most of the women do not come forward to bring their issues before law enforcement officers due to stigma,

fear and their efforts to safeguard the family as well as their children.

The domestic violence is a more crucial issue. In this violence women are in to more and more vulnerable in society, particularly in Koralipattu west Divisional Secretariat Area Muslim women. However, in this area Muslim women's are not complaining any reports to the police station. The violence actions not come to public due to their life and children future. Therefore, this research basically focuses on what are the reasons of this domestic violence occurring in the family life, and how this type of person their living together. This research mainly focuses Muslim women.

### **Research Methodology**

This research data collection mainly focused on primary data as well as secondary data. I selected the field work in batticaloa district, korallipattu west divisional Secretariat area. The primary data collected mainly through structured interviews with house wives. In this approach I will focus mainly Muslim women who were married. I had taken for this interview 50 families in this area. In these 50 families, I categorized in two groups who were house wives and working wives too. The secondary data collected by News paper article, academics books and relevant web site.

### **Objectives**

- To be finding out, what are the reasons for the domestic Violence in their Family Life?
- Sub objective is to find out, are women aware about the domestic violence.
- Moreover, would be to find out how the women handling this DV as well as, whether they are aware that the women rights play a big role in the human rights process.
- Although, Muslim women are clear idea with Islamic law regarding Muslim women's rights.

## **Finding and discussion**

### **01. Low income and poverty:**

The men's job is to protect women and children and provide them the material support and in this role men dominate all aspects of business and public life. According to these, men's are in a position to take all the responsibility about the family. When the low income of the family they facing difficulties to run the family. Therefore, the husbands are getting in to the stress, at the same time the violence arising in to the family life.

### **02. Misunderstanding between the partners and age gap:**

Most of the Muslim families' husband and wife are not talk each other much. They're not sharing their feelings and problems. Husband always concerning earning and outside works as well as wives are spending their time to cooking and taking care of the children. In this regards, both of them are not have the mutual understanding due to this, violence arising in their life. On the other hand, the Muslim society marriages have been the age gap between husband and wife. However, the wife is too young than husband. Although, between husband and wife have been the different ideas and different life styles it's also the reasons for the Muslims family domestic violence.

### **03. Lack of the religious knowledge:**

While existing of the domestic violence in Muslim's family, the Islam saying the very kind treatment of women is very clear, its mention in Quran and Haddaas.

*"The nobler among you in the sight of God is the more righteous among you." (Quran, 49:13)*

*It is narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "The most perfect of believers in belief is the best of them in characters; The best of you are those who are the best to their women, and in another tradition, "The best among you are those who are kindest to their wives".*

The Islam is saying about husband responsibilities and how to taking care of their wife too. However most of the Muslim husbands are did not consider about those things and they trying to dominate the wife and violating them due to their gender.

### **04. Male domination mentality:**

Culturally Sri Lanka is a male oriented society. Traditionally male are taking the major role in their family. Altogether male every act regarding their family matters it's influenced by their mentality. According to this approach wife oppressed by their life partner and women are losing their freedom and self esteem too. Men are always thinking women as a secondary subjective. Therefore women's rights and their privileges did not concern by their husband.

### **05. Lack of the education Knowledge:**

Muslim Women are not taking much interest to study or improving their knowledge. They don't have any awareness about the DV when this women victimizing to this DV they don't know how to overcome in his problem? Muslim women are vulnerability as well as their bond with their family life. The husband using her wife as a secondary subjected.

## **Conclusion**

In my research area, Muslim women are affecting several type of the DV such as; one is, isolating the wife such ways. For an example, wives should take permission for everything from husband. Most of the family the husband is controlling in every movements. Such as her feelings, her thoughts, as well as what she want to talk? All are controlling by her husband. Therefore, Muslim Women are isolating by her husband. They don't have freedom they don't have any rights to contact their friends or her family members. Second one of the DV is using coercion and threats, threading to wife will get merry another girl, leaving her without giving money, threading to spread the word that she is an adulterers and forcing her to do sex. Third one is, Using intimidation, taking all her jewelry and selling it, hiding or destroying the important documents in front of her, stalking and collecting and displaying the weapons fourth one is emotional abuse such as , making fun of her inadequate knowledge, making her believes and trust incapable to the family life. Fifth one is hitting in front of others and scolding to her unwanted words.

Therefore, the Muslim women are affecting several kind of the Domestic Violence. Fortunately or unfortunately it's not coming up to the public. Very sympathetic that some of the Muslim women don't know what is domestic violence are we affecting by this violence or not? As far as my concern Muslim women should be give the awareness programs regarding the DV.

However, the Muslim women are not coming up with their problems. Many Muslim women consider domestic violence as a personal grievance and they say it is a Dispute between husband and wife within the family than they do not consider it is a crime as well. Many of the Muslim women experienced with domestic violence they do not want to expose their experience in public.

## References

1. Coomaraswamy, R., (1996) Further Promotion and Encouragement of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, UN Economic and Social council.
2. Ganley, A. L., & Schechter, S., (1996), **Domestic violence protocol**, Massachusetts, Dept. of Social services.
3. Kodikara,C., with Piyadasha, T., (2012), **Domestic Violence Intervention Services in Sri Lanka**,International Centre for Ethnic Studies. Colombo
4. Seela aladuwaka., & Ram Alagan.,(2002), **Women and Domestic violence: A case study in Rural Sri Lanka.**
5. Wijayatilake, K., (1995), **Violence against Women Review of Decade Colombo**, CENWOR.
6. [www.adaderana.lk](http://www.adaderana.lk)
7. [www.priu.gov.lk](http://www.priu.gov.lk)