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**Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Twenty-First Century
and Measures to Stop It**

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Abstract

Violence occurs around the globe, and thousands of people die every year as a result. There are various forms of violence, from domestic violence to violence against children and women. Domestic violence is physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a partner in a relationship. It is not only debated within our society, but also around the rest of the world. The amount of violence that occurs can range from a single infraction, to ongoing battering. Domestic violence is a complex issue that affects society repeatedly. Many studies have indicated that the perpetrators of domestic violence are men, while others have argued that women are also perpetrators of violence. With the increasing cases of domestic violence in society, it should be stopped. This paper examines scholarly articles on the subject of domestic violence, in an attempt to measure its prevalence in today's society, and determine ways to stop domestic violence.

Keywords: impunity, abuse, enforcement



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How does a person feel when his father is beating his mother, or the other way around? Would you be able to handle the situation after seeing violence occur between your parents? The effects of domestic violence have been felt in the society since the dawn of human existence. In the modern era, the trend has continued with people often getting injured, psychologically tortured, sexually abused and even killed. The government and other agencies need to join hands and fight this vice that has continued to be a major cause of separation and divorce that people are experiencing each and every day. The victims of domestic violence have suffered a lot without involving other people in that neighborhood since they fear they will not be helped, thus, suffering psychologically and emotionally. This kind of problem in society has to be stopped since what the parents are teaching the children, is a problem that will continue as long as human beings are still existing (Medline Plus 2014).

The government should involve children to be aware of the problem. They should be taught that domestic violence is not right. They should be informed that the cultures that support it are already outdated. They should be taught about the effects of domestic violence. When the government does so, it will save lives, save money for therapy and diminish the occurrence of domestic violence in the future. Children are an opportunity to be agents of change in society, and they should not be ignored or uninformed about what is happening in the society. Otherwise, the same problem can



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still happen to them later in their lives. It's important to note that, about five million children are affected by domestic violence annually, and about forty million adults in the United States grew up witnessing domestic violence. In order to put an end to this problem, the children should be taught how to handle issues, even when they are angry or not happy when a certain thing concerning them has failed to be fruitful as they had planned ("Childhood Domestic Violence Association" 2014).

The majority of people claim that when two people are living in the same house, they fight. Therefore, with these kinds of thoughts, many people continue to live in abusive relationships. After domestic violence has occurred, and the psychological effects have worsened, that is the time various organizations and the government intervenes. It's agreeable that domestic violence is a crime. A person cannot physically traumatize someone while everyone else keeps quiet about the issue. In this situation, justice should be exercised since someone has violated another person's rights.

Lakshini Puri, the acting head of the United Nations womens' panel said that the least prosecuted issue in society is domestic violence. She stated that the impunity and abuse against women should be stopped. Therefore, it's evident that domestic violence is a global issue and it should be treated just like any other criminal act. Leaders and other influential figures who believe the same, should break the silence and address the issue that has continued affecting people in society. About 70% of women continue to live in an abusive relationship by being battered and others being intimidated. These women do not want to address the issue because they do not want to be seen as if they



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are the ones who are exposing the issues of their family. Moreover, about 140 million women and girls suffer from female genital mutilation, one million are trafficked, and rape cases have increased. It's important to address the issue in the best way. If this problem is not addressed with the seriousness it deserves, people will continue torturing and isolating each other. Moreover, more serious consequences will continue being felt afterwards, affecting the future generation. Many countries have already enacted laws that address violence against women, but the enforcement part is lacking. Puri (2013) believes that in order to stop this matter, the laws to address the issue should be emphasized, and women should be informed about their rights.

Women in society should be empowered so that they can fight for their own rights. With domestic violence against women being felt so much in society, women need to be trained on gender equality and empowered to speak out about the issue affecting them in their family. There are many women who suffer in abusive relationships, because of their cultural values. For the women that have suffered abuse, it's time that these women are empowered to speak for their rights and the possible ways of solving issues in an amicable way. Seminars that are organized for married couples have proved to be essential in preventing domestic violence. In addition, during the seminars, they are taught about the rights each party has, as well as the best ways of solving their issues—rather than engaging in violence (“UN Women”).

Even though there are some people who claim that domestic violence can not end (as a result of their beliefs of their communities and the environment they have



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been brought up in), I believe when people are provided with the right information, the problem can come to an end. The only way it can come to an end is through education and by ensuring the community that their community is organized, and such things cannot happen. Moreover, the women in families should be given free information and guidance to show them how to solve their issues, as well as respecting the rights of each other. When people have an organized community that is known for its good behavior and support of moral values, especially in the ways family issues are handled, it will help to fight against domestic violence. In an ideal situation, people are taught and given guidance on the sustainable ways of living as husband and wife, something which would be effective in ensuring that everyone is happy and satisfied being in that family (Nonell 2013).

Overall, domestic violence involves psychological, emotional, physical and verbal abuse from one spouse to the other. Domestic violence has been affecting society, and family members, for a long time. With proper education for children, enforcing laws, women empowerment and establishing a stable community that emphasizes the best practices of living as a family can see the issue come to an end. Even though the majority of people claim that ending domestic violence is difficult because of cultural beliefs, early exposure to violence, and discrimination against women, I believe that the problem can come to an end once and for all. It's the duty of every person to respect the rights of each other and learn to solve issues in a logical manner without involving themselves in any violence.



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