



## Covid-19 Riddle Exacerbating Gender (in) Equalities

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### KEYWORDS

### ABSTRACT

GBV, IPV, Dyad, Quarantine, Women's rights

There are clusters of evidence of gender-based violence (GBV) have been happening across the world for more than a year or so due to the effects of restricted movement of people due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It turns out that women specially Health Care Workers (HCWs) per se are being victimised owing to 'paradoxical effects' on account of intermittent lockdown culminated into encountering Intimate Partner violence (IPV). In this article, the authors elucidate a comprehensive picture of both GBV and IPV of countries irrespective of Global North and South through a medical sociological analysis of woman HCWs and other innocents women in the household domain by evidenced based interpreting the publication history, retrieved from the PUBMED, and Google search engine between 1930 and early 2021, covering a large number of developed and developing countries. The article also critically analyses the pattern of violence-specific digitised rescue system including building temporary shelters for rescued victims with the support of the respective government agents and NGOs. This present comprehensive picture of both GBV and IPV in workstation and household level can assist restructuring the fruitful dialogue amongst the policy makers around the world to re-programme the gender norms for the benefit of women.

### Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic intensifies social, economic and health stress coupled with strict quarantine and social isolation measures that aggravates pre-existing 'inequitable gender norms' (IISD, 1995) vis-à-vis a plethora of inequalities across the globe (UN Policy Brief, 2020). Gender based violence (GBV) is a manifestation of such inequality's resultant of the imposition of patriarchal hegemony (ILO and UN, 2020), which has been further exacerbated by the current pandemic that has swayed the world economy with a cumulative loss of about US\$9 trillion to the global GDP in 2020 (IMF, 2020). It is even bigger than the combined economies of Germany and Japan (Barbosa *et al.*, 2020). This pandemic morphs into a social (inequalities), political (fragile empowerment), economic crisis (threat to women's employment and livelihoods) and intersecting forms (e.g., ethnicity, population, disability, class, age and socio-economic status) of discrimination (Dlamini, 2020; Roseboom, 2020) faced by adolescent girls and puerperal women (Tang *et al.*, 2020; UN Women, 2020; Ray *et al.*, 2021).

Under such circumstances, several state-nations and nation-states, despite being provided with guidelines from UN-Women and UNFPA (UNFPA, 2020), have failed to conform to the numerous policies addressing the issue of GBV – which, for a handful of decades, has been regarded as a hidden

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*Book Reviews*

**Book review: Anasua Chatterjee,  
Margins of Citizenship: Muslim  
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**Sujata Das**

**Abstract**

**Anasua Chatterjee, *Margins of Citizenship: Muslim Experiences in Urban India*. New Delhi: Routledge, 2017, 192 pp., ₹695 (Paperback). ISBN: 9781138038264 (hardback).**

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*Margins of Citizenship: Muslim Experiences in Urban India* by Anasua Chatterjee is predominantly