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## SILENCE- THE CAUSE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INEQUALITY

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Gender equality as UNICEF says “means that women, men, girls, boys, enjoy the same rights, resources and opportunities. There is a strong inequality prevailing even in present world where people speak about women empowerment. Domestic violence is a prominent example of prevailing inequality. Domestic violence or family violence is physical, social abuse by the intimate partner which does not only include sexual abuse but also abusive behavior, remarks, mental torture and also physical abuse. The writer Leslie Morgan Steiner is a famous author blogger and businesswoman who brings in her autobiography of encountering domestic violence with her former husband. There are major reasons for violence this paper is particularly considerate that silence is the main cause of abuse. A woman tends to sustain the pains within her. Only when women open their pains out to the world they are heard, the more loudly she speaks the more she is heard. Domestic abuse is an offence. Women must rise against the obstacles they face. The author here states that equality is “Both men and women preparing the household, dinner and life itself”. Leslie though had suffered hardships in life she was able to overthrow the circumstance as she was aloud to the world. She is a successful writer and had made numerous motivational speeches, essays etc.

Morgan brings in her descriptions how she met a soul mate whom she images to stay along with even when his partner tries to strangle her with his hands days before marriage she eventually doubts the beginning but rather makes a staunch belief over her passionate love. She is sure that her beloved loved her the way she loved him too. But the days their relationship extended the more she was experiencing abuse. Morgan was a Harvard graduate born in Washington D.C. She begins her life with a banker on Wall Street who tactically made her believe that they had a strong relationship but later brings the bitter part of her life where he begins to stalk her on regular basis. Though she finds early signs of abusiveness when Corner tries to strangle her a few days before marriage she was not aware of the caution. In fact she was unaware she was being abused. She kept on experiencing the abuse until she was able to open her thoughts wide. The reason is threat of death gun loaded with bullet. I firmly am against the point that women are the weaker sex. Women are equally stronger, braver, hard working, dedicated and equally more caring than a man. A woman in this world is the most wondrous creation of the Almighty. “Fight for gender inequality is not a fight against men. It is a fight against traditions that have chained them in a fight against social attitudes that are ingrained in the society a fight against proverbial Laxman Reha which is different from men and women”, says “Dr. Justice A.S. Anand Former Chief Justice India (Chauhan 1). Gender inequality is caused also by tradition. Right from the beginning women are considered a weaker sex when compared to men. This condition rather rose that women themselves have accepted their subordinate position. Here Dr. Adarsh sen states that the reason for gender inequality is tradition and norms that people follow. It has found gradual increase and improvement yet is persisting in certain areas. This story is one such example of how the author Leslie Morgan overcomes her abusive husband. Though men are also the subjects of abuse a statistics taken from 2011-2014 nearly more than 54 percent of women are in a high risk factor of abuse.

Morgan as a girl of 22 had extreme belief on Corner whom she had loved more than anything. She had a very strong relationship with Corner where he implicated that she was the dominant part. She remains

to believe him as he had influenced her with his own dark side of his life where he was abused as a child by his stepfather. Leslie began to experience his abuse only after he drops his job and asks her to drop her job too. Later moving to New England he had three guns along with him one in his car, one under his pillow and the other in his pocket. By the time she began to notice his stalking she was scared to let out as she was threatened by gun loaded with bullets. Though she was quite aware of her future she did not interpret the threat behind. She never did once expect this to happen in her relationship. She blindly believed him. She painfully in her lecture on *"Why Domestic Violence Victims Don't Leave"* accounts that she was threatened innumerable times which she could not count for. She had remained silent for more than two years. She finally raised her voice one day which helped her to attain freedom. She even advises her readers to speak against the flaws in society to correct them.

The reason for her freedom was due to her boldness to speak out. She eventually had fear over Corner's threat but gradually began to speak up her problems to her neighbours, relatives, parents and even whomsoever she meets along with. She personally accounts that she did not leave her husband immediately after finding him abusive due to the fear of death. Later she herself gains courage to hold up, to stand against her aversions and to speak up. If she would have done such speaking earlier her period of struggle would have not extended too far. The author's description of her dominant partner who strangled her until choking and she had to wait for ten days for the bruises to disappear. She even evidently shows her bruises to people she meets and speaks. The author attains her freedom only when she grabs the weapon of speech. She at the beginning deliberately feels that her life had become monotonous for choosing the wrong partner. Most of the women fear for the same reasons has been in tranquility. She was silenced by her husband but she picked up the courage to speak up. "Liberated from home women have a whole society in which to be exploited" says, Harriet Martineau Morgan is now a happily married woman with children and husband for 22 years. She is now an entrepreneur who has dedicated books, articles, lectures, journals, etc for the encouragement of woman against domestic abuse. Her works *Crazy love, Starving For Perfection, Mommy Wars, The baby case* elucidate the struggles that women undergo as a wife, a mother, a daughter. It is not only in one case of Morgan but also in various other women who encountered such agonies in their life. When they begin to break the silence they can overcome their toils in life.

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