

Financially independent women are more abused

Their self-sufficiency builds insecurity among husbands, who physically hurt them

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If you had thought that married women, who are working and financially independent, are self-sufficient and thus much happier, you are in for a rude shock. In a first-of-its-kind of study in India, researchers at the RTI International, a North Carolina-headquartered research institute, Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore and a few US institutions, found out startling facts about these women.

The study pointed out that financial independence of women often builds insecurity among husbands, leading to physical, sexual and psychological violence against them.

This study specially focussed on the low income urban populations in Bangalore. Instances of women being physically abused by their husbands are staggeringly high across the Indian subcontinent, said the main author of the research paper, Suneeta Krishnan.

The study conducted in southern India examined the association between spousal employment status

Study reveals startling facts, breaks myths

Among women who reported no history of violence at baseline, 19 per cent experienced violence for the first time at some point during the 24-month follow-up.

In contrast, over 57 per cent of women who reported prior experiences of violence continued to do so during the follow-up period.

Women who were employed during the first study visit had



60 per cent higher odds of facing violence in subsequent studies as compared to those unemployed.

Women who were unemployed during first visit and started working by next visit

had 80 per cent higher odds of violence as compared to women who maintained the same employment status over time.

Women who stopped working faced a decrease in violence.

and physical domestic violence. The study group consisted of 744 married women, aged between 16 and 25, residing in low-income communities in Bangalore. Participants were studied across two years and interviewed three times.

"We often assume that when a woman is earning, she has a greater role in decision-making. But in our formative research conducted in Bangalore, women viewed employment as an excess burden, in addition to taking care of home and children. Domestic conflict seemed to be more likely to occur in such situations. Furthermore, in case of

employment instability among husbands, household conflict appeared to increase," Krishnan added.

The study then registered that women who were unemployed at first visit and had begun employment by the next visit had an 80 per cent higher odds of violence, as compared to women who maintained their unemployed status. Similarly, women whose husbands had stable employment initially but then faced loss of jobs/salaries, had 1.7 times the odds of violence, as compared to women whose husbands maintained their stable employment.

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The report, after discussion in both the houses, can be implemented only if the state cabinet decides to act. Neither the chief minister nor any of his cabinet colleagues commented on the future course of action, reports **Srikanth Hunasavadi**

Ball in governments' court, action against BIAL no easy option

The scathing report by the house panel against Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) has put the ball in the state and Union government's court to take corrective action.

The report, after discussion in both the houses of state legislature, can be implemented only if the state cabinet decides to act. Neither chief minister BS Yeddyurappa nor any of his cabinet colleagues commented on the future course of action on the report on Monday.

However, chairman of the committee and BJP lawmaker from Chikpet Hemachandra Sagar is hopeful of seeing at least some of the recommendations implemented.

Replying to queries on the panel's recommendation for taking action against officers who were part of the negotiating team during the execution of the project, Sagar said the state government could act unilaterally against them as it was well within its powers.

CITIZENS REACT

However, he made it clear that the list recommending action did not include Infosys chief mentor NR Narayana Murthy who was also part of the BIAL board when it was formed. Murthy was not a government servant and so he would not come under the category of officers against whom the committee has recommended action.

Citizens agreed with the suggestion in the report to drop the user development fee (UDF).

TV Mohandas Pai, head-HR of Infosys, said: "We are happy that the legislative committee has recommended to reopen the HAL Airport. The industry has been demanding that the city should have both airports, one for short distance and one for long-distance. There should be no monopoly.

"According to the concession agreement, the airport developers are supposed to develop the land given to them by the state to generate revenue. It's unfair to ask the user to pay (the UDF), when the airport has other options.

"We welcome the committee's recommendation for an audit of land use. It is the public who end up paying for the inflated costs. Therefore, there must be complete transparency. In case of this airport, public interest has been sacrificed and the airport has been sold in some other interests. The developers should make money but a massive infrastructure project like an airport cannot be used for short-term commercial success."

Manira Alva, executive director of Miditech Private Limited, said: "Charging UDF does not make sense to me. The agreement was signed before the aviation boom. Now, when the air



CANCEL USER FEE: Citizens wanted user development fee to be dropped as airport facilities were not up to the mark

traffic has gone up substantially, why do I have to pay the UDF? An airport, like a bus station and railway station, is a basic necessity. The state has given BIA huge land, and I pay all the taxes. Why should I then pay extra to use the airport? Why shall the user pay to keep the developer in business?"

"We have a case for reopening the HAL Airport as the new airport cannot handle the traffic and is planning a new terminal. Why should the user suffer till they come up with the new terminal? Bangalore has been cheated as far as the BIA is concerned. The people, who negotiated, compromised the public interest and they are to be blamed. BIA is not transparent in its business. An audit of land use is welcome," Alva added.

Rajeev Gowda, professor of IIM-Bangalore, disagreed on the user fee: "UDF is required to run the airport and the committee's recommendation to abolish it seems like a populist measure... I believe no infrastructure (like HAL Airport) should be left waste."

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Panel terms facade of terminal building as industrial shed

The unattractive facade of the terminal building was severely criticised by the members in the Legislative Assembly/Council who described it as an industrial shed. The committee, during the meetings, also expressed concern over the absence of a structure depicting the culture and glory of Karnataka.

The architect Venkataramana Associates, engaged by the BIAL, explained to the committee that the walkway in the approach to airport virtually blocked the main elevation of the building.

The architect suggested the steps to improve the looks from the trumpet interchange up to the airport terminal building. Some of them were erection of arches and flag posts on either side of road depicting the glory of the erstwhile

Vijayanagar Empire and the royal Mysore Empire, improving the garden etching replica of Great Chariot of Hampi and grand Dasara procession using grass or creeper plants and playing traditional Karnataka music in the airport lounge.

The architect also suggested installing a replica of the Nandi statue in front of the terminal building, and paintings of Belur shilabalike, yakshagana symbol and temple arts on the glass structure of the terminal building.

The committee recommended that a competent architect be engaged to suggest improvements to the facade of the terminal building to depict the culture and heritage of Karnataka, apart from taking up some of the beautification measures suggested by Venkataramana Associates.

Greater stress on group discussion and personal interview this year

CAT scores will still be considered

Professor Shankar Rao, head of the department of IT at the Institute of Finance and International Management (IFIM) said that if a student possesses three qualities – good communication skills, subject knowledge of his educational stream and good general knowledge, he or she would be recommended for a seat at the institute even if he/she falls short of a few marks. He spoke to **Arun Dev** on issues related to admission into management courses.

? Tell us a little about the criteria for admission into the IFIM ?

We accept CAT and MAT scores and we will also consider XAT from this year. A minimum score of 600 marks in MAT or 80 percentile in CAT are our basic requirements.

But students are also admitted purely on their performance in the group discussion and the personal interview.

Prof Shankar Rao



HoD, Department of IT, IFIM

? How will the admissions be affected by the technical glitches in the conduct of the CAT this year?

Despite the fact that many students faced problems with the CAT exams this year, we will consider the CAT scores as one of the criteria for selection of candidates. However, considering the difficulties that

the students faced, the cut-off score will be lowered this year. Group discussion and personal interview rounds will play a greater role in the selection process.

? Will the MAT and XAT scores be given greater preference over CAT this year?

No. CAT still remains our first preference as the standard of that exam is much higher; however, selecting students through MAT scores is easier.

? In what manner will CAT students be assessed this year?

We could divide the requirements into two different categories – one for candidature and the other for admissions. The candidature would analyse scores obtained in the various entrance exams. The cut-off percentile may be lowered to 70-75 to help accommodate those aspirants who were unable to perform well in the CAT due to various reasons. Their talent will be analysed thoroughly in the group discussion and interview rounds.

? Do you think the CAT should revert to the pencil-paper format?

I don't think it should revert the procedure. Several exams like GRE and TOEFL are conducted online. Authorities should have checked the system thoroughly, rather than just stopping with outsourcing the procedure. Glitches should be done away with.