You witness misogyny and predatory behavior against women almost every day but you never think about it unless these questions are asked directly to you. Now that I think about it, women experience misogyny at so many different phases of their lives in so many different ways. At work, when women outperform men but they are not given their due consideration over men, that is a very prevalent misogynistic behavior. In some professions there is a glass ceiling concept which means there is an unofficially acknowledged barrier to advancement for women that prevent them from taking higher positions irrespective of their achievements. You can also find misogyny at work in terms of access to opportunities. There are some job roles that are male dominated, for instance, sales. Sales is a male dominated profession because it’s thought that women cannot handle so much travelling and meeting new people. Another example of misogyny can be found in house roles. Women are by default considered as primary caregivers in the household irrespective of if they have outside jobs or not. I think that house work should be human specific, not gender specific which is to say that even if women are not working, doesn’t give men an excuse to not help them in taking care of children or doing basic chores around the house. I think one more reason for misogyny and predatory behavior lies in the language that we have been using in everyday lives. Proverbs like “crying like a little girl”, “be a man” are so deeply ingrained in our language that we don’t even realize how insensitive they sound. We have become so accepting of using patriarchal phrases in our language that even women have accepted them and use them against other women.

All these above mentioned misogynistic and predatory behavior can lead to gender abuse and violence against women and girls. And to prevent gender abuse we must prevent misogyny and toxic masculinity. There are mainly two aspects of preventing these. First is short term approach. In the short term, we as parents need to reprimand our child’s behavior for speaking patriarchal language casually. They need to be told that talking disrespectfully of women is wrong. They need to be told that objectifying women is wrong. In the longer term, there needs to be a cultural shift that needs to be inculcated in the next generation. There is only so much that you can do to rectify this by means of punishment. Unless the mindset of the people changes, it is going to be the same. Our society has been patriarchal for generations and generations. We need to start educating and start taking these topics seriously. Women who have had success in different industries like technology, law, designing, politics etc. have to be shown as role models to boys from a young age. Boys should be shown how women have contributed equally with men in every aspect of life. They should be told about how women have fought against sexual assault, domestic violence, misogyny and predatory behavior for so long and still have emerged out a winner and better than men at every phase in life and at every aspect in the world.