

An Analysis of Crime against Women in India

Deepak Phor S/o Sh. Sukhbir Singh

#427, Sector – 8, Part –II
Urban Estate- Karnal (HR)

ABSTRACT: *Today Crime against women is increasing day by day. Therefore, most of the social scientists assume the fact that there is an increasing trend in the total crime against women in India, as well as in the various zones of India regarding the various forms of crimes against women. The study observed that, the forms of crime e.g. Dowry Death, Assault with Intent to Outrage Her Modesty, Rape and particularly Total Crime were significantly different among the various zones of India regarding the crime against women. While in case of Insult to Modesty, Cruelty by Husband or Relatives form of violence, it was found that the various zones of India were not significantly different as far as the crime against women is concerned. The Literacy Rate and Gender Ratio were found to be negatively correlated with dowry death and rape form of crime against women while they were positively correlated with assault with intent to outrage the modesty and insult to modesty.*

KEYWORDS: *Crime, Gender Violence, Modesty, Dowry Death, Physical Assault.*

INTRODUCTION: The Vedas glorified women as the mother, the creator, one who gives life and worshipped her as a 'Devi' or Goddess. But from the long time they are suffering in the form of discrimination, oppression, exploitation, degradation, aggression, humiliation. Indian women through the countries remained subjugated and oppressed because society believed in clinging on to traditional beliefs for the brunt of violence—domestic as well as public, physical, emotional and mental. Male violence against women is worldwide phenomenon. Fear of violence is an important factor in the lives of most women. Fear of violence is the cause of lack of participation in every sphere of life. There are various forms of crime against women. Sometimes, it is even before birth, some times in the adulthood and other phrases of life. Nevertheless we cannot ignore the fact that the status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers. However, in modern India, women have been holding

high offices. On the contrary the crime against women is increasing at a dangerous level throughout India in the wake of 21st century.

However, in Indian society, woman occupies a vital position and venerable place and position of women is always perceived in relation to the man. This perception has given birth to various customs and practices. Violence against women both inside and outside of their home has been a crucial issue in the contemporary Indian society. Women in India constitute near about half of its population and most of them are grinding under the socio-cultural and religious structures. One gender has been controlling the space of the India's social economic, political and religious fabric since time immemorial. The present study felt the need that in the era of globalization and modernization the present trends of crimes against women is on increase. The brutal gang rape against 23 year student in Delhi again sparked the debate on Indian mental set up and existing law and order in the Country.

Constitutional Laws: Various Legislations for safeguarding women against crimes is classified under two categories:

1.The Crime under Indian Penal Code (IPC):

- i. Rape (Section 376 IPC)
- ii. Kidnapping and abduction for specified purpose (Section 363-373 IPC)
- iii. Homicide for dowry, Dowry death or their attempts. (Sec. 302/304-B IPC)
- iv. Torture both mental and physical (Sec.498-A –IPC)
- v. Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC)
- vi. Importation of girls (Up to 21 years of age) (Sec. 366-B IPC)

2.The Crimes under the Special and local Laws (SLL) - Gender specific laws

- i. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- ii. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- iii. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.
- iv. Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987.

A Review of Literature : There is a plethora of literature on women crime. A few of them are:

Loganayaki, D. (2013), in his paper “Crime against Women in India” examine the magnitude of crime against women in India and found that, the Crime is as old as mankind in itself, but in the recent years it has increased in its dimensions and has attained new heights and difficult to find a society without deviance. The study also describe that, almost the entire society is directly or indirectly affected by such violence and Women as a separate class are subjected to a greater criminal victimization both inside and outside their homes.

Watts, C. and Zimmerman, C. (2002), in the paper “Violence Against Women: Global Scope & Magnitude” discussed the magnitude of some of the most common and most severe forms of violence against women: intimate partner violence; sexual abuse by non-intimate partners; trafficking, forced prostitution, exploitation of labor, and debt bondage of women and girls; physical and sexual violence against prostitutes; sex selective abortion, female infanticide, and the deliberate neglect of girls; and rape in war. The researcher examined that most forms of violence are not unique incidents but are ongoing, and can even continue for decades and because of the sensitivity of the subject, violence is almost universally under-reported and millions of women are experiencing violence or living with its consequences.

Bunch, Charlotte (1997), revealed that violence against women and girls is the most pervasive violation of human rights in the world today as its forms are both delicate and deliberate, impacting on development profound but it is so deeply embedded in cultures around the world that it is almost invisible. Yet this violence is not inevitable. The researcher has demonstrated that the crime can be dismantled, once recognized for what it is—construct of power or a means of maintaining the status quo.

Objectives of Study: The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the trends of the crimes against women in the various zones of India.
2. To make comparative analysis of various zones of India regarding the crimes against women.
3. To measure the impact of literacy rate and gender ratio on the crime against women

Research Methodology: The present study is descriptive-cum-exploratory in nature. This study is descriptive as the study describes the role of women in development of Indian

economic and also seeks to explore the extent of crime against women in various zones of India.

Analysis & Interpretation: To obtain the objectives of the present study the data were collected from the various sources and transcribed into tables and the same were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tool and techniques to draw a conclusion. The data analyzed are as follows

Table1: Zone –Wise and Year-Wise Case Registered Under Various Forms of Crimes Against Women in India

	Zones							
YEARS	Categories of Crimes	North Zone	East Zone	West Zone	South Zone	Central Zone	North East Zone	Total of all Zones
2009	D.D	2889 34.5	2480 29.6	804 9.6	1025 12.2	986 11.8	199 2.3	8383 100.0
	A.I.O.M	5539 14.3	5641 14.6	6451 16.7	11198 28.9	7905 20.4	1977 5.1	38711 100.0
	I.M	3939 35.8	413 3.8	1249 11.3	4503 40.9	880 8.0	25 0.2	11009 100.0
	C.H.R	14419 16.1	21401 23.9	23585 26.3	19980 22.3	4876 5.4	5285 6	89546 100.0
	RAPE	3902 18.2	5007 23.4	3487 16.3	2881 13.5	3974 18.6	2146 10	21397 100.0
	T.C.W.I	40364 19.8	43251 21.2	40570 19.9	47720 23.5	19829 9.7	12070 5.9	203804 100.0
2010	D.D	2856 34	2428 28.9	875 10.5	1024 12.2	1007 12	201 2.4	8391 100.0
	A.I.O.M	5761 14.2	6149 15.1	6717 16.5	11596 28.6	8352 20.6	2038 5.0	40613 100.0
	I.M	1218 12.2	427 4.3	1331 13.4	5852 58.7	1100 11.0	33 0.3	9961 100.0
	C.H.R	14126 15	22784 24.2	24202 25.7	21904 23.4	4617 4.9	6408 6.8	94041 100.0
	RAPE	3893 17.6	4904 22.1	3618 16.3	3295 14.9	4147 18.7	2315 10.4	22172 100.0

	T.C.W.I	37956 17.8	46184 21.6	42251 19.8	52423 24.5	20644 9.7	14127 6.6	213585 100.0
2011	D.D	2962 34.4	2670 31.0	884 10.3	1034 12.0	915 10.6	153 1.8	8618 100.0
	A.I.O.M	6530 15.2	6677 15.5	6957 16.2	12730 29.6	8319 19.4	1755 4.1	42968 100.0
	I.M	1182 13.8	453 5.3	1185 13.8	4795 56.0	936 10.9	19 0.2	8570 100.0
	C.H.R	13450 13.6	25358 25.6	25429 25.7	24292 24.5	4566 4.6	6040 6.1	99135 100.0
	RAPE	4427 18.3	5193 21.5	3974 16.4	3907 16.1	4459 18.4	2246 9.3	24206 100.0
	T.C.W.I	41300 18.1	51929 22.7	44587 19.5	56208 24.6	20818 9.1	13808 6.0	228650 100.0
2012	D.D	2840 34.5	2695 32.7	828 10.1	866 10.5	824 10.0	180 2.2	8233 100.0
	A.I.O.M	6595 14.5	7934 17.5	7083 15.6	13050 28.8	8256 18.2	2433 5.4	45351 100.0
	I.M	1194 13.0	907 9.9	1421 15.5	4700 51.2	936 10.2	15 0.2	9173 100.0
	C.H.R	15069 14.1	27450 25.8	27412 25.7	24266 22.8	4968 4.7	7362 6.9	106527 100.0
	RAPE	4678 18.8	5243 21.0	4424 17.8	3743 15.0	4459 17.9	2376 9.5	24923 100.0
	T.C.W.I	44316 18.1	58695 24	47247 19.3	56771 23.4	21060 8.6	16181 6.6	244270 100
AVERAGE	D.D	2886.75 34.3	2568.25 30.6	847.75 10.1	987.25 11.7	933 11.1	183.25 2.2	8406.25 100.0
	A.I.O.M	6106.25 14.6	6600.25 15.7	6802 16.2	12143.5 29.0	8208 19.6	2050.75 4.9	41910.75 100.0
	I.M	1883.25 19.5	550 5.7	1296.5 13.4	4962.5 51.3	963 9.9	23 0.2	9678.25 100.0
	C.H.R	14266 14.7	24248.25 24.9	25157 25.9	22610.5 23.2	4756.75 4.9	6273.75 6.4	97312.25 100.0
	RAPE	4225 18.2	5086.75 21.9	3875.75 16.7	3456.5 14.9	4259.75 18.4	2270.75 9.8	23174.5 100.0
	T.C.W.I	40984 18.4	50014.75 22.5	43663.75 19.6	53280.5 23.9	20587.75 9.2	14046.5 6.3	222577.25 100.0
	D.D	-0.43%	2.10%	0.74%	-4.13%	-4.39%	-2.48%	18.06%

ACGR	A.I.O.M	4.46%	8.90%	2.36%	3.90%	1.09%	5.33%	22.88%
	I.M	- 25.80%	21.73%	3.28%	1.08%	1.55%	11.99%	13.60%
	C.H.R	1.11%	6.42%	3.83%	4.98%	0.47%	8.64%	23.11%
	RAPE	4.64%	1.16%	6.13%	6.76%	2.92%	2.58%	22.04%
	T.C.W.I	2.36%	7.93%	3.88%	4.44%	1.52%	7.60%	4.63%

Source: National Crime Bureau Record of India (Various Reports).

Note: -(1) D.D = Dowry Death, A.I.O.M = Assault with Intent to Outrage her Modesty, I.M = Insult to Modesty, C.H.R = Cruelty by Husband or Relatives, T.C.W.I= Total Crime against Women in India.

This data indicates the zone-wise and year-wise case registered in various forms of violence [dowry deaths, assault with intent to outrage her modesty, insult to modesty, cruelty by husband or relatives, rape and total crimes against women] against women in India. The North and East Zones were in top in case of dowry death crime (34.3, 30.6 per cent respectively) and also had huge share in crime like rape, A.I.O.M, and C.H.R, etc. In West and South Zone maximum number of cases registered were in the form of cruelty by husband or relatives (25.9 per cent) and insult to modesty (51.3 per cent) respectively while the cases were also registered in very high numbers regarding the others form of crime in these zones e.g. rape (16.7 per cent), I.M (13.4 per cent) in West Zone and A.I.O.M (29.0 per cent) and C.H.R (23.2 percent). While in the Central and North-East Zone the crime against women were took place but not as much as in the others zones. In these zones the rape forms of crime take place more than others crimes. As far as cases registered under various forms of crime in India is concerned, maximum number of cases were registered under cruelty by husband or relatives (43.72 per cent) followed by the crime e.g. A.I.O.M (18.83 per cent) and rape (10.41 per cent) while the least number of cases were registered under dowry death (3.78 per cent) and in the case of total crime in the various zones of India maximum number of crime reported in South Zone followed by East, West and North Zone with 53280, 50014, 43663 and 40984 number of cases while the North –East Zone was in Bottom with 14046 number of cases registered against women in India. The table also shows there is an increasing trends in the crime against women in various zones of India e.g. crime are increasing at a rapid rate (7.93 and 7.60 per cent) in East and North-East Zone respectively, particularly the crime like insult to modesty and cruelty by husband or relatives with ACGR of 21.73 and 6.42 in North

Zone and 11.99 and 8.64 per cent in North-East Zone respectively. While in the West and South Zone the crime found to be increasing with ACGR of 3.88 and 4.44 per cent respectively. As far as various forms of crime are concerned the table shows that the crime cruelty by husband or relatives increased with a maximum ACGR of 23.11 followed by the crime e.g. assault with intent to outrage modesty, rape, dowry death and insult to modesty with ACGR of 22.88, 22.04, 18.06 and 13.60 per cent respectively.

Table 2: Crime Against Women in 2015

State	Cases	Per 1 lakh female population	%age contribution to all-India total
1 Delhi	17,104	184.3	52
2 Assam	23,258	148.2	71
3 Telangana	15,135	83.1	4.6
4 Odisha	17,144	81.9	52
5 Rajasthan	28,165	81.5	8.6
6 Haryana	9,446	75.7	29
7 West Bengal	33,218	73.4	10.1
8 Tripura*	1,267	68.2	04
9 Madhya Pradesh	24,135	65.5	74
10 Chandigarh*	463	64.8	0.1

The above data shows that crime against women in the NCR region is increasing tremendously. Most of the sociologists say that Delhi is the capital of rapes or rape capital. In comparison to crimes against women from 2010 to 2012 there is a highest increase and rapes with the girls are very common in different parts of India. Recently the Govt. of India has also shown a keen interest to slow down the pace of crimes but the whole administration is failure and unable to stop the crime against women.

Conclusion: Now we can say that in Indian society, woman occupies a vital position and venerable place. The Vedas glorified women as the mother, the creator, one who gives life and worshipped her as a 'Devi' or Goddess. But from the long time they are suffering in the form of discrimination, oppression, exploitation, degradation, aggression, humiliation. Indian women through the countries remained subjugated and oppressed because society believed in clinging on to traditional beliefs for the brunt of violence—domestic as well as public,

Physical, emotional and mental. The present study is an attempt to highlight the impact of various demographical variables- literacy rate; urban population; gender ratio on violence against women and the magnitude of some of the most common and most severe forms of violence: dowry death; assault with Intent to outrage her modesty; insult to modesty; cruelty by husband or relatives; rape and total crime against women in India. Actually the cause of concern is that crime against women in the last four years has been increased by 34 percent.

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