

ATROCITIES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to focus on atrocities and violence against women in India. Violence against women indisputably based on unequal power relations between men and women. The status of women in India is not equal with men due to patriarchal structure of the society; therefore violence against women happens in society, community, and family. Women harassment by the Indian society, cruelty, kidnapping, eve-teasing, rape, dowry deaths, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, and so on. Violence against women has become an alarming and chronic issue today, which result in violation of their basic women rights. This paper explains the meaning of women's violation, Indian panel code (IPC), Crime under Special Local Laws (SLL) and National Crime Records Bureau report.

Key Words :Atrocities and Violence Against Women

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Introduction

In recent years women have become increasingly visible in social issues recognized by our society. These years have seen the successive parade of issues of sex roles women battering rape, employment, discrimination sexual harassment, incest, pornography the aged, and homeless women, followed by a succession of attempted remedies.

Women have been social problems in the form of atrocities and violence against women and it can be categorised as the single most prevalent violation of human rights. In almost all societies women are subjected to the cultures. These abusive circumstances often spring from the structure of patriarchy, defined broadly as a system of male dominance legitimized within society and family through superior rights, privileges, authority and power. Though the degree and forms of it may vary from society to society yet the basic principle of subordination of women appears to exist cross culturally.

Statement of the problem

Indian social structure is based on the patriarchy domination. The ideology of the patriarchy affects the position of the women in the family as well as society. Women's blames that the social structure of the society encourages the expression of hostility for the caste, education, religion and, employment opportunities economic barriers. Women are mostly affected by violence. Because of domestic violence they are not able to express their feelings, opinions in the family, work place and society. A woman is subjected to rape, genital mutilation, female infanticide and sex related crimes. This relates to society's construction of female sexuality and its role in social hierarchy. The concept of a woman as a property and dependent on a male protector in the level of a father, husband, son, etc. The domestic violence, dowry murder also and other type of violence's a woman has to face because of the social group to which she belongs, in times of war, riots, or ethnic, caste or class violence, women may be raped and brutalized as a means of humiliating the community to which she belongs. This also relates to male perception of female sexuality and women as the property of men. As women entry into the workplace has received attention in recent years their role in the economy as well as the gender discrimination and sexual harassment to be found in the work place has become social issues. This present paper will focus on the issues related to violations against women in the present society.

Objectives

- To understand the existing human rights violation against women.
- To study various types and source of crimes against women.

Methodology

This Paper is based on the secondary data collected from the different issues of different reports have been given by National crime records bureau, Crime in India report, and various research reports, journals, books, newspapers and website. Since the purpose is to examine the implication of violations against women and to identify the women problems in atrocities and other violations against women in India.

Socio- Economic and political power relations against women

Violence against women is embedded in the context of cultural, socio-economic and political power relations. These relations, in which male power dominates, reduce women to economic and emotional dependency, property of some male protector. Societies organised around gendered, hierarchical power relations give legitimacy to atrocities and violence against women. The status and the role of women can never be adequately evaluated in isolation of the women from the total structure of society.

Though in India, Women are ahead of their counterparts elsewhere in the matter of social legislations. But the laws granting rights to women have to been implemented properly. These laws have made the process of granting rights and justice to women so slow and confusing that women are not able to catch up with men socially, politically and economically. Indian women while in theory have been granted equality with men but in actual practice men remain all powerful and there at the expense of women.

The reality of the subordinate position of women is indicated through adverse sex ratio, the growing domestic violence, increasing number of dowry deaths and rape cases etc. This subordinate position of women can be identified at three levels. i.e. Family, Society and State. Family strengthens the subordinate position of women, by way of socializing its members to accept hierarchical relations expressed in unequal division of labour between the sexes a power over allocation of resources.

The society (i.e. social, economic, religious and cultural institutions) provides the mechanisms of perpetuating male control over women's sexuality, mobility and labour. The state legitimizes the proprietary rights of men over women, providing a legal base to the family and the community to perpetuate this relation. The state does this through the enactment of discriminatory laws and policies or through the discriminatory application of the law.

Violence

Violence is usually understood as physical attacks fear, pain and injury, the dictionary meaning of violence is that is an act of disrespect for a person dignity and right. According to stanki, violence entails inflicting emotional, physical psychological, sexual and material danger; it involves the exercise on themselves on behalf of a collective or state sanctioned purpose.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence means any act, omission, or conduct which is of such a nature as to harms or injure or has the potential of harming or injuring the health, safety or wellbeing of the being of the aggrieved or any child in the domestic relationship and includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and mental abuse and economic abuse.

Sexual violence

India is having the largest number of sexually abused children in the world. Above 53 percent of children have been subjected to some form of sexual abuse. In 2012, India introduced the protection of children from sexual offences act (POCSO) to deal with cases of child sexual abuse. However, it took two years to record the first cases under the law and these are huge gaps in its implementation with the conviction rate under the act ban only 2.4 percent.

The family life cycle

The family is often equated with a sanctuary – a place where individuals seed love, safety, security and shelter. But the evidence shows that it is also a place that imperils lives and breeds some of the most drastic forms of atrocities and violence perpetrated against women.

Violence against women throughout the life cycle.

Phase	Type of violence
Pre-birth	Sex selective abortions, effects of battering during pregnancy on birth outcomes.
Infancy	Female infanticide, physical sexual and Psychological abuse.
Girlhood	Child marriage, Female genital mutilation, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, incest, child prostitution and pornography.
Adolescence and Adulthood	Dating and courtship violence (acid throwing and date rape), economically coerced sex (eg. School girls having sex with 'sugar daddies' in return for school fees), incest, sexual abuse n the work place, rape, sexual harassment, forced prostitution and pornography, trafficking in women, partner violence, marital rape, dowry abuse and murder, partner homicide, psychological abuse, abuse of women with disabilities, forced pregnancy.
Elderly	Discrimination against widows, forced suicide or homicide of widows for economic reasons, sexual, physical and psychological abuse.

Violence in family is usually perpetrated by persons (generally males) who are, or who have been in position of trust, intimacy and power such as husbands, father, stepfathers, father-in-laws, brothers, brother-in-laws, uncles, sons and other relatives. Atrocities and violence against women is often a cycle of abuse that manifests itself in many forms throughout their lives. Even at the very beginning of her life, a girl may be a target of sex selective abortion or female infanticide in cultures where son preference is prevalent.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is another serious hazard faced by working women. Whether in the organised or unorganised sector, whether illiterate, low paid workers or highly educated and

highly paid executives, a large number of working women face sexual harassment at the working environment. It includes anything from a remark to a physical advance that offends the self respect of women. The list reads subtle forms which may include sexual innuendos, appropriate favour, blatant forms, leering, pinching, grabbing, hugging patting brushing against, touching and extreme behaviour amounting to attempted rape and rape.

Sexual behaviour may be considering sexual harassment when person finds himself personally, offensive sexually. Such behaviour may be subtle or obvious, verbal or non-verbal. Its scope may cover a wide range of behaviour that runs the gamut from patting women's bottoms, when they work down in hall or offices to pinching, to repeated insistent arms around the shoulder, couched in friendliness.

Sexual Harassment at work Place

Sexual harassment at the work place and in educational institution is currently one of the most serious hazards. Young people are especially vulnerable to work place exploitation. Employers abuse their authority to seek sexual favour from their female workers. According to the International labour organization, about 250 million children aged between five and fourteen (5 to 14) and living in developing countries are subjected to forced labour. Girls in particular are subjected to extreme exploitation through illegal and informal work. As domestic workers, carpet, weavers, industrial worker or prostitutes these girls are at the mercy of their employers and have little prospect of a better future.

Every single day a woman when steps out says out whole day working while travelling in office in field, in canteen, in outdoor meetings directly/indirectly she is subjected to a lot of sexual abuses and harassment. It's met always with hands she is hurt, but she is attacked and hurt with eyes with tongue with gestures and of course unfortunately physically. A few women wave off, ignore and more on; some disgust them to the very soul, out there is no way out so with tears on suppressed anger they more on; while some root off their dignity and even existence. To some women have compromise it some escape routes while some compel them to revolt or break down.

Discrimination at work place

The Indian women still face blatant discrimination at their work places. A major problem faced by the working women is sexual harassment at the work place. Further, women

employees working in night shift are more vulnerable to such incidents. Nurses, Call centre, for example, face this problem nearly every day. There is nothing that is done in hospitals to tackle and address the danger they face. Such blatant disregard of current Indian laws is one reason why sexual harassment at the workplace continues to increase. Indian women are often deprived of promotions and growth opportunities at work places but this doesn't apply to all working women. A majority of working women continue to be denied their right to equal pay, under the equal remuneration Act 1976 and are underpaid in comparison to their male colleagues. This is usually the case in factories and labour oriented industries.

Problems faced by women at work place

It is a major issue that women face at their workplace and many women fall victim of sexual harassment at workplace. At times employers try to take sexual favours from women's employee in return of other benefits and promotions. It can be classified in to various categories like.

- ✓ Physical contact and advances
- ✓ Showing pornography
- ✓ A demand or request for sexual favours
- ✓ Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non- verbal activities (like whistling, obscene jokes, comments about physical appearances, threats, innuendos gender based derogatory remarks etc.)

Violation of Women's Human Rights

Overt government policies such as forced sterilization experiment's on women with unsafe drugs are also examples of state sponsored gender violence. In the context of women's issues the population policy of the state has great significance.

Incidence of crime against women in India

S1.No	State	Incidence	Percentage
1	Delhi	2199	23.7
2	Chhattisgarh	1560	12.2
3	Madhya Pradesh	4391	11.9
4	Orissa	2251	10.8
5	Rajasthan	3644	10.5

6	Maharashtra	4144	7.3
7	Tamil Nadu	7811	4.2
8	Uttar Pradesh	3025	3.0

Source: National crime records bureau report-2015

Incidence of crime against women

The crime head wise details of reported crimes during the year 2010 to 2014 along with percentage variation are presented in Table-1. The crime against women during the year 2014 has increased by 9.2 percent over the year 2013 and by 58.2 percent over the year 2010. The Indian Panel Code(IPC) component of crimes against women has accounted for 96.3percent of total crimes and the remaining 3.7percent were Crimes under Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes against women.

1). Crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

1. Rape (sec. 376IPC)
2. Attempt to commit rape (SEC.376/511,IPC)
3. Kidnapping & abductionof women (sec.363,364,364A, 366 IPC etc.)
4. Dowry deaths (sec.304B IPC)
5. Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (sec.354 IPC)
6. Insult to the modesty of women (sec.509 IPC)
7. Cruelty by husband or his relatives (sec.498A IPC)
8. Importation of girl from country (up to 21 years age, sec.366B IPC)
9. Abetment of suicide of women (sec. 306 IPC)

2. The Crime under the Special & Local Laws (SLL)

- i. The dowry prohibition Act-1961
- ii. The Indecent Representation of women (prohibition) Act, 1986
- iii. The commission of Sati prevention Act, 1987
- iv. The protection of women from domestic violation Act,2005
- v. The Immoral traffic (prevention)Act, 1956

Table- 1 Crime head wise incidents of crime against women during 2010 – 2014 and percentage variation in over 2013.

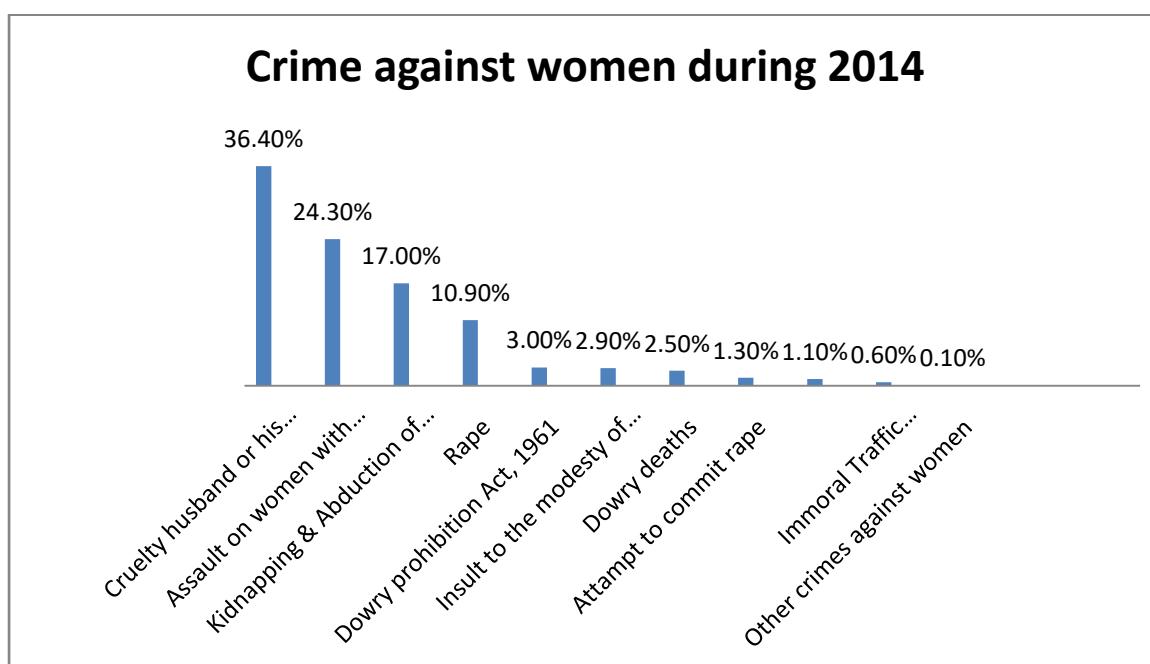
S/ N	Crime head	Year					Percentag e variation in 2014 over 2013
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
1	Rape	22172	24206	24923	33707	36735	9.0
2	Attempt to commit rape					4234	
3	Kidnapping & abduction of women (sec.363 to 373 IPC)	29795	35565	38262	51881	57311	10.5
4	Dowry deaths (sec.302 / 304 IPC)	8391	8618	8233	8083	8455	4.6
5	Assault on women with intent to outrage then their modesty(sec. 354 IPC)	40613	42968	45351	70739	82235	16.3
6	Insult to the modesty of women (sec. 509 IPC)	9961	8570	9173	12589	9735	-22.7
7	Cruelty by husband or his relatives (sec. 498-A IPC)	94041	99135	106527	118866	122877	3.4
8	Importation of girl from foreign country	36	80	59	31	13	58.1
9	Abetment of suicide of women					3734	
A	Total IPC crime against women	20500 9	219142	232528	295896	325329	9.9
10	Indecent Representation of women Act	895	453	141	362	47	-87.0
11	The dowry prohibition Act	5182	6619	9038	10709	10050	-6.2
12	Protection of women from domestic violence Act					426	
13	Immoral traffic (prevention) Act	2499	2436	2563	2579	2070	
B	Total SLL crime against women	8576	9508	11742	13650	12593	-7.7
	Total (A+B)	21358 5	228650	244270	309546	337922	9.2

Source: Women's related Crime in India- 2014 data

The table 1 portrayed about variation of crime against women in 2013-14. There were increased a violence against women from 2013-14. However, in the total SLL (Special local law), dowry prohibition act, indecent representation of women act number of cases were decreased. Because people may be got awareness regarding these act. In whichever the cases crime increased among women for that government has to take effective law and legislation.

National crime against bureau report-2015

The year 2015 has witnessed a reduction in crime against women as compared to 2014. Recording a decrease of 3.1 percent, 2015 saw the registration of 327394 cases under the head of crimes against women as compared to 337922 cases in 2014, show figures from the National Crime Records Bureau. Cases of rape have fallen by 5.7percent coming down from 36735 in 2014 to 34651 in 2015.Incidents of gang rape too have shown a decrease from 2346 in 2014 to 2113 in 2015.there has been a marginal increase of 2.5percent, however in other sexual offences against women. Under the category of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, 2015 saw 84222 cases being registered across the country as against 82235 in 2014. The category includes offences such as sexual harassment assault or use of criminal force to women with intent to disrobe, voyeurism, and stalking. Kidnapping and abduction of women also increased in 2015 to 59277 cases from 57311 in 2014.



Source: Crime in India report-2014

Overall Crime against women

S.No	State	Case	Per 1 lakh female population	Percentage of contribution to all India
1	Delhi	17104	184.3	5.2
2	Assam	23258	148.2	7.1
3	Telangana	15135	83.1	4.6
4	Orissa	17144	81.9	5.2

5	Rajasthan	28165	81.5	8.6
6	Haryana	9446	75.7	2.9
7	West Bengal	33218	73.4	10.1
8	Tripura	1267	68.2	0.4
9	Madhya Pradesh	24135	65.5	7.4
10	Chandigarh	463	64.8	0.1

Source: National crime against bureau report-2015

Delhi has the highest rate of crimes against women overall. With 17104 cases, the capital recorded a crime rate of 184.3 per 1 lakh female population. Assam is second with a rate of 148.2 with 23258 cases. However, the high rate of crime is often a reflection of police registering cases and dealing with the crime. It does not necessarily show deteriorating law and order. As this paper has reported earlier, Somalia has the lowest crime rate in the world while Sweeten has the highest.

Conclusion

The problems towards women are increasing day to day and year by year. Women are fear to scud outside with freedom. If there is a law, crime is also there. In a domestic country like India freedom for women 33percent of placement is meant for women even then they can't able to go alone in their working places. Employers use their authority to seek sexual favour from their female workers.India's capital Delhi is standing first in women crimes and violation as 23.7percent. The next place stands Chhattisgarh 12.2percent, Madhya Pradesh 11.9percent, and Orissa 10.8percent etc. For the safeguard of women the government want to provide a law system.In the present paper studies that there is a need to put forth before the criminal justice system of India that Indian women are now no safe and always a kind of threat feelings generated among the women that in the present scenario they can be easily victimized from any hook and corner of the society.

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