

# Crime against Women in India: An Analytical Overview

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## ABSTRACT

**Crime and violence against women are on the rise as showed by the increase in the cases being reported. Violence against women arises throughout the life cycle from pre-birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood to old age. The paper highlights the delay in delivery of justice, poor enforcement of laws related to women safety, patriarchal mindsets, social stigma against victims and reflecting deep-rooted gender biases. The paper enhances the crimes against women were rape; homicide for dowry, dowry deaths or their attempts; torture- both mental and physical assault.**

**Keywords: Violence, crime, sexual, harassment, abuse, problem, position, exploitation and discrimination**

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## INTRODUCTION

Crime against women is described by high rates of sexual violence, domestic abuse, and low conviction rates, remains a major problem to gender equality and development. With the advance of time, we have advanced in committing crimes against women. Newspapers and T.V. news are not without news of crimes against women. Lots of measures have been taken to prevent them, but of no use. Perhaps this routine of crimes is not a new one. Yes, on the contrary the graph of it has gone up to a great height. In these crimes not only blue collared criminals are indulged but white collared criminals are also involved to a great extent. Saints, priests, professors, advocates, doctors and highly reputed persons are also found engaged in these matters. Today drinking is a vogue and is prevailing everywhere. And it is said that one who drinks is qualified for all evils. In most of the cases it is observed that the criminals were drunk. In drunken state criminals are given to over enthusiasm to commit a crime. In rape cases it has been found the most.

Very many high ranking officials and politicians are found occupied in the cases of adultery. They misuse their influence. Very many of the high ranking officials wanted to exploit comely lasses sexually and in many cases they did so in order to provide facilities and jobs to needy ones. Women are exploited in many ways but the sex exploitation is the most disgraceful to them. "Common forms of violence against women in India include acts such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, murder, female infanticide, and acid throwing" (Ghosh, Sreeparna, 26 )

First and foremost exploitation and discrimination starts from their own families. They are not paid heed to their development. They are neglected in imparting education. Healthy food or diet is given to male children not to female ones. They become burden to their parents when they come of age. So they are con-fined under four walls of the house. In most of the families daughters become the reason of debt for heavy amount is needed for their marriage and dowry. In spite of all that in several cases brides are burnt alive in the family of the husband. The following things cannot be denied as a social fact that on paths, on Journeys, in offices or at the working places, sometimes even in their own homes they (Women) are molested, tortured, discriminated and also raped. In cases of plundering they are robbed and defiled and sometimes they are dislodged. "According to data from the National Family Health Surveys, physical violence by husbands is the most common type of violence experienced by women. Sexual violence by husbands is the next most common. Most violence, whether physical or sexual, or whether by husbands or others, is not reported to the police" (Sharma, Kanika, 2024 )

For more than six thousand years of recorded history women have had place subordinate men physically dominated by men. Although at they did-and still in most parts of the n - than men; paid much worse than men subordinate to men, physical world do the hardest physical work; educated, if at all, in a poorer fashion - for their work if they happened to be

doing anything other than the unpaid job of keeping house; given no place in politics or government; women simply had no right. Even 33% reservation has not yet been legally given to women in legislative assemblies by our national and state governments, though we have done lot of politics on this issue. Jean Jacques Rousseau had written his great book "The Social - Contract" which had made his claim it of universal rights for man. He care y fully excluded women from this broad claim; deciding that their business in the world and their education, there-fore, was simply to make themselves pleasing to men.

"The education of women, "he wrote" should always be relative to men, to please, to be useful to us, to make us love and esteem them, to educate us when young, and to take care of us when grown up, to advice, to console us, to render our lives easy and agreeable; these are the duties of women at all times, and what they should be taught in their infancy. "Education itself becomes a contributing factor to the perpetuation of gender disparities, as girls are informed about the inequities they will face in life, whereas boys remain uninformed and unprepared to treat women and girls as equals" (Menon, Suvarna 51). Rousseau, remember, was one of the most broadminded and enlightened men in the world of his time. All of a sudden in 1792 an obscure name floated in the air. This name was of Mary Wollstonecraft - who wrote a book namely "A Vindication of the Rights of Women." This book did as bomb shell into the world of thoughts. Amazement, scorn, shocked horror; all the usual feelings towards a new thing greeted its publication. She has told us something about herself and her own life in an early novel "Mary". She was born probably in Hoxton, London in 1759. Among Mary's earliest memories is that of lying outside her parents' bedroom door throughout the whole night ready to interfere if her father struck her mother. Mary, with her sensitive nature, was from the beginning noticing the injustice towards the poor, the weak and especially towards women. As she grew up, she began more and more to protect those around her.

There had been brilliant women before Mary Wollstonecraft, influential women, women who ruled by their beauty and more rarely by their brains. But apart from chance royalty, women simply as women had no kind of position except as the wives or the beloved of men. These great women were brilliant chance pro-ducts who won a precarious place by their exceptional qualities. Not one of them had ever claimed that any woman, merely as a human being had rights of her own, until thirty--year old Mary Wollstonecraft staked their claim.

In Indian context too there have been many women who have - achieved high status and positions due to their personal qualifications and qualities but it is not a common thing or phenomenon. In spite of woman (Smt. Pratibha Patil, Smt Draupadi Murm) head of the state the condition of the common women has not improved in India. National commission for women too could not check the crimes against women, although high positions are occupied by women in this organization and they all are powerful.

By way of broad discussion we can enumerate the following crimes against women-

1. Child marriage.
2. Unmatching marriage.
3. Dowry in marriage.
4. Unequal treatment in their families and society.
5. To treat them as weak.
6. Torture in family.
7. Passing remarks (molesting and insulting working women) in the offices and on roads.
8. Rape and gang rape.
9. To persuade and drag them into adultery and immoral traffic.
10. Dislodge and disown them from property.
11. Disregard to remarriage (in case of widow)
12. Sometimes 'Sati' cases are also reported.

It sees that an insolent problem, with its mouth wide open is standing before us. How we can overcome it is to be envisaged. All of us men must hang our heads in shame so long as there is a single woman whom we dedicate to our passion. I would far rather see the race of men extinct than that we should become less than beasts by making the noblest of god's creation the object of our lust.

Gandhiji was deadly against child marriage, he says, "I passionately desire the utmost freedom for our women. I detest child marriage. I shudder to see a child-widow, and shiver with rage when a husband, just widowed, with brutal indifference contracts another marriage. I deplore the criminal indifference of parents who keep their daughters utterly ignorant and illiterate, and bring them up only for the purpose of marrying them off to some young man of means." (E-Publication\_Mahatma\_Gandhi's\_philosophy)

On another occasion he warned women, "Woman must cease to consider herself the object of man's passion. The remedy is more in her hands than men. She must refuse to adorn herself for men; including her husband, if she will be an equal partner with man. I cannot imagine Sita' ever wasting a single moment on pleasing 'Ram' by physical charms."

In the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi to repeat there is no basic difference between man and woman. Not only is that each a complement of the other. "My own opinion is that, Just as fundamentally man and woman are one, their problem must be one in essence. The soul in both is the same. The two live the same life, have the same feelings. Each is a complement of the other. The one cannot live without the other's active help."

Woman is the better half of a man, so the better half of humanity, of all the evils, for which man has made himself responsible, none is so degrading, so shocking or as brutal as his abuse of the better half that is women folk. For woman is the nobler of the two. Her intuition has often proved truer than man's arrogant assumption of superior knowledge. "The 1927 book *Mother India*, by American journalist Katherine Mayo, brought attention to child marriage in India, as well as criticizing other aspects of Indian culture. It's publication prompted the writing of over fifty books and pamphlets in protest" (Jayawardena, Kumari, 99 )

Young men or the boys of marriageable age should come forward to marry the widow girls. I believe that child ten or twelve or fifteen years old who was no consenting party to the so-called marriage, who having married having never lived with the so-called husband. And one day suddenly she was declared to be a widow. In fact she was not a widow. Truly speaking remarriage is neither degrading nor a sin, but a right solution of the problem. "As women progress into adulthood, the social climate continues to reinforce inequality, contributing to the prevalence of violence against them. Within the context of marriage, many women in India come to perceive violence as a routine aspect of their married lives. Those subjected to gender-based violence often face victim-shaming, being told that their safety is solely their responsibility and that any harm they endure is their own fault. Social and cultural beliefs, such as the importance of family honour, exert immense pressure on women to remain complicit in the face of abuse" ( Menon, Suvarna: 51). If we are willing to control the crimes against women, we will have to take some strict measures. And all should be equal in the eyes of law. There should be no consideration of small or big. The following measures may help in preventing the crimes -

1. Enactment of strict laws and their execution should be proper and assured.
2. There should be a proper share to daughters in the family property.
3. In rape cases proper F.I.R. should be lodged without asking vulgar (naked) questions. Lady Doctor's examination report should be enough.

A judge himself can judge the reality. There should be no cross-questioning and demand of other proofs. In these cases there can hardly be an eye witness. No insulting questions should be asked to the sufferer.

In rape cases no need of capital punishment or long-term imprisonment. The accused (proved) should be marked with 'Rape criminal' on his forehead. "6.1% of married Indian women have experienced sexual violence" (Pandey, Geeta , 2026 ) And he should not be allowed to keep long hair or any covering for his head. His attendance should be made compulsory at the police station fortnightly. The persons of this type will receive lesson from such culprits. This sort of punishment was very much popular in primitive society. "In India, marital rape is not a criminal offense. India is one of fifty countries that have not yet outlawed marital rape"( Lodhia, Sharmila, 89 )

Child marriage and dowry should be prevented by strict laws and rigorous punishments. In case of 'Ewe-Teasers' police knows better remedy. They (Police) should get their (Ewe-teasers) heads clean with razor on the spot, no need of trial. "A study conducted in India by the International Institute for Population Sciences and Macro International in 2005 and 2006 showed high fertility, low fertility control, and poor fertility outcomes data within child marriages. 90.8% of young married women reported no use of a contraceptive prior to having their first child. 23.9% reported having a child within the first year of marriage. 17.3% reported having three or more children over the course of the marriage. 23% reported a rapid repeat childbirth, and 15.2% reported an unwanted pregnancy. 15.3% reported a pregnancy termination (stillbirths, miscarriages or abortions)" (Raj, A, and Silverman, 2 ) Fertility rates are higher in slums than in urban areas" (Chandrasekhar, S 68)

The aforesaid suggestions may look odd/strange but they may prove effective. Other punishments become out of sight and things which are out of sight become out of mind. There-fore they cannot be proper lessons to others of that kind. Here, it would not be out of place to say, "Where women are worshipped (respected), there dwell deities." Let us revive this culture again.

## CONCLUSION

The rising violence against women in the workplace in Indian society is a serious issue. Crime against women in India varies from domestic abuse, female feticide, dowry death and rape to child marriages and female circumcision. The paper covers the burning issues such as rape, sexual harassment, mental torture eve teasing, molestation and abuse of women and limiting women's freedom. Every hour, at least two women are sexually assaulted and every six hours, a young married woman is beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide. Rape is one of the most common crimes in India.

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