

Atrocities against Women- Question to Ponder Over

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ABSTRACT

“O Lord why have you not given women the right to conquer her destiny?

Why does she have to wait head bowed

By the roadside, waiting with tired patience, hoping for a miracle in the morrow?: Rabindra Nath Tagore
In the oriental tradition of women held a high place of respect in the society, woman is honored and venerated exalted to the status of mother Goddess and worshipped as Durga, Kali and Lakshmi. The concept of “ardhanarishwara” is a symbolic representation of the fact that man is incomplete without woman but it is the only the features of Indian literature. Today in a rapidly changing social and economic environment women are exposed to non-traditional tasks to share the economic burden of the male members; to ensure their survival and work for a better living for the members of the family. We find women being insulted almost every day, everywhere and every time. To add to the above woes men subject these women to various kinds of harassment and atrocities.

Key Words : Atrocities, Women, Society

INTRODUCTION

It seems to be true that Indian literature has honestly tried to enlighten the distinctive features glorifying “woman hood”. This deification celebrates her universal power which evokes both fear and reverence. Two facets of femaleness relate to this duality and perhaps provide a cultural logic for it. The woman is first of all “Shakti” the energizing principle of the universe. The woman is also “Prakrati” (Nature) the undifferentiated matter of the universe. Without the female there would be no energy in thHowever, with the progress of civilization, this vulnerable part of the society has managed to get some respect but still in-human atrocities continue to be committed on her. She is still not safe in the society. The social reality is that women are the most exploited and discriminated class in the society-in spite of any constitutional guarantees and legislation measures women still remained backward and are not found rightful place in the society.

Object of Study:

To throw light on the crime against women to focus

on social status.

Scope of the Study:

The research provides frame works that are sensitive to issues of women by analyzing the problematic impact of sexual inequalities.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on primary and secondary data like journals, books internet surveys etc.

Hypothesis:

The crime rates against women in India have only rises to a great extent.

Review of Study:

In the 21st century, when the whole world is awakening to call of enlightened feminism, India still wallows in the swim of primordial misogyny.

In many parts of our country, women are still considered to be a burdensome appendage. She is an economic drain. Her birth in many parts of the country is

greeted with silence, even sorrow, in contrast, a boy arrives to the sound of joyous shells. Discrimination against women begins at birth or even before it and continues till a woman is dead. Women are the most vulnerable part of society. Atrocities on women have many facts such as rape, assault, sexual harassment, murder for dowry, physical torture, wife battering and other forms of domestic violence, trafficking in women, abortion of female fetuses etc.

Atrocities against women pose a very complex legal problem and cannot be solved without changing certain social and legal realities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A continuous increase in cases of crime against women has been observed in the period from 2018 to 2019. A total of 4,05,861 cases of crime against women were registered during 2019, showing an increase of 7.3% over 2018 (3,78,236 cases). Majority of cases under I.P.C. were registered under “Cruelty by husband or his relatives” (30.9%) followed by “assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (21.8%), kidnapping & abduction of women (17.9%) and “rape” (7.9%). The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 62.4% in 2019 in comparison with 58.8% in 2018.¹

Table 1 : Crime against Women (IPC+SLL) - 2017-2019							
Sr. No.	State / UT	2017	2018	2019	% State Share to All-India (2019)	Mild-Year projected female population (in lakhs) 2019	Rate of Total Crime against Women (2019)+
States							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17909	16438	17746	4.4	261.4	67.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	337	368	317	0.1	7.3	43.3
3.	Assam	23082	27687	30025	7.4	168.9	177.8
4.	Bihar	14711	16920	18587	4.6	576.2	32.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	7996	8587	7689	1.9	143.8	53.5
6.	Goa	369	362	329	0.1	7.6	43.1
7.	Gujarat	8133	8329	8799	2.2	324.9	27.1
8.	Haryana	11370	14326	14683	3.6	135.3	108.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1246	1633	1636	0.4	36.1	45.4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3129	3437	3069	0.8	64.2	47.8
11.	Jharkhand	5911	7083	8760	2.2	183.3	47.8
12.	Karnataka	14078	13514	13828	3.4	325.1	42.5
13.	Kerala	11057	10461	11462	2.8	182.9	62.7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29788	28942	27560	6.8	399.6	69.0
15.	Maharashtra	31979	35497	37144	9.2	588.5	63.1
16.	Manipur	236	271	266	0.1	15.5	17.2
17.	Meghalaya	567	571	558	0.1	16.1	34.5
18.	Mizoram	301	249	170	0.0	5.9	28.7
19.	Nagaland	79	75	43	0.0	10.4	4.1
20.	Odessa	20098	20274	23183	5.7	223.9	103.5
21.	Punjab	4620	5302	5886	1.5	141.9	41.5
22.	Rajasthan	25993	27866	41550	10.2	376.4	110.4
23.	Sikkim	163	172	125	0.0	3.1	39.8
24.	Tami Nadu	5397	5822	5934	1.5	379.2	15.6
25.	Telangana	17521	16027	18394	4.5	185.3	99.3
26.	Tripura	972	97	1070	0.3	19.7	54.5
27.	Uttar Pradesh	56011	59445	59853	14.7	1081.4	55.4
28.	Uttarakhand	1944	2817	2541	0.6	54.6	46.5
29.	West Bengal	30992	30394	30394	7.5	474.9	64.0
	Total State(s)	345989	363776	391601	96.5	6393.3	61.3

Contd... Table 1

Table 1 contd...

Union Territories							
30.	A&N Islands	132	147	135	0.0	1.9	72.2
31.	Chandigarh	453	442	515	0.1	5.4	95.2
32.	D&N Haveli	20	38	49	0.0	2.3	21.6
33.	Daman & Diu	26	16	33	0.0	1.3	25.2
34.	Delhi UT	13076	13640	13395	3.3	93.1	144.0
35.	Lakshadweep	6	11	38	0.0	0.3	115.2
36.	Puducherry	147	166	95	0.0	7.9	12.1
	Total UT(S)	13860	14460	14260	3.5	112.1	127.2
	Total All India	359849	378236	405861	100.0	6505.4	62.4

Crime rate is calculated as per one lakh of population.

Population source report of technical group on population projections (November, 2019) National Commission on Population, MoHFW
As per data provided by State / UTs.

Due to non-receipt of data from West Bengal in time for 2019, data furnished for 2018 has been used.

The increasing criminalization of society, media images of violence, poor enforcement of legal provisions, unabashed consumerism and erosion of traditional value have added to it.

Table of shows crime cases against women are steadily increasing in the country.²

Here are some highlights from NCRB's report³:

- Uttar Pradesh holds the worst record by laying claim to a 14.7 percentage share of all crimes committed.
- The highest rate of crime against women happens in Assam where at least 177 out of every 1 Lakh women have been victims of a criminal act. Delhi stands next at 144, Tamil Nadu at 15.6, is one of the safest states for women in the country.

Cases that shocked the Nation:

- Nirbhaya Case 2012, rape and murder of woman in a moving bus in New Delhi.
- In 2017 the rape of young women by former BJP State Politician Kuldeep Singh Sengar which came to national attention only when the victim tried to kill herself a year later, accusing the police of inaction.
- Kathua case 2018-an 8-year-old girl was kidnapped raped and murdered by a group of men in Kathua.⁴

Some major steps for the protection of women after Nirbhaya case:

- Sexual Harassment of women at workplace (prevention prohibition and redressal) Act was passed in 2013.
- The criminal law (amendment) act 2013 was

adopted after the Nirbhaya Case.

- Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018 which for the first instance, placed the death penalty as a potential punishment for the rape of a girl under the age of 12, with minimum sentence being 20 years jail term.

Conclusion:

The number of crimes committed against women in India keeps rising every year. Such high rates of atrocities and violence against women occur due to the inherent patriarchal mindset of the Indian folks. The concept of victim-blaming should be stopped and proper actions should be taken. The efforts have been made to make the women dependent. They are still not economically independent which has made the conditions worse for them.

Women are considered as weaker sex. That is why all sorts of violence and atrocities are perpetrated on them. They become the easiest target due to weaker positions. It becomes their habit to suffer silently in homes and outside. For increasing violence men are to be blamed. Two-pronged strategy can be adopted. First men have to change their attitudes so that women have enough space to develop themselves, secondly, women themselves have to unite and spread consciousness which will help in real social development. Laws must be made more stringent relating to crimes against women.

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