

## Crime Against Women in India: A Statistical Review

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### Abstract

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 their glorification was rather mythical for at the same time, in India women found herself totally suppressed and subjugated in a patriarchal society. Indian women through the countries remained subjugated and oppressed because society believed in clinging on to orthodox beliefs for the brunt of violence—domestic as well as public, Physical, emotional and mental.

### Introduction

At present, women have become sex objects and are widely treated as interior to men in different spheres of life. In the rural areas, wife-beating, torture of unmarried daughters, sisters and other female relatives is common phenomenon. Girls are perceived as a burden on the family, because of the huge amounts of money required for their weddings. Girls are generally not encouraged to take up even middle or higher education. There is huge discrimination between men and women in the sphere of education and the reason attributed to such gender bias is the feeling of people that girls should be confined to the house.

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Humiliation, harassment, torture and exploitation of women is as old as is the history of family life. In India, women are way ahead of women elsewhere in the matter of social legislation but the implementation of laws granting rights to women has been so slow, lopsided and haphazard that socially, economically and politically women lag far behind men.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To know and analyse the present crime trend rapidly increasing against women in India.
2. To explore the main causes in increasing the crimes against women in India.
3. To understand the existing law in India pertaining to combat such crimes.
4. To know where the government machinery is failed to control the same.

### **Scope of the study**

The scope of the study mainly covers the attitude of indifference and negligence that is primarily the result of general acceptance of men's superiority over women because of which violent acts against women have not been viewed as violent by women themselves due to their religious values and social attitudes. It is only recently that the issue of crime against women has been transformed from a private issue into a public problem. The present study tries to explore the main causes in increasing the trend of crime against women, the effectiveness and impact of existing laws to control followed by important suggestions to prevent further commission of particular crimes in India.

### **Methodology**

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

### **Hypothesis**

1. The crime against women has increased under IPC during last five years in India.
2. The crime against women has increased more in Mega Cities of India compare to total National crime record.

### **Concept of Crime Against Women:**

Although, women may be victims of all kinds of crime, be it cheating, murder, Robbery, etc., yet the crimes in which '*only women*' are victims and which are directed specifically against them are characterized as 'crime Against women'. Broadly, crimes against women are classified under two categories.

- i) **Crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC):** It include Seven crimes; i) Rape (Sec. 376 IPC) ii) Kidnapping and Abduction (Sec. 363-373 IPC), iii) Dowry deaths (Sec. 304-B IPC), iv) Torture – Physical and mental (Sec. 498 IPC), v) Molestation (Sec 354 IPC), vi) Sexual harassment (Sec. 509 IPC) and VII) Importation of girls (Sec.366-B IPC).

ii) **Crimes under Special and Local Laws (SLL):** Although all laws are not gender specific the provisions of law affecting women significantly have been reviewed periodically and amendments, carried out to keep pace with the emerging requirements. Some Acts which have special provisions to safeguard women and their interests are:

- I. The employees state insurance Act, 1948
- II. The plantation labor Act, 1951
- III. The family courts, act, 1954
- IV. The special marriage Act, 1954
- V. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
- VI. The succession Act, 1956
- VII. Immoral traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
- VIII. The maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amendment in 1995)
- IX. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- X. The medical termination of pregnancy Act, 1971
- XI. The contract labor (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976
- XII. The equal Remuneration Act, 1976
- XIII. The child marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1979
- XIV. The criminal law (Amendment) Act, 1983
- XV. The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1986
- XVI. Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition Act, 1986
- XVII. Commission of Sati (Prevention) Ac, 1987
- XVIII. Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

It is equally important to clarify the concept of 'Violence' against women. If we take 'violence' as "conduct which incurs the formal pronouncements of the moral condemnation of the community", or "deviation from conduct norms of the normative groups", the scope of cases of 'violence against women' becomes too broad. Narrowly, the term 'violence' has been applied to "Physically striking and individual and causing injury" (Kempe 1982; Gil 1970), to "the act of striking a person with the intent of causing harm or injury but not actually causing it" (Gelles and Strauss 1979), to "acts where there is the high potential of causing injury" (Strauss,1980), and to "acts which may not involve actual hitting but may involve verbal abuse or psychological stress and suffering." Megargee (1982: 85) has defined violence as the "overtly threatened or overtly accomplished application of force which results in the injury or destruction of persons or their reputation".

While understanding the concept of 'violence' and distinguishing it from concepts like 'aggression', 'force', and 'coercion', is both necessary and desirable, there is always the fear of getting bogged down in controversies relating to these concepts raised by various scholars. As a result, one may miss the very purpose of understanding broader aspects of the problem of "crime and violence against women", violence must be recognized as human phenomenon in as much as it consists of an act of one another (Domenach, 1981;30) Here, we consider the operational definition of violence from the individual (the women) something that she does not want to give of her own free will and which causes her either physical injury or emotional trauma or both".

Thus rape, abduction, kidnapping, Murder (all cases of criminal violence dowry death, wife battering, sexual abuse, maltreatment of a widow and for an elderly women (all cases of domestic violence) and eve-teasing, forcing wife/daughter-in-law to go for feticide, forcing a young widow to commit sati, etc (all cases of social violence), are issues which affect a large section of society. In the analysis of the problem of 'crime against women', we may focus on important issues like nature and extent of female crime in India, on identifying women who are generally victims of crime and violence, on those who are the perpetrators of crime and violence, on what motivates criminals to commit crime or victimizers to use violence, on measures which could contain the depersonalization trauma of the victims.

## **Result and discussion**

### **Reported Incidents of Crime**

(Incidence...1,85,312)

A total of 1,85,312 incidents of crime against women (both under IPC and SLL) were reported in the country during 2007 as compared to 1,64,765 during 2006 recording an increase of (12.5%) during 2007. These crimes have continuously increased during 2003-2007 with 1,40,601 cases in 2003, 1,54,333 cases in 2004, 1,55,553 in 2005, 1,64,765 cases in 2006 and 1,85,312 cases in 2007. Andhra Pradesh, accounting for nearly (7.2%) of the country's population, has accounted for (13.3%) of total incidents of crime against women in the country by reporting 24,738 cases. Uttar Pradesh, with nearly (16.6%) share of country's population has accounted for (11.3%) of total crime against women by reporting 20,993 cases in 2007.

Crime Rate ----- 16.3

The rate of crime has increased marginally from (14.7%) during the year 2006 to (16.3%) during 2007. Tripura and Andhra Pradesh were the top two States in the order of crime rate at (30.7%) and (30.3%) respectively.

### **Trends Analysis**

The crime head-wise details of reported crimes during 2003 to 2007 along with percentage variation are presented in Table-1.1. The crime against women has increased by (12.5%) over 2006 and by (31.8%) over 2003. The IPC component of crimes against women has accounted for (94.4%) of total crimes and the rest (5.6%) were SLL crimes against women. The proportion of IPC crimes committed against women towards total IPC crimes has increased continually during last 5 years from (7.6%) in 2003 to (8.8%) during 2007.

**Crime head-wise analysis (IPC)**

## APPENDIX

**Table 1.1** Crime Head –wise Incidents of Crime Against Women during 2003-2007 and Percentage variation in 2007 over 2006

Sl.No.	Crime Head	Year					Percentage variation in 2007 over 2006
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
1.	Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	15847	18233	18359	19348	20737	7.2%
2.	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363 to 373 IPC)	13296	15578	15750	17414	20416	17.2%
3.	Dowry Death (Sec. 302/304B IPC)	6208	7026	6787	7618	8093	6.2%
4.	Torture (Sec. 498 A IPC)	50703	58121	58319	63128	75930	20.3%
5.	Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)	32939	34567	34175	36617	38734	5.8%
6.	Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC)	12325	10001	9984	9966	10950	9.9%
7.	Importation of Girls (Sec. 366-B IPC)	46	89	149	67	61	-9.0%
8.	Sati Prevention Act, 1987	0	0	1	0	0	----
9.	Immoral Traffic (P) Act. 1956	5510	5748	5908	4541	3568	-21.4%
10.	Indecent Rap. of Women (P) Act., 1986	1043	1378	2917	1562	1200	-23.2%
11.	Dowry Prohibition Act. 1961	2684	3592	3204	4504	5623	24.8%
	Total	140601	154333	155553	164765	185312	12.5%

Source: Crime in India, 2007, National Crime Record Bureau

### **Rape (Sec.376 IPC) (Incidence –20,737 Rate 1.8% )**

An increasing trend in cases of rape has been observed during 2003-2007. These cases reported a substantial increase of (15.0%) in 2004 over 2003, a marginal increase of (0.7%) in 2005 over 2004, an increase of (5.4%) in 2006 over 2005 and an increase of (7.2%) in 2007 over 2006. Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest number of Rape cases (3,010) accounting for (14.5%) of total such cases reported in the country, however, Mizoram has reported the highest crime rate (8.5%) as compared to National average of (1.8%). Rape cases have been further categorised as Incest Rape and other Rape cases.

### **Incest rape (Incidence – 405)**

Incest cases have decreased by (6.0%) from 431 cases in 2006 to 405 cases in 2007 as compared to (7.2%) increase in overall Rape cases. West Bengal (114) has accounted for the highest (28.1%) of the total such cases reported in the country.

### **Rape Victims**

There were 20,771 victims of Rape out of 20,737 reported Rape cases in the country. (9.5%) (1,972) of the total victims of Rape were girls under 15 years of age, while (15.2%) (3,152) were teenaged girls (15-18 years). Nearly two-third (11,984) (57.7%) were Women in the age-group 18-30 years. 3,530 victims (17.0%) were in the age-group of 30-50 years while (0.6%) (133) were over 50 years of age. Offenders were known to the victims in as many as 19,188 (92.5%) cases. Parents/close family members were involved in (2.1%) (405 out of 19,188) of these cases, neighbours were involved in (36.0%) cases (6,902 out of 19,188) and relatives were involved in (7.5%) (1,448 out of 19,188) cases.

### **Kidnapping and Abduction (Sec.363-373 IPC) (Incidence 20,416 (Rate 1.8%))**

These cases have reported an increase of (17.2%) as compared to previous year (17,414). Uttar Pradesh (3,363) has accounted for (16.5%) of the total cases at the National level. Delhi UT has reported the highest rate at (7.0%) as compared to the National average of (1.8%).

### **Dowry Deaths (Sec 302, 304B IPC) (Incidence ---- 8,093 ( Rate ----0.7%))**

These cases have increased by (6.2%) over the previous year (7,618). (25.7%) of the total such cases reported in the country were reported from Uttar Pradesh (2,076) alone followed by Bihar (1,172) (14.5%). The highest rate of crime (1.3%) was reported from Bihar as compared to the National average of (0.7%).

### **Torture (Cruelty by Husband and Relatives (See 498-AIPC))(Incidence 75,930- (Rate - 6.7%))**

‘Torture’ cases in the country have increased by (20.3%) over the previous year (63,128). (14.9%) of these were reported from Andhra Pradesh (11,335). The highest rate of (15.7%) was reported from Tripura as compared to the National rate at (6.7%).

### **Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC) (Incidence 38,734 (Rate 3.4%))**

Incidents of Molestation in the country have increased by (5.8%) over the previous year (36,617). Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest incidence (6,772) amounting to (17.5%) of total such cases as well as the highest rate (9.9%) as compared to the National average of (3.4%).

**Sexual Harassment (Eve teasing) (Sec. 509 IPC) (Incidence 10,950 (Rate 1.0%))**

The number of such cases has increased by (9.9%) over the previous year (10,950). Andhra Pradesh has reported (30.3%) of cases (3,316) followed by Uttar Pradesh (26.3%) (2,882). Andhra Pradesh has reported the highest crime rate (4.1%) as compared to the National average of (1.0%).

**Importation of Girls (Sec. 366- B IPC) (Incidence ----61)**

A decrease of (9.0%) has been observed in such cases as 61 cases were reported during the year 2007 as compared to 67 cases in the previous year (2006). Only Bihar (56) and West Bengal (5) have reported such cases accounting for (91.8%) and (8.2%) respectively of total such cases at the National level.

**Table 1.2** Proportion of Crime Against Women during last five years under IPC.

Sl.No	Year	Total IPC Crimes	Crime Against women (IPC cases)	Percentage to total IPC crimes
1	2003	17,16,120	1,31,364	7.6%
2	2004	18,32,015	1,43,615	7.8%
3	2005	18,22,602	1,43,523	7.9%
4	2006	18,78,293	1,54,158	8.2%
5	2007	19,89,673	1,74,921	8.8%

**Source:** Crime in India, 2007, National Crime Record Bureau

As per the first hypothesis, the above crime rate trend analyses against women in india shows clearly the sharp increased crime rate from (7.6%) in 2003 to (8.8%) 2007 in last five years, which is a serious matter from the safety and security point of Indian women. The first hypothesis tested is positive.

**(Crime-head wise analysis (Special Laws))**

**Sati Prevention Act (Incidence ----0)**

The practice of Sati is on the wane in modern times. No case was reported across the country during the year 2007 as in 2006.

**Immoral traffic (prevention) Act (Incidence 3,568 (Rate ----0.3%))**

Cases under this Act have registered a decline of (21.4%) during the year as compared to the previous year (4,541). (33.6%) (1,199) cases were reported from Tamil Nadu whereas Daman & Diu reported the highest crime rate of (2.7%) as compared to the National average of (0.3%).

**Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition) Act**(Incidence -1,200 Rate 0.1%)

A decline of (3.2%) was noticed in cases under this Act as compared to previous year (1,562). Andhra Pradesh with 1,005 cases has accounted for (83.8%) of total such cases at the National level which has also reported the highest crime rate of (1.2%) as compared to the National average rate of (0.1%).

**Dowry Prohibition Act** (Incidence 5,623 (Rate 0.3%))

The cases under this Act have increased by 24.8% as compared to the previous year (4,504). One-fourth (26.0%) cases were reported from Orissa (1,460) followed by Bihar (978) accounting for (17.4%) of total cases at the national level. The highest crime rate was also reported from Orissa at (3.7%) as compared to (0.5%) at the National level.

**Crime Against women in cities (All India 1,85,312 Cities -20,997)****Table-1.3: Incidence & Rate of Crime Committed Against Women In States, UTs During 2007**

Sl.No	State/UT	Incidence	Percentage Contribution To All-India Total	Estimated Mid-Year Population (In Lakhs)#	Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes	Rank*	Rank**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>STATES:</b>							
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	24738	13.3	816.0	30.3	2	1
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	185	0.1	11.9	15.5	16	25
3	ASSAM	6844	3.7	296.2	23.1	4	12
4	BIHAR	7548	34.1	928.3	8.1	28	10
5	CHHATTISGARH	3775	2.0	233.9	16.1	14	16
6	GOA	121	0.1	15.1	8.0	27	28
7	GUJARAT	8260	4.5	558.8	14.8	18	7
8	HARYANA	4658	2.5	235.3	19.7	10	15
9	HIACHAL PRADESH	1018	0.5	65.1	15.6	15	22
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	2521	1.4	121.0	20.8	9	19
11	JHARKHAND	3317	1.8	297.3	11.2	24	17
12	KARNATAKA	6569	3.5	569.8	11.5	23	13
13	KERALA	7837	4.2	340.1	23.0	5	8
14	MADHYA PRADESH	15370	8.3	684.6	22.5	6	4
15	MAHARASHTRA	14924	8.1	1059.7	14.1	19	5
16	MANIPUR	188	0.1	26.1	7.2	30	24
17	MEGHALAYA	172	0.1	25.2	6.8	32	27
18	MIZORAM	151	0.1	9.7	15.5	17	28
19	NAGALAND	32	0.0	21.7	1.5	35	32
20	ORISSA	7304	3.9	396.2	18.4	12	11
21	PUNJAB	2694	1.5	263.9	10.2	26	18
22	RAJASTHAN	14270	7.7	639.1	22.3	7	6
23	SIKKIM	55	0.0	5.9	9.3	27	31
24	TAMIL NADU	7811	4.2	660.2	11.8	21	9
25	TRIPURA	1067	0.6	34.8	30.7	1	21
26	UTTAR PRADESH	20993	11.3	1885.4	11.1	25	2
27	UTTARANCHAL	1097	0.6	94.0	11.7	22	20
28	WEST BENGAL	16544	8.9	871.8	19	11	3
	TOTAL (STATES)	180009	97.1	11167.97	16.1		
<b>UNION TERRITORIES</b>							
29	A & N ISLANDS	56	0.0	4.1	13.8	20	30
30	CHANDIGARH	230	0.1	10.5	22.0	8	23
31	D & N HAVELI	18	0.0	2.6	7.0	31	33
32	DAMAN & DIU	11	0.0	1.8	6.0	33	34
33	DELHI	4804	2.6	167.3	28.7	3	14
34	LAKSHADWEEP	5	0.0	0.7	7.4	29	35
35	PONDICHERY	179	0.1	10.6	16.8	13	26
	TOTAL (UTs)	5303	2.9	197.56	26.8		
	TOTAL (ALL-INDIA)	185312	100.0	11365.53	16.3		

# Total population including women

(Source: Crime in India, 2007, National Crime Record Bureau)

As per population census 2001, 35 cities having population over 10 lakh have been identified as mega cities. A total of 24,709 cases of crimes against women were reported from these 35 cities as compared to 21,861 cases in the year 2006 reporting an increase of (13.0 %). The rate of crime in cities at 22.9 % was comparatively higher as compared to the National rate of (16.3%). Among 35 cities, Delhi 4,331 has accounted for (17.5%) of total crimes followed by Hyderabad 1,931 (7.8%). The crime rate was significantly higher in Vijaywada and Vishakhapatnam at (96.2%) and (56.7%) respectively as compared to National average of mega cities at (16.3%) only.

Delhi city has accounted for (29.5%) of Rape cases, (31.8%) of Kidnapping and Abduction cases, (15.6%) of Dowry deaths, (14.2%) of cruelty by husband and relatives and (21.5%) of Molestation cases among 35 cities. Vijayawada has reported 11.3% of cases of Eve-teasing.

It is worthwhile to mention that Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Jaipur have booked more cases under Special & Local Laws among the mega cities. (26.4%) (345 out of 1,305) of cases under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and (69.2%) (265 out of 383) of Dowry Prohibition Act cases were booked in Bengaluru city alone. Similarly, (15.5%) (202 out of 1,305) and 14.2% (185 out of 1,305) cases under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act were booked in Chennai and Mumbai respectively. (90.9%) (40 out of 44) of Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act cases were booked in Jaipur city alone.

As per the second hypothesis, the crime rate trend analyses against women in india sharply increased in mega cities compare to total national crime rate from (24,709) in 2007 to (21,861) in 2006, a total increase of (13.0%) in just one year which is a serious matter from the safety and security point of Indian mega cities women. The second hypothesis tested is also positive.

### **Conclusion**

In the present work we have tried to putforth 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 nook and corner of the society.

As per our hypothesis its crystal clear that the sharp increased in crime rates from (7.6%) in 2003 to (8.8%) 2007 in last five years at the national level and when we only compared mega cities with the total national crime rate, it is sharply increased from (24,709) in 2007 to (21,861) in 2006, a total increase of (13.0%) in just one year. These figures shows a hazardous situation in the country like India with respect safety and security of women. Not only that even foreigners are also not been spared who are coming to India as many cases have been booked under rape and murders against the foreigners. In this era of globalization there is an urgent need to motion our Criminal Justice System of India in maintaining law and order situation of the country that one should feel safe and secure.

In brief, the following measures may be suggested for reducing women's depersonalization trauma: Legal literacy of women by creating awareness of rights among women through media, Published literature and voluntary agencies.

- ❖ Judicial activism, i.e., giving liberal and creative interpretation of law than literal or technical interpretation.
- ❖ Constant monitoring of Justice and examining impact of legislation.
- ❖ Monitoring rescue homes.
- ❖ Strengthening free legal aid societies.
- ❖ Effective functioning of family courts and family counseling services etc

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