



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

Woman in ancient India was an epitome of strength and worshipped in the form of Goddess. Trend of worshipping is still there but except for this scenario in modern India seems to be entirely different where woman is regarded as a second grade citizen. Gender discrimination, gang rapes with girl and women of every age, acid attacks and other kinds of violence against women are happening in every city. Violence against women is unacceptable, because it is a violation of the rights of women and girls. It is a universal challenge that all countries are grappling with. Ending violence against women requires that key institutions work together, provide services, and ensure that the different bodies in society are held accountable, especially those that are responsible for law enforcement.

### KEYWORDS :

#### Introduction

"The home has, verily, its foundation in the wife"

- The Rig Veda

During the Vedic age, more than 3,000 years ago, women were assigned a high place in society. They shared an equal standing with their men folk and enjoyed a kind of liberty that actually had societal sanctions. The ancient Hindu philosophical concept of 'shakti', the feminine principle of energy, was also a product of this age. This took the form of worship of the female idols or goddesses.

Modern India seems to be entirely different where woman is regarded as a second grade citizen. Gender discrimination, gang rapes with girl and women of every age, acid attacks and other kinds of violence against women are happening in every city

#### Crimes against woman

The semantic meaning of "crime against women" is direct or indirect physical or mental cruelty to women. Crimes directed specifically against women and in which only women are victims are characterized as "crimes against women".

Crimes against women have more than doubled over the past ten years, according to latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau.

As many as 2.24 million crimes against women were reported over the past decade: 26 crimes against women are reported every hour, or one complaint every two minutes, reveals an India Spend analysis based on the last decade's data.

Some national violence studies show that up to 70% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime from an intimate partner. One in three women around the world experience violence in their lifetime, often in the hands of someone they know, love and trust. Of all women who were victims of homicide globally in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members.

Violence against women and girls, a gross human rights violation, devastates lives, causes untold pain, suffering and illness. It also incurs high economic costs. A recent study estimated that the cost of intimate-partner accounted for 5.2 per cent of the global economy.

Andhra Pradesh has reported the most crimes against women (263,839) over the past 10 years.

The state ranks first in crimes reported for insult to modesty of women (35,733), second in cruelty by husband and relatives (117,458), assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty

(51,376) and fourth among do Around 35% of women globally have experienced either physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence, according to a 2013 global review by UNWome

#### Various legislation for safeguarding the women:

There are various legislation has been incorporated regarding the safeguarding of the women. Various Legislation for safeguarding crime against women, classified under two categories:

#### 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.

#### Nirbhaya act

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 is an Indian legislation passed by the Lok Sabha on 19 March 2013, and by the Rajya Sabha on 21 March 2013, which provides for amendment of Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on laws related to sexual offences.[1][2][3] The Bill received Presidential assent on 2 April 2013 and came into force from 3 April 2013. It was originally an Ordinance promulgated by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, on 3 April 2013, in light of the protests in the 2012 Delhi gang rape case.[4][5]

This new Act has expressly recognised certain acts as offences which were dealt under related laws. These new offences like, acid attack, sexual harassment, voyeurism, stalking have been incorporated into the Indian Penal Code:

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#### Conclusion:

Laws are often inadequate to protect women. However, the best way to end violence against women and girls is to prevent it from happening in the first place by addressing its root and structural

causes. Prevention should start early in life, by educating and working with young boys and girls promoting respectful relationships and gender equality.

"If we are to fight discrimination and injustice against women we must start from the home for if a woman cannot be safe in her own house then she cannot be expected to feel safe anywhere."

- Aysha Taryam

#### References:

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2. <https://www.justice.gov/ovw>
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4. data released by the National Crime Records Bureau.