



Crimes Against Women: A Statistical Analysis

KEYWORDS

Crimes against Women, Criminological Theories

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ABSTRACT *Women have been the centre for most offences in the last few decades. Survival in a world where the system is strictly patriarchal and the aura is visibly male-dominated becomes very challenging and difficult to breathe and function equally well when hindrances are expected before taking a step towards opportunity for them. The iron of the situation is such that in a society like the one in India women are "DEVIs" and "DASIs" at the same time. The right to live with human dignity is unreasonably taken away, while at the other end Goddesses are worshipped. The present study focuses on the status of sexual offenses against women in urban cities and the inefficiency of the law to punish the perpetrator in a way that befits the offence. The study progresses to explain how the criminological statistics explain the present status of sexual crimes against women in India*

INTRODUCTION

Women have often proved their efficiency in stand as an equal to their male counterparts but their competence is most frequently questioned in every society however forward or modern minded it is. An offence wounding the dignity and honour is one such question raised or if the researcher can take the liberty of stating it the society's attempt in saying, "You are feeble and need to be protected if you are on your own there is no guard to your modesty". Sexual offences are an outrages action not just harms the dignity of a women but also puts her integrity into a state of uncertainty in the eyes of the society as well as the law. Most victims in cases of these offences also suffer secondary victimization. This work is the researcher's attempt to highlight the gravity of sexual offences as well as the laws dealing with them.

OBJECTIVES

- To observe the statistical trends of sexual offences against women and analyse the gravity of the situation.
- To study the various types of sexual offences against women as per laws.
- To identify if the punishments fit the crime and understand the present scenario of sexual offences against women.

METHODOLOGY

Universe of the Study:

The present work contributes towards understanding the status of women and sexual crime against women focusing on present statistical trend as a basis. Here the researcher also aims to present the current rising trend in the sexual offences against women and the gravity of the situation. Cases from various newspaper sources and victim as well as societal reaction towards crime against women have been observed closely and concentrated on as the targeted essence of this work.

Tools and Techniques:

The current work is primarily based on information and statistical information procured from reliable sources such as national crime reports and other content derivatives like journals, books, newspaper articles/editorials, internet polls/surveys etc. the contents from all these sources were precisely reviewed and compared to deduced to the desired answers from the available channels.

VARIOUS LAWS AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC):

- Rape (Sec. 376 IPC),
- Kidnapping & abduction for, specified purposes (Sec.

363 - 373 IPC),

- Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC),
- Insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC),
- Importation of girl from foreign country (upto 21 years of age) (Sec. 366-B IPC)

The crimes under the special & local laws (SLL):

Only those laws that are gender specific and pertaining to sexual violence against women and that have been reviewed periodically and amendments carried out to keep pace with the emerging requirements by the NCRB is considered here by the researcher. The gender specific laws for which crime statistics are recorded throughout the country are - (i) Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

STATISTICAL TREND

Taking into account both IPC and SLL laws a total of 2,44,270 incidents of crime against women were reported in the country during the year 2012 as compared to 2,28,650 in the year 2011 recording an increase of 6.4% during the year 2012. The crimes have inconsistently risen during 2008 - 2012 with 1,95,856 cases in the year 2008, 2,03,804 cases in 2009 and 2,13,585 cases in 2010 and 2,28,650 cases in 2011 and 2,44,270 cases in the year 2012. West Bengal (7.2% female population) has contribute 12.7% to the total crime against women by reporting 30,942 cases during the year 2012. Andhra Pradesh (7.3% female population) has accounted for 11.5% of total crimes against women in the country by reporting 28,171 cases in the year 2012.

53 cities with a population above 10 lakh have been identified as mega per population census 2011. A total of 36,622 cases of crimes against women were reported from these 53 cities during the year 2012 as compared to 33,789 cases in the year 2011. The rate of crime was 47.8, comparatively higher as compared to the national rate of 41.7.

Delhi (5,194 cases) has accounted for highest crime against women with 14.2% followed by Bengaluru (6.2%) (2,263 cases), Kolkata (5.7%) (2,073 cases), Hyderabad (5.2%) (1,899 cases) and Vijayawada (5.2%) (1,898 cases).

Delhi city has accounted for 19.3% of rape cases, 23.1% of kidnapping & abduction cases, and 10.9% of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty cases among 53 cities. Vijayawada has reported 16.6% incidences of insult to the modesty of women. Only 9 cases of 'importation of girl from foreign country' at all India level have been reported from Kolkata.

It is also immensely worthwhile to mention that Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai have booked more cases under special & local laws among the mega cities. 16.5% (193 out of 1,170) of cases under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and 11.0% (639 out of 5,836) of cases under assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty was reported in Delhi alone. Similarly, 50% (10 out of 20 cases) and 40% (8 out of 20 cases) of cases of Indecent Representation of Women Act were reported in Jaipur and Jodhpur respectively.

STATUS OF THE PRESENT TIME

Rape (Sec. 376 IPC): A decreasing trend in rape cases has been observed during 2008 – 2009. Thereafter an increasing trend in the incidence of rape has been observed during the periods 2009 - 2012. These cases have reported a decline of 0.3% in the year 2009 over 2008, an increase of 3.6% in 2010 over 2009 and an increase of 9.2% in the year 2011 over the year 2010 and further increase of 3.0% in the year 2012 over 2011. Madhya Pradesh has reported highest number of rape cases (3,425) accounting for 13.7% of total such cases reported in the country. Mizoram has reported the highest crime rate of 20.8 as compared to national average of 4.3. Incest rape cases have increased by 46.8% from 267 cases in 2011 to 392 cases in 2012 as compared to 3.0% increase in overall rape cases. Maharashtra (77 cases) has accounted for the highest (19.6%) of the total such cases reported in the country.

Rape victims- There were 24,915 victims of rape out of 24,923 reported rape cases in the country during the year 2012. 12.5% (3,125) of the total victims of rape were girls under 14 years of age, while 23.9% (5,957 victims) were teen-aged girls (14-18 years). 50.2% (12,511 victims) were women in the age-group 18-30 years. However, 12.8% (3,187 victims) victims were in the age-group of 30-50 years while 0.05% (135 victims) was over 50 years of age. Offenders were known to the victims in as many as in 24,470 (98.2%) cases. Parents / close family members were involved in 1.6% (393 out of 24,470 cases) of these cases, neighbours were involved in 34.7% cases (8,484 out of 24,470 cases) and relatives were involved in 6.5% (1,585 out of 24,470 cases) cases.

Kidnapping & abduction (Sec. 363-373 IPC) - These cases have reported an increase of 7.6% during the year as compared to previous year (35,565 cases). Uttar Pradesh with ,910 cases has accounted for 22.2% of the total cases at the national level. Delhi UT has reported the highest crime rate at 25.3 as compared to the national average of 6.5.

Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC) - Incidents of Assault on Women with Intent to outrage her Modesty in the country have increased by 5.5% over the previous year (42,968 cases). Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest incidence (6,655) amounting to 14.7% of total such incidences. Kerala has reported the highest crime rate (20.9) as compared to the National average of 7.7.

Insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC) - The number of such cases has increased by 7% during the year over the previous year (8,570 cases). Andhra Pradesh has reported 40.5% (3,714 cases) followed by Maharashtra 14.1% (1,294

cases) of total incidences during the year 2012. Andhra Pradesh has reported the highest crime rate (8.7) as compared to the national average of 1.6.

Importation of girl from foreign country (Sec. 366-B IPC) (Incidence- 59) A decrease of 26.2% has been observed in crime head as 59 cases were reported during the year 2012 as compared to 80 cases in the previous year (2011). Karnataka (32 cases) and West Bengal (12 cases) have together contributed 93.2% of total such cases at the national level.

The figures very precisely depict the intensity of sexual offences in India and its severity in killing the essence of a civilization. The laws are also at place to counter these offences yet the scales are only increasing. The reason could both be the leniency in the laws or the governance that there is no fear and respect left for the norms of the society. No society is free from crime is a truth with certainty, there is no such thing as a crimeless society but needs to be a line drawn between necessity as a source of crime and insanity or rather perversion in case of sexual offences. The common mind cannot think of a reason for a pervert offence like incest or paedophilia or an incident that set the highest limits of barbarism on the 16th of December, 2012 in Delhi.

CONCLUSION

It is still question as to where we are leading as a society by punishing women in ways outraging their modesty by forcing them into naked parades and gang raping them in the name of honour. The punishment for rape which is stated as seven years that can extend to ten years or life has hardly any deterrence on the public. In many instance unless there is public outrage the governance fails to render speedy justice. Women, little girls are hardly save even at their homes and molestation cases are seen as quite common and goes as an unnoticed news item in the papers. There are few complaints filed in such cases because the victims fear the law and its procedure more than the accused. Internet has become a free access for learning and advanced learning for children. The generation has information and availability of open avenues more than anything. It is rightly said, "Technology could be a boon as well as bane for society". Private lives are publicised for the world to see and comment on social networks. The civilization today is taking backward move. Overall the laws have lost their stringency and the people have lost the essence of humanity as well as the fear for codes and ethics. The institution of religion also fails to hold the control that it once yielded over its people.

FINDINGS

The rate of sexual crime against women is on rise all over the country. Rape, molestation, disregard for dignity to live the way a women wants is not respected by the society or by certain people. It is essential that there should be more stringency in the law and a quick and speedy procedure to deal and immediacy in rendering justice to the public in case of sexual offence to reduce the pains and agony of the victims. Both the objectives of analysing the statistical trend and laws of sexual offences has been successfully met with by the researcher.

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