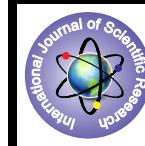


Literacy And Crime Against Women in India



Social Science

KEYWORDS :

Priyanka Gupta

Assistant Professor in Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi

ABSTRACT

Every issue that our society faces is like a link of chain. Each issue is connected to one another, either directly or indirectly. Among all the strongest link of that chain is of illiteracy. It is mother of all the issues as it gives birth to many other issues like unemployment, poverty, population explosion and the most dangerous is crime against women. This paper attempts to put some light on the impact of illiteracy on crime rate in India especially on women. The inability to read and write well may not be a direct cause of criminal behaviour but this fact can't be ignored that literacy and crime are related. The sample correlation coefficient between the crime rate against women and literacy rate for all the states was calculated as 0.35 (sample range = 28).

Methodology

This paper is based on exploratory and analytical approach. The analysis is based on number of criminal cases against women and literacy rates in all states of India in 2011.

Introduction

It is very hard to digest that the land of Vedas is one of the countries with highest illiteracy levels and shows the failure of our government and its policies to increase literacy level. A person of age 7 and above who can read and write in any language is treated as literate. Many problems arises due to illiteracy as literacy enables a person to think rationally. The inability to read and write may not lead to criminal behaviour. But low literacy is somewhere related to crime.

Low literacy makes the life harder which leads to frustration and dissatisfaction. People who are not literate find difficulty in every pros and cons of life. They have inadequate problem solving skills. They are inactive in society and do not want to get involved in social and community activities like festivals, marriages, functions, sports etc. As a result they often feel alienated and isolated. They fell as they are the most vulnerable people in society and they treat themselves as outcaste. Such people try to get involved in crime either as offender or as victim.

Illiteracy and crime are closely related the department of justice states, "The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence and crime is welded to reading failure."

According to WHO (World Health Organisation) , violence is intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has high likelihood of resulting in injury, death. Psychological harm and mal development or deprivation".

According to director of behaviour modification clinic in Montego Bay, "a child who is not reading properly is often violent. There is a need in person to assert themselves and so when they cannot do it academically or intellectually they do it physically."

According to National Assessment of adult literacy, 2003, "85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate."

Women are the major sufferer from violence both in and outside their homes. They face discrimination everywhere. According to national commission for women in India in every 54 minutes a woman is raped, in every 92 minutes a dowry death happens, in every 26 minutes a woman is molested and in every 33 minutes a cruelty case is done against women.

Despite many legal provision women are the continuous sufferer of violence. They face discrimination in every aspect of life whether it is education, housing, healthcare, employment or

family status.

Some useful statistics related to women violence are:

- Literacy rates among adult women in India are just 48%.
- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.
- 36.1% of rural women experience physical violence.
- Highest level of physical violence cases happened with low caste and tribal women.
- India ranks 18th position in maternal mortality rates in the world. Women in India are denied of equal rights with men.
- More than 60% of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate

They are denied of their fundamental rights and legitimate the violent appropriation of women's bodies for political ends.

Gender violence is defined as, "any act involving use of force or coercion with the intent of perpetuating promoting hierarchical gender relation."(APWLD, 1990, Schular 1992)

Objective

The main objective of this paper is to study the effect of illiteracy on the crime committed against women I India and to analyse the results and give suggestion for improving the status of women.

Methodology

This study is based on number of crime cases reported against women in all states of India and their respective literacy rate in 2001. The data has been collected from econ omic survey 2011-12 and National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB).

Statistical tables and techniques like GRETL have been used for interpreting and analysing the result.

Hypothesis

There is no relationship between the level of literacy and crime against women

Literature review

Theory reveals that educational attainment may affect the decision making of criminals. First schooling increases the individual wage rates and hence increasing the opportunity cost of crime. Second punishment is always more costly for the educated people. Previous studies estimates that stigma of a criminal conviction is larger for white collar workers then blue collar workers (Kling, 2002), which implies that the negative effect of a con-

viction on earnings extend beyond the time spent in prison for more educated workers. Third, schooling may alter individual rates of time preference i.e. it may increase the patience of individuals (Becker & Mulligan 1997) people having more patience are likely to be risk averse. Fourth, schooling may affect individual tastes for crime by directly affecting the psychic cost of breaking the law (Arrow 1997). Fifth, it is possible that criminal behaviour is characterised by strong dependence on state so that the probability of possibility of committing crime today depends on the amount of crime committed in the past by keeping the youth occupied whole day will keep them away from participation in crime.

Above channel suggest that increase in school attainment of individual will decrease the subsequent probability of engaging in crime. 2/3 of the students who cannot read proficiency by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare (National Assessment of Adult Literacy).

Illiteracy and crime are closely related. The department of Justice States, "The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence ,and crime is welded to reading failure," Over 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above a fourth grade.

Analysis

In the data, there is a record of number of crime cases recorded against women and the literacy rate of all the states. In 2011 total number of crime cases reported against women is **223091** the states having highest proportion of crime includes west Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, and the states having least cases of crime includes Goa, Nagaland, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. It can be easily observed that the states having low crime rate have literacy more than 80% while the states having high level of crime rate have low level of literacy

Suggestion to reduce women crime in India

With poverty, unemployment isolation some people get into or pushed into the world of crime but literacy training can provide many youths and adults a chance to build a brighter future. These training helps people to escape from poverty and thus from crime. About 75% adults in prison were persistent offender in their youth. Hence improving the literacy level of young people should have a significant impact on rates of adult crime.

Women need a life free from gender based discrimination to fully participate in social activities. They should be provided with a safe environment having safe jobs and equal pay, opportunity to be educated etc. They should be educated and made independent enough that they cannot be made the target of domestic violence. They have right to live without the fear of violence to get health and educational facilities and have right to live with dignity and respect in society.

Laws and protection should be made strong enough that the girl does not feel threatened. They should be encouraged to raise their voice and live there life to the fullest. They should be made fit and strong mentally as well as physically so that they can live boldly in society. According to an estimate of National Commission for Women, more than 80% of cases against women go unreported as women are not bold enough to report these cases with a fear of social insult and due to delay of judicial decision.

Women should be made aware of various rights and laws made for them with the help of NGO's so that they can come to know about the facilities and rights available to them. Delay in investigation should be checked and special fast track court should be made with women staff to deal with these types of cases.

Confidentiality should be maintained so that women do not hes-

itate to report the crime/violence against her. Laws and punishment related to such types of crime should be enforced strictly. Moral values and ethic should be taught to children at the early age of their life to respect women and girls.

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