



Violence Against Women in Karnataka, India

Dr. Nagaraj M. Muggur

Assistant Professor cum Assistant Director, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSEIP) Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri, Mangalore –574199, Karnataka, INDIA

ABSTRACT

Women are more disadvantaged groups in the world and in terms of socio – economic equality concern they are very poor in India. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the state and also ratified various human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Today women may be victims of many of the general crimes. In the present situation various new legislations have been brought and amendments have been made in existing laws with a view to handle these crimes effectively, but even today the violence against women has not stopped. Therefore looking overall the present paper has been made an attempt to overview of violence against women in Karnataka as well as India with help of secondary level information.

KEYWORDS

Women, Violence, Karnataka

I. Introduction:

After the independence the number of constitutional amendments and policies were implemented for protection of violence against women in the country, even though the crime increasing day by day in India. In present view of crime against women according to 2011 & 2012 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), it is really unimaginable and shocking. As per the NCRB, West Bengal with 7.5% share of country's female population has accounted for nearly 12.7% of total crime against women by reporting 30,942 cases during the year 2012. Andhra Pradesh, accounting for nearly 7.3% of the country's female population, has accounted for 11.5% of total crimes against women in the country by reporting 28,171 cases in the year 2012. The rate of crime committed against women was 41.7 in 2012. Assam has reported the highest rate of crime against women at 89.5 during the year 2012 as compared to 41.7 crime rate at the national level.

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 teenaged 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 (GOI. 2012).

It evident from table 1 that overall NCRB records in India there are 12,71,477 crimes were reported against women during the years of 2007 to 2012. In this crimes Cruelty by Husband and Relatives (Sec.498-A IPC) are recorded highest percentages of 38.17 and next position has constituted Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC) cases than Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363 to 373 IPC) are 16.56 percent and 13.58 percent respectively in the country. The crime of Rape (Sec. 376 IPC) has very next position of above said crimes against women as recorded 10.61 percent and Sexual Harassment (Sec.509 IPC), Dowry Death (Sec. 302 / 304 IPC), Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 were recorded as 4.15, 3.92, 2.96 and 1.27 percent respectively. The Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Importation of Girls (Sec.366-B IPC) and Sati Prevention Act, 1987 has not

crossed 1 percent (see table 1).

Table: 1.Crime against Women in India during 2007-2011

Crime Head	Total Percent
Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	10.61
Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363 to 373 IPC)	13.58
Dowry Death (Sec. 302 / 304 IPC)	3.92
Cruelty by Husband and Relatives (Sec.498-A IPC)	38.17
Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)	16.56
Sexual Harassment (Sec.509 IPC)	4.15
Importation of Girls (Sec.366-B IPC)	0.02
Sati Prevention Act, 1987	0
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	1.27
Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition) Act,1986	0.36
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	2.96
Total	100

Sources: GOI (2011) 'Crime in India' *Pp.81, 83* & GOI (2012) 'Crime in India' *Pp.81, 83*

Proportion of crime against women

According to 2011& 2012 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Reported incidents of crime total of 2,44,270 incidents of crime against women (under IPC) 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. These crimes have continuously increased during 2007 - 2012 with 1,8,5312 and 1,95,856 cases in the year 2007 and 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 (Gol. 2011).

The crime head-wise details of reported crimes during the year 2008 to year 2012 the crime against women during the year 2012 has increased by 6.8% over the year 2011 and by 24.7% over the year 2008. The IPC component of crimes against women has accounted for 95.2% of total crimes and the rest 4.8% were SLL crimes against women. The proportion

of IPC crimes committed against women towards total IPC crimes has increased during last 5 years from 8.9% in the year 2008 to 10.2% during the year 2012 (Gol. 2012).

II. Crime against Women in Karnataka:

According to State crime records bureau of Karnataka the crime against women in the state during the period of 2009 to 2012 has increased compared to previous years. Looking to district wise crime rate (Districts /Commissionrates) the Bangalore city accounted for 19.70% of all crime against women in the state, followed by Belgaum (6.92%), Shimoga (4.86%), Hassan (4.82%), Tumkur (4.37%) Gulbarga (4.30%) is highest percentage in the state (GOK.2012).

Table: 2.Crime Against Women in Karnataka during 2009 - 2012

Crime Head	Total	Percent
Rape	2355	6.27
Kidnapping & Abduction	3567	9.5
Dowry Death	1097	2.92
Torture (Cruelty by Husband or relatives)	14022	37.34
Molestation	10316	27.47
Sexual Harassment (insulting modesty)	328	0.87
Importation of Girls	46	0.12
Sati Prevention Act	0	0
Immoral Traffic (P) Act	1257	3.35
Indecent Rep. of Women (P) Act	3	0.01
Dowry Prohibition Act	4559	12.14
Total	37550	100

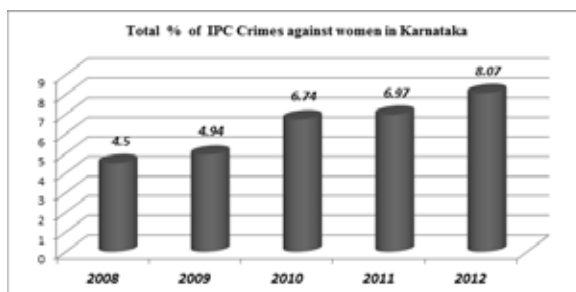
Sources: GOK (2011) '(SCRB), Pp.145 & GOK (2012) '(SCRB), Pp.14

It is evident from Table 2 according to State crime records bureau of Karnataka has stated that in state there are 37550 crimes were reported against women during the years of 2009 to 2012. In this crimes Torture (Cruelty by Husband and Relatives) are recorded highest percentages of 37.34 and next position has Molestation cases 27.47 and Dowry Prohibition Act cases 12.14 has report first three positions. And Kidnapping & Abduction and Rap are 9.50 and 6.27 reported respectively as total percentages of 2009 to 2012 in the state. Other than these cases of crime against women are in very low and less percentages.

Proportion of Crime against Women

It is evident from Figure 1 available data indicates that increased in IPC crimes against women from 2008 (5734) when compared to 2012 (10366). And the IPC crimes committed against women, as a proportion of total IPC crimes, increased from 4.50 percent in 2008 to 8.07 percent in 2012 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of Crime against Women (IPC) towards total IPC in Karnataka



Sources: GOK (2011) '(SCRB), Pp.145 & GOK (2012) '(SCRB), Pp.145

III. Constitutional and Legal Rights for Women in India:

The constitutional of India guarantees both rights and privileg-

es to women through Fundamental rights and directive principles of states Policies.

Constitutional:

Article -14 confers on men and women equal rights and opportunities in political, economic and social spheres.

Article- 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc.

Article- 15(3) special provision enabling the state to make affirmative discrimination in favor of women.

Article- 16 provides for equality of opportunities.

Article- 39(a) Mentions policy security of state equality for both men and women, the right to a means of livelihood.

Article- 39 (c) Ensures equal pay for work.

Article- 42 Direct the state to make provision for ensuring just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.

Above all the constitution imposes a fundamental duty on every citizen through Article – 51 (A / C) to renounce policies derogatory to the dignity of human (Raj Kumar.2011).

Legal Provisions:

In order to safeguards the various constitutional rights and provide free and fair justice, the state has enacted many women specific and women related legislations.

Factors Act, a women cannot be forced to work beyond 8 hours and prohibits employment of women expect between 6.A.M and 7.P.M.

The equal remuneration Act of 1976:- This Act provides equal wage for equal work.

The child Marriage Restrain Act of 1976:- This Act raises the age for marriage of a girl to 18 years from 15 years and that of a boy to 21 years.

Maternity Benefit Act 1961:- A women is entitled 12 weeks maternity leave.

Indian Penal Code – section 354 and 509 safeguard the interests of women.

The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961:- The amendment brought in 1948 made the husband or in-laws punishable, if a women commit suicide within 7 years of her marriage.

The medical termination of pregnancy Act of 1971:- The Act legalizes abortion by qualified professional on humanitarian grounds.

Amendments to criminal law 1983:- Provides for a punishment of 7 years in ordinary cases of rape and 10 years for custodial rape cases.

73rd / 74th Amendment (Constitutional) Act, 1992:- It provides for reservation of 1/3 of seats in panchayat and urban local bodies for women.

The National Commission for Women Act, 1990:- It provides for set – up of a statutory body of National Commission for Women, to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women. The commission was set – up in January, 1992.

The protection of human Rights Act, 1993:- This Act provides for the Constitution of National Human Rights Commission and state Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Court for better protection of Human Rights (ibid).

The above said constitutional legal provisions were protecting

women rights one side and another side some incidents were misusing in another side, it is due to lack of legal awareness as well as the higher authority has misleading in the society.

IV. Conclusion

Women are more disadvantaged group in the Indian society and even today she has systematically blocked their right as comparing to men in basic rights of dignity, equality and development. After independence constitution have made legal provision for protecting of women rights and rolling governments also made an efforts to integrate women into the mainstream and development process like plans and policies, but even today the problem of violence against women are increasing day by day. Today number of crime against women not registered its due to lack of awareness and illiteracy, backwardness, higher authority misuse of power and male dominated society still continued marginalization of women. Therefore, strictly implementation of rights, provisions of constitution towards protection of women and in time judgments with punishment only systemically avoid of violence against women, otherwise crimes continually sustaining in the society.

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