

Crime against Women: Causes and Effects

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Abstract: The evident of our being in this world, is the result of the presence of women, as she is the only, who is blessed by the divine to give birth. Though, she requires the male partner in the process but even then she is the only one, which makes our presence successful. That's why she is called the "mother" of mankind. Her value and dignity is preserved at the highest pedestal. Therefore this world owes to the women. But under a social setting daily a number of offences take place under different – different circumstances against her.

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1. Introduction

Some of the most prominent ones are sexual assault (without intercourse), forcible rape, sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people, sexual abuse of children including statutory rape (sexual intercourse with or without consent with minors) adultery, sodomy, fornication, forced marriage and co-habitation including the marriage of children, violent acts against the sexual integrity of women including female genital mutilation and obligatory inspection for virginity and forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation. While the history praises the men for its contribution to the development, the condition of the women all over the world is still miserable.

2. The Crime Statistics

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) on intimate violence showed that the proportion of adults aged 16 to 59 who had been victims of sexual assaults in the last year (including attempted offences) had not significantly changed between the latest survey year (2.0%, equivalent to 645,000 victims) and the previous survey year (1.7%). There was an increase of 21% in sexual offences recorded by the police in the latest year compared with the previous year (106,378 offences); this includes a 22% increase in rape and a 20% increase in other sexual offences.¹ The Sri Lanka Police website gives the following crime Statistics for the year 2016 upon Whole Island under which a total number of 3862 Crime against women are recorded which includes Abduction, Kidnapping, Rape of women over 16yr of Age, Statutory Rape, Unnatural & grave sexual abuse, Sexual exploitation of children's, Trafficking.² The National Crime Records Bureau

(India) figures on crimes against women in 2015 stated that 35,000 incidents of rape had occurred in the past three years. Whereas Statistics of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for the year 2013 shows, 93 women are being raped in India every day. According to NCRB data, there was a gradual increase in the number of rapes reported in India - from 24,923 in 2012 to 33,707 in 2013 and a total of 1, 32,939 cases of sexual offences were reported during 2014, out of which assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty accounted for 61.9% of total such incidents (82,235 cases) amounting to one rape every 22 minutes and 93 rapes in each day.³ While most of these cases don't find place in the pages or websites of media organizations, the ones that do get reported sometimes do not get covered properly.

While the customary offences are on their way as against the women today in the digital era internet has also played a vital role in sex crimes or crime against women. For example Cyber stalking - threatening behavior or unwanted sexual advances using the Internet or other high - tech communication - is a well-placed. Mobile phone, surveillance, and computer technologies provided new ways to abuse or intimidate. Photos or video taken during a sexual assault are widely shared through MMS and other modes, offenders uses chat rooms and instant messaging to seek their hunts, whether adults or youth. All these things made an innocent a victim and creates further trauma to them.

3. Factors behind Sexual Offences against Women

Though, It is an admitted fact that women not only in India but all over the world have suffered in various aspects of life and physical health, mental well - being, bodily integrity and safety, social relations, political empowerment, education

¹ National Statistical Institute, " Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending March 2016", (England and Wales) Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/> (Last Retrieved on: 20.9.2017)

² Sri Lankan Police, Grave Crime Abstract for the Year 2016 for Whole Island. Available at:

<http://www.police.lk/index.php/crime-trends> (Last Retrieved on : 20.9.2017)

³ NCRB, *Crime in India: Figures at glance*, III (MHA, 2014, New Delhi) & NCRB, *Crime in India: Statistics*, 163 -164 (MHA, 2015, New Delhi)

and knowledge, domestic work and non-market care, paid work and other projects, shelter and environment, mobility, leisure activities, time autonomy, respect, religion, self-esteem /self-autonomy. And all this left us with a question mark that why it is so? When she is a companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacities by the divine; She is the only one, blessed by the divine to makes our presence successful. Accordingly there are two major reasons which are responsible for the rise of crime against women and both override each other.

1. **Psychological Factor:** Societal cultures are the reflection of followed customs and customs are formed by own individual perception, by the leader of the society or community. Thus, there is a trend, custom or we can say culture all over the world which recognize supremacy of man over a women. Not only this - this thought has been rooted systematically in the brain of women in their early age, the age when she enjoys same mental and physical capacity as that of a boy. Earlier there was no technology like T.V and Radio. Thus the work of brainwash is done by the parents and relatives. In modern era it is done with the help of technology and cinema played a big role in the line. Once, Mahatma Gandhi wrote that one can learn much faster, if the things became visual even a dumb can understand the meaning and concept through visualization. the other admitted fact is that no one is born with a book in his hand or with perfection. Every one whether it is a boy, a girl or a third genders all born equal. No one knows good or bad, right or wrong at the birth. Slowly when one starts growing up, he starts encountering the things happening around him. First of all around his own family and then around the outer world; this put him in to process of mental development. No single book or an academic syllabus teaches how to discriminate, how to insult a person, how to tease other, how to rape or outrage the modesty of a women. I can bet that no educational institution all over the world teaches how to rape and outrage the modesty of a woman. Then how in today's scenario an infant who is just about 8 to 14 years of age commit such an act, who taught him? Each and every single person will answer that we don't, then who? Family, Society or Cinema, of course Cinema, where the story beings with a rape scene and ends with the murder in revenge or another rape. Even in the era of modern Cinema though women is portrayed as smart, intelligent, independent working equal to man in status and so on but in core of the story somewhere, somehow she got molested by villains and then the hero comes to rescue her thereafter she fall in love with the hero and then they have some intimate bold love making scenes and so on. Here the writer of the story portrays his Psychology with the help of director, producer actor and actresses and this is accessible to the public at large in the form of entertainment and the same will affect directly or indirectly the mental capacity of an infant .

2. **Lack of strong political or legislative will:** The other big reason - this is so because since the concept of welfare state is emerged there seems to be a flood of legislative enactments to protect the integrity and dignity of the women. There is always a political agenda during elections to protect women from sexual and other form of violence and crime. But even after having dozens of legislative enactments. Still the situation is same. Though the judiciary is working as a game changer to protect the integrity and dignity of women through its interpretational skills; But it is also suffering from administrative defects, such as, poor investigation, frequent adjournments, witness getting hostile or witness not interested to appear in courts due to life threat, misinterpretation of laws, fabricated evidences, and delay in delivering sentences. Even where the sentence is delivered on time. Non - execution of the same by the concerned authorities make it useless.

4. Conclusion

Since after the independence a number of legislative enactments have been formed with a view to protect the women from every kind of violence that can affect her dignity. But still there is suffering in form of rape or the other. Even after server punishment including death penalty have been given in number of cases. The works performed by the legislature in forms of enactments do not provide a one - time solution, what it does? It just provides the definition of various crimes like Rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, prostitution etc; thereafter prescribe the procedure to be adopted by the authorities and the minimum and maximum punishment for the same. And whenever anything happen new or anew crime took place it again formulates view with a new enactment with new definitions or amends the existing one. But fails as they do not provide a permanent solution. Why? Because there is lack of belief and there is a doubt upon self credibility because at one part everybody is equal before the law including legislator being the citizens of the country under the authority of the Constitution or otherwise and if the crime is committed by the legislator or the person in authority or by their near and dear ones they should be punished, may be because of such a reason we don't have a permanent solution for such crimes against women, besides of having a long list of welfare enactment. Article 51 (A) (e) of the constitution of India emphasize that it is the duty of every citizen of India to renounce the practices of derogatory to the dignity of women. Is casting of such duty of a paper will reduce the suffering, will it bring moral and tradition values among the public, will public follow the same. May be - maybe not. Then what is the solution? This is still not answerable.