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STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ON RAPES, DOWRY DEATHS AND HONOUR KILLINGS IN HARYANA

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Abstract

Atrocities against women in Haryana have emerged as a critical social and legal issue, reflecting deep-rooted gender inequalities and patriarchal norms. Despite progressive laws and government initiatives, the state continues to report alarming rates of crimes against women. This paper examines the trends, causes, and consequences of rapes, dowry deaths and honour killings in Haryana. It also explores potential solutions, including awareness campaigns, educational empowerment, and judicial reforms, to create a safer environment for women in the state. The incidences of rape increased markedly from 733 in the year 2011 to 1787 in year 2022. The rate of dowry deaths is yet an unfathomable issue. Thus, there is a pressing need to know the root cause of the growing rate of such heinous crimes against women.

Keywords: Haryana, Rape, Dowry death, Honour Killing

INTRODUCTION

यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः । यत्रैतास्तु न पूज्यन्ते सर्वास्तत्राफलाः क्रियाः¹

Though Manu, was not advocate of the rights of women, yet in his Manu smriti, he wrote, “Gods live in joy where women are honoured. Where, however, they are not honoured, there all sacred rites prove useless.”

The status of women in modern India has changed considerably. Today, women have earned a respectable position in society. They are now treated equal and are actively participating almost in all walks of life. There are numerous provisions made in the Indian Constitution to make them feel safe, provide equal opportunities, status and liberties. Constitution of India also empowers the State to adopt measures in favour of women to neutralize socio-economic, educational, and political disadvantages faced by them.

In India, there is diversity of culture, tradition, and ethics, castes and religion that has tremendous impact on gender inequality in the society. The worth of a civilization can be judged by the place given to women in the society.² The patriarchal system has confined the women to specific areas such as kitchen and the bed room and fixed gender roles like bearing and rearing children, cooking and cleaning. Even today, a woman is regarded as a commodity and not a human being who has her own likes and dislikes.³

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature survey reveals that women enjoyed equivalent status & rights like their male counterparts in ancient India.⁴ In ancient India, though patriarchal system was highly prevalent yet women enjoyed a position of respect and reverence.⁵ With the passage of time, the position of women underwent changes in all spheres of life. In the Vedic period, women lost their political rights of attending assemblies. Child marriages also came into existence. The position of women gradually deteriorated as the Vedic ideals of unity and equality began to fade off with the passage of time.



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The most prevalent form of violence against women is domestic violence. Women have to bear the burns of domestic, public, physical, emotional and mental violence against them. S. S. Sharon examined that the types, causes, and consequences of domestic violence on abused women and also highlighted the role of social workers, professionals to intervene and eradicate this menace from society.⁶

Haryana state has been in news for rising crimes against women. Though Haryana government has taken several positive initiatives even then crimes against women are not abating. A steep rise of 45% in crime against women is reported by Indian Express in Haryana in the two years (2020 to 2022).⁷ Studies conducted by various authors on crimes against women suggest that reported crimes are much less than the actual figures and major reason behind these crimes are dominant patriarchy, illiteracy, lack of awareness, poverty etc.⁸⁻¹⁰

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Violence against women is a critical global social issue. Haryana, despite strides in education and industrial development, continues to face serious gender-based challenges. Women in the state are subjected to various forms of abuse. Therefore, it has become emergent issue to examine the challenges and root cause of such violations and to examine the trends of various crimes against Women in Haryana and to the remedial measures. This manuscript aims to identify the trends of crimes against women in Haryana, analyze the underlying causes, evaluate the effectiveness of government policies, and to recommend future strategy and social reforms. The major focus of this study is to discuss rapes, dowry deaths and honour killings in special reference to Haryana state since 2011 to 2022.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data for this study was collected through the secondary sources. Statistical data of crimes against children have been collected from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Comparative analysis and trend graphs have been used to interpret the data. The required information was also collected from other sources like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, scholarly research articles, internet survey and other publications relating to crimes against women.

This empirical study will be helpful to researchers as well as administrative bodies to suggest and formulate policies and to take suitable preventive measures to curb these abuses, violations and crimes against women.

Socio-economic Status of Women in Haryana

The status of women in Haryana can be understood by having a glimpse not only on their population but also by the gender ratio and literacy rate. Haryana is one of the richest states of India with a rich agricultural and industrial sector. In census 2011, Haryana has the lowest sex ratio in India. However, with Government schemes and initiatives, the sex ratio in Haryana has started to show an improvement from 879 in 2011 to 887 in 2020. Even in 2020, gender ratio of Haryana is far less (887) compared to national data (945). The gender ratio is far better in rural Haryana. The difference in gender ratio is rural and urban Haryana is 23.



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Table 1: Gender ratio and literacy rate of Haryana State in the Census 2011 and 2020.

Year	Gender ratio			Literacy rate		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Male	Female
2011	879	873	882	75.6	84.1	65.9
2020	887	873	896	80.4	88	70.3

Literacy rate is a key factor in the deciding women’s status. In India, the female literacy rate has always been lower as compared to male literacy rate which clearly indicates gender inequality. The literacy rate in Haryana improved significantly from 75.6% in 2011 to 80.4% in 2020 and it is now better compared to national literacy rate (77.7%). The gender ratio and the literacy Rate (%) of Haryana is presented in Table 1.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Although various new legislations have been brought and amendments have been made in existing laws with a view to curb crimes against women effectively. Some of the major crimes against women particularly rapes, dowry deaths and honour killings have been extensively examined year wise from year 2011 to 2022.

Rape Cases from year 2011 to 2022

Table 2 elucidates the variation of rape cases from year 2011 to 2022 in the Haryana state. In Haryana state, the rape cases increased significantly from 733 in the year 2011 to 1787 in year 2022. The crime rate increased sharply from 6.27 to 12.73 as can be seen in Figure 1. The crime rate of rape in Haryana has been found almost triple as compared to national data. The percent of girls (Age 18 or below 18 years) victims of rape was quite high from 2012 to 2016, thereafter, it declined noticeably. It is the rosy side of the story.

Table 2. The Rape cases from year 2011 to 2022 in Haryana State.

Year	Total Rapes in Haryana State			
	Total Rape	Crime rate	Total Rapes of Girls (Age ≤ 18 years)	Percent of total rape
2011	733	6.27	66	9.0
2012	668	5.60	276	41.3
2013	971	8.02	388	40.0
2014	1185	9.64	419	35.4
2015	1070	8.58	261	24.4
2016	1187	9.38	518	43.6
2017	1099	8.57	137	12.5
2018	1296	9.72	2	0.2
2019	1480	10.94	8	0.5
2020	1373	10.00	0	0.0



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2021	1716	12.38	0	0.0
2022	1787	12.73	0	0.0

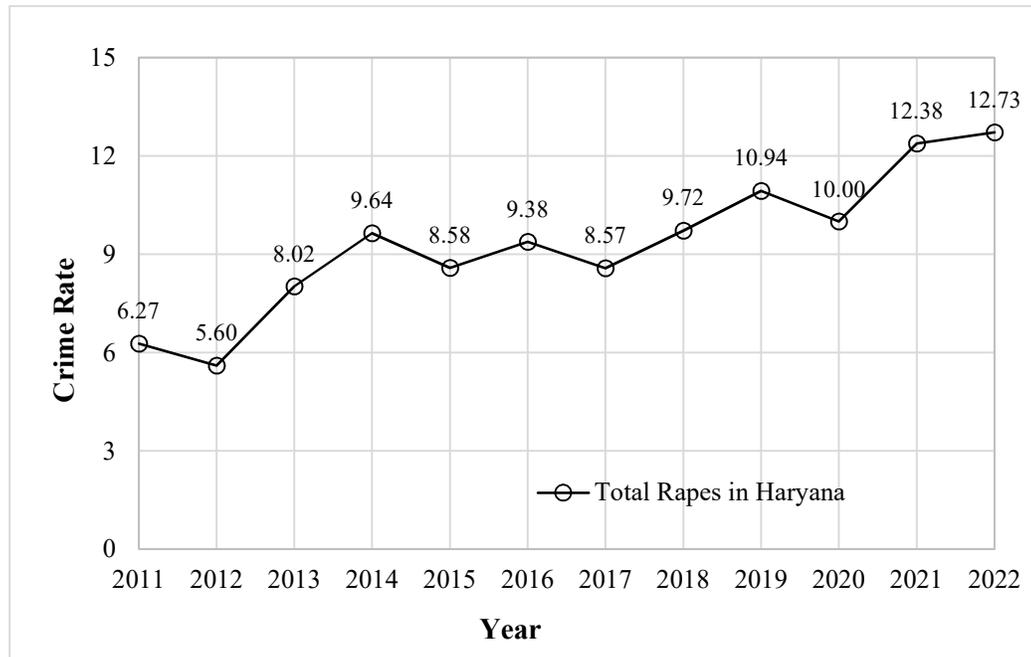


Figure 1. Total Crime Rate of Rapes over the past 10 Years in Haryana.

Dowry Deaths from year 2011 to 2022

Table 3 elucidates the variation of cases of dowry deaths, which is further presented in Figure 2. The crime rate of dowry deaths marginally decreased. Despite national progress, **dowry deaths continue to claim thousands of women’s lives in India annually.** Haryana, in particular, remains a **hotspot**, needing urgent and sustained action. Haryana reported **275 dowry-death cases**, equating to a rate of **2 deaths per 100,000 women**, reported as the **highest rate among all Indian states.** NCR districts like Gurgaon and Faridabad surprisingly recorded **high numbers of dowry deaths.** Haryana consistently presents a **dowry-death rate nearly double** the national average.

Table 3. Dowry Deaths from year 2011 to 2022

Year	Total Dowry Deaths in Haryana	
	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	255	2.18
2012	258	2.16
2013	263	2.17
2014	293	2.38



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2015	243	1.95
2016	260	2.06
2017	245	1.91
2018	216	1.62
2019	248	1.83
2020	251	1.83
2021	275	1.98
2022	234	1.67

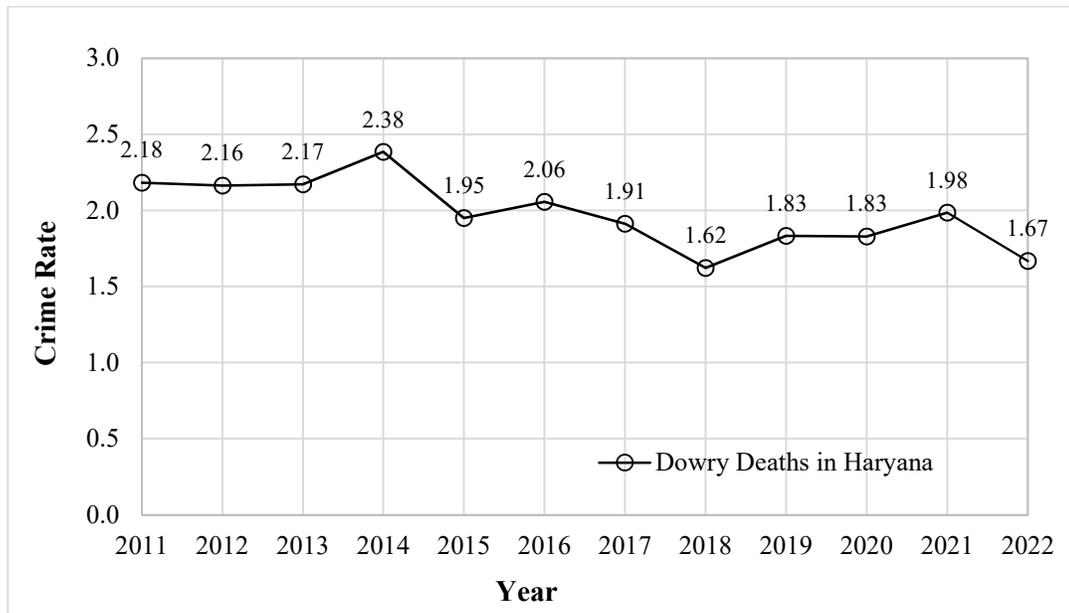


Figure 2. Total Crime Rate of Dowry Deaths from year 2011 to 2022.

Honour Killing in Haryana

Honour killings in Haryana, like in other parts of India, remain a serious social issue, often linked to rigid caste hierarchies, patriarchal norms, and conservative attitudes toward inter-caste and inter-religious relationships. The roots of honour killing are linked with the reputation of family and can be hampered because of conduct of females in his family. Numerous studies have been made to investigate cases of honour killings in India.¹¹⁻¹²

The intolerance of the family members to the pre-marital relationships and matrimonial choices of their daughters especially towards inter-caste and Inter-religious marriages results into the honour-based violence. Couples marrying outside their caste or against family wishes often face severe backlash, including violence. Khap panchayats have historically been accused of encouraging honour killings by opposing inter-caste marriages. Some khap panchayats have softened their stance under legal pressure, but deep-rooted attitudes persist. **Haryana Prevention of Honour Killing Act, 2021** proposes stricter punishments, but implementation is inconsistent. Honour killings reflect broader societal issues of



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caste oppression and gender control. Haryana has reported multiple honour killings over the years, though exact numbers are hard to determine due to underreporting or cases being disguised as suicides.

CONCLUSIONS

Crimes against women in Haryana, have shown a **disturbing upward trend** over the past decade. Despite legal reforms, awareness campaigns, and governmental schemes like **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**, women continue to face threats to their safety, dignity, and rights. The NCRB data shows a **persistent rise in crimes**, signaling that many women still remain vulnerable in both public and private spheres.

Haryana, despite economic progress, ranks among the **states with the highest crime rates against women**. Incidents like **rape, dowry deaths, and honor killings** continue to be disproportionately high. While laws under **IPC Sections** exist, their **implementation remains inconsistent**. Low conviction rates and delayed justice further erode women's trust in the system.

Haryana government has taken various initiatives and constituted various commission like State Commission for Women, Reservation of Women in local self-government, policy for empowerment of women, initiative to promote girl education, setting up of new schools and girl's colleges. There is much more to do to bring women at par with their male counterpart. Government has to frame more stringent regulations, so that people think twice before committing such crimes.

Acknowledgements

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