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## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

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*“ I measure the progress of community by the degree of progress which women have achieved” – Dr. Ambedkar.*

### Abstract

Violence against women has long been a problem, in times of peace and war this violence ranges from very mild teasing to rape and murder, and takes place at home, in the streets, at work place, jails, in short everywhere. Few crimes against women are reported, fewer still prosecuted, and a negligent number of accused are actually punished. In the absence of detailed studies on incidence, it is difficult to come up with suggestions to reduce if not abolish such violence. There is an urgent need for more studies on this violence so that the psychology of the violators is better understood. Instances of violence need to be thoroughly investigated, and ways and means devised to reduce their incidence. There is need for quick and severe punishment for the accused, which would act as a deterrent too. Any society, in which half the population is not assured of safety, needs to reconsider its claim to being civilized. In India eradication of violence on women through transforming social and family systems. This paper attempts to analyse various forms of violence against Indian Women and also discusses the legislative measures taken by the governments to protect them. Finally to find out suggestions for effective implimentation of policies and enactments.

**Key Words:** India, Social System, Violence, Women.

### Introduction:

In the ancient Indian women held a high place respect in the society as mentioned in Rigveda and other scriptures. Volume can be written about the status of our women and their heroic deeds from the Vedic period to the modern times. But later on, because of social, political and economic changes, women lost their status and were relegated to the background. Many evil customs and traditions stepped in which enslaved the women and tied them to the boundaries of the house.

The official statics showed a declining sex- ratio, health status, literacy rate, work participation rate and political participation among women. While on the other hand the spread of social evils like dowry deaths, child marriage, domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, exploitation of women are rampant in different parts of India. Humiliation, rape, kidnapping, molestation, dowry death, human trafficking, online or digital violence etc. have grown up over years.

### Meaning of crime / Violence against women:

The semantic meaning of “crime against women” is direct or indirect physical or mental cruelty to women. Crimes which are, directed specifically against women and in which, only women are victims are characterized as “crime against women“. It is equally important to clarify the concept of “violence against women”. Violence is also known as abuse and includes any sort of physical aggression or misbehaves. When violence is committed at home it becomes domestic violence and involves family members such children, spouse, parents or servants. Domestic violence may involve different means



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such as hitting, kicking, biting, shoving and restraining, throwing objects. In broad terms, it includes threats, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, controlling or domineering, intimidation, stalking, passive/convert abuse and economic deprivation, rape, abduction, kidnapping, murder (all cases of criminal violence, dowry death, wife battering, sexual abuse, maltreatment of a widow and for an elderly women (all cases of domestic violence) and eve-teasing, forcing wife/daughter-in-law to go for feticide, forcing a young widow to commit sati, etc (all cases of social violence), are issues which affect a large section of society.

### **Crimes against women in India:**

Crimes against women have always been and remain a pressing societal and policy concern in India. Recent statistics highlight both the persistence and evolution of this problem. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB,2022) reported 4,45,256 cases of crimes against women in India. This translates to a national crime rate of roughly 66.4 cases per 100,000 women.

### **Constitutional and Legal provision for women:**

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian constitution in its preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio-economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. India has also rectified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women.

### **National Initiatives to Curb the Gender Violence:**

- National commission for women: In 1992 the Government of India set-up this statutory body with a specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women, review the existing legislation to suggest amendments by Parliament wherever necessary, etc.
- Reservations for Women in Local Self-Government: The 73 Constitutional Amendment Acts passed in 1992 by Parliament ensure one-third of the total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies whether in rural areas or urban areas.
- The National Plan of Action for the Girl Child (1991-2000): The plan of action is to ensure survival, protection and development of the girl child with the ultimate objective of building up a better future for the girl child.
- National policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 aims to eliminate gender discrimination, guarantee equal rights, and ensure women have equal access to education, healthcare, employment and political decision making.
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) 2010 aimed to achieve holistic empowerment through inter-sectoral convergence, better coordinating socio-economic welfare programs, and providing a single- window delivery service for various women- centric government initiatives.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, 2015. Its objective was to prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination and also ensure education and protection of the girl child.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) was a centrally sponsored conditional cash transfer scheme, for implementation across the country from 2017.

### **Conclusion:**

Only legislation and law enforcement agencies cannot prevent the incident of crime against women. There is need of social awakening and change in the attitude of masses, so that due respect and equal status is given to women. Its time when the women need to be given her due. This awakening can be brought by education campaign among youth making them aware of existing social evils and the means to eradicate same. Mass media can play an active role here as in the



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present days it has reached every corner of the nation. Various NGOs can hold a responsible position by here by assigning them with the task of highlighting socio-economic causes leading to such crimes and by disseminating information about their catastrophic effect on the womanhood and the society at large.

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