

Increasing Crimes on Women – Societies Perception and Prospects

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Abstract: The recent times have witnessed a series of increasing crimes on women which has not only shown a grave concern towards this issue but also has put the nation in shame, which gives women a sacred place of worship. This violent attitude has been drastically changing and women are subjected to all forms of atrocities be it at home or at work place or on streets. There is no place where she can be at peace and safe, not even from their own fathers, brothers, cousins etc., This paper highlights these issues and discusses about the possible remedies to save women from being subjected to atrocities.

Keywords: *Atrocities, Concern Drastic, Remedies, Safe, Subjected*

1. INTRODUCTION

Women who comprise the world's half population are today living in a very pathetic condition with incidences of crimes increasing. Violence against women is a global phenomenon and since time immemorial, women have been subjected to violence, atrocities and suppression in almost all countries around the world, whether developed or developing. However, it is only recently since the mid seventies that a growing concern on the issue of violence against women has become visible.

2. WOMEN IN INDIA

Despite the fact that Indian women are treated as god, she has been subjected to harsh discrimination and violence especially sexual harassment, which is on the rise.

The incidence of murder, rape, abduction, torture, wife beating, bride burning are increasingly affecting her from actively participating in social progress. Women find no security neither at home nor the streets or work places where they are vulnerable and fall victim easily. There is no safe place or territory left for her. The Supreme Court has observed "sexual violence apart from dehumanizing affects her dignity and self esteem".

It is most unfortunate that besides causing grave injury to her body and mind, sexual crimes also affects her reputation in the society. Instead of sympathizing with her, society looks down upon her even though there is no fault of hers.

3. INCREASING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Over the past few decades incidences of crimes against women has seen a sharp rise throughout the country. The recent Delhi incident of an innocent girl losing her life has

put the nation in shame and has shown how brutalities are committed against women in the country. According to a recent survey, India is the 4th dangerous place for women to live in the world. This fact has been substantiated by the National Crime Bureau. Over 21,397 cases of rapes, 8,383 dowry deaths, 38,711 cases of molestation cases, 89,546 cases of cruelty by husbands and relatives are some of the crimes reported in 2009.

Today, we see a fourfold increase in these. The national capital Delhi tops the list for crimes ranging from abduction to murders to rapes to dowry deaths.

Sexual crimes is the fastest growing crimes in the country today and as many as 18 women are assaulted in one or other form every hour across the country.

Over the past few months, reports on the incidences of the crimes have made headlines and children in the age group of 6 months to elderly women over 60 years are constantly under threat.

Female foeticides and Infanticide is another sphere where female fetuses are aborted as a result of which there is a sharp decline in the sex ratio. The 2011 census has revealed a startling sex ratio of 914 girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years. Indeed a harsh reality of society?

4. STATISTICS OF CRIMES ON WOMEN IN KARNATAKA

Karnataka has also seen a sharp increase in crimes and in 2011 7,700 cases of rapes, domestic violence and other forms of crimes that have been registered in various police stations. Out of these 636 cases are of sexual harassment. The cases that have been unreported are much more. It is also startling to note that per day two women have been either molested or raped.

Another revelation is that so far only 4 have been punished. Out of these 636 cases, more than 150 are below 18 years and 50 below 14 years. Most of these crimes are committed by known persons, close relatives, friends etc.

The following table clearly reveals the crimes committed on women:

Year	Rape cases	Gang Rape Cases	Sexual Harassment cases
2008	446	81	954
2009	509	62	186
2010	586	10	2544
2011	636	32	608
2012	56	45	2960

Source: Karnataka state crime record bureau 2012

The above statistics though show a decline in the crimes, yet the reality is far from facts.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES

The constitution of India has made elaborate provisions for ensuring equal status for women under the following articles:

1. Right to equality (article 14, 15, 16,)
2. Right against exploitation (23,)
3. Directive Principles of State Policy (art.38, 39 (a), (d), 42 and 44)

6. FAILURE OF LAWS:

The various criminal laws that were enacted were done with an intention to remove the hurdles & hindrances in order to provide an effective deterrence to violence against women. However, the above expectations have failed to fulfill the aspirations of the law makers and crimes on women have increased over a period of time.

Some of the laws enacted to protect women's rights:

1. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, 1985,
2. Indecent Representation of women (prohibition) Act, 1987
3. Domestic Violence (prohibition) Act 2000
4. Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, 2007
5. Ordinance for prevention of sexual harassment, 2013

Recommendations:

- Women and children should be educated about their rights
- Strict punishment to be given to persons who commit such heinous crimes
- Society should treat women equal in all respects and give her due status
- Attitude of patriarchal society should change
- Martial arts should be made compulsory at levels of education

7. CONCLUSION

In spite of women achieving in various fields, they have not been given due respect and position in society. One of the reasons is the patriarchal approach of the society towards women. Unless women are considered as human beings and treated equally, they continue to be exploited.

8. REFERENCES

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