

A SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF CRIME AGAINST OF WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract: Number of crimes has increased in various part of India making woman its prime victim. They have been commoditized in-front of whole society giving rise to a serious problem concerning women's safety as the graph of crime against women is showing an upward trend. They face various heinous crimes like rape, murder, kidnapping and abduction, sexual harassment, molestation and dowry death etc. These crimes are very frequent in our society. They are rather being committed every day in our society and can affect at any stage of her life, class, race, religion, sexuality, or ability. The reasons can be many which may give rise to women's weakness such as poverty, disability, old age etc. Seeing the present status of women in Indian society there is an urgent need to protect and safe guard the rights of women. Thus this paper explores the types of crime committed against women both at national and state level. Temporal and spatial pattern of crime against women is examined. It tries to bring out the concentration of crime against women at state level.

Keywords: Crime, Gender, Lust, Sexual object.

Introduction: Women formed to be 49.65 per cent of this world's population symbolized by warmth, affection and kindness in human society [1]. She plays important roles in her life and in society in the form of various relations. She fights to be at par with their male colleagues at offices and on the other hand balances her home chores. But unfortunately, our society tries to control their life one or the other way making things tougher for them. The patriarchal society where male thoughts have not changed since ages think themselves to be superior and thus have full right to her every aspect related to her very existence on this earth. Many a times she faces torture (physically and psychologically) and embarrassed publicly by strange or someone personal. The continuation of misbehavior becomes crime against women. Henceforth a question arises why they are facing such a problem in so called civilized society of ours. Number of crimes has increased in various part of India making woman its prime victim. They have been commoditized in-front of whole society giving rise to a serious problem concerning women's safety as the graph of crime against women is showing an upward trend. They face various heinous crimes like rape, murder, kidnapping and abduction, sexual harassment, molestation and dowry death etc. These crimes are very frequent in our society. They are rather being committed every day in our society and can affect

at any stage of her life, class, race, religion, sexuality, or ability [2]. The reasons can be many which may give rise to women's weakness such as poverty, disability, old age etc. These crimes mostly remain unreported due to fear societal dishonor and being caught [3]. Seeing the present status of women in Indian society there is an urgent need to protect and safe guard the rights of women. Thus this paper explores the types of crime committed against women both at national and state level. Temporal and spatial pattern of crime against women is examined. It tries to bring out the concentration of crime against women at state level. It's also trying to know about inter- relationship between the gender laws and various crimes against women.

Data Source and Methodology: The present study is based on secondary data, like crime reports, articles, journals and other reports. The main source of crime and crime against women is National Crime Record Bureau, New Delhi. The NCRB is basically takes record from all over the police station and publish it. The records are mainly of two types covered under Indian Penal Record (IPC) and Special Local Law (SLL). Simple per cent have been used to show the temporal and spatial distributions. Growth rate of the crime committed are measured using the temporal data and use the graphs and maps for specific crime at national and state level.

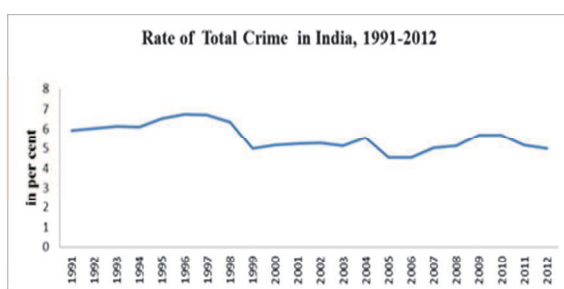


Figure.1

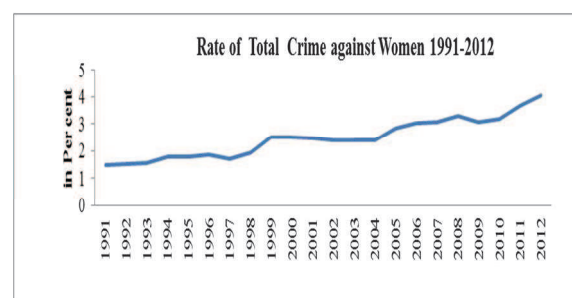


Figure.2

Trends of Crime in India: Fluctuation can be witnessed in crime rate at national level. In the last

decade of the 20th century there has been a constant increased in the overall rate of crime in India with a few

points in years 1992 to 1996. In 1995-96 highest crime rate was recorded 0.64 per cent and then declined crime rate 1.78 per cent in 1998-99. Then again the total crime rate had increased with a few points 0.28 per cent in years 2002-03. After that a fluctuated trend is seen between 2003-12 years.

Looking at the data on the annual basis it is found that there has been a constant increase in the crime against women. When compare to total crime, crime against women the per cent of crime against women is very low but a steady increase is measured in the statistic. From 1991 to 1999 the per cent of crime against women was fluctuated and increased. In last three years 2010 to 2012 the share of crime against women has increased highly from 3.16 to 4.04 per cent. The cause of this increase can be related to media and effect of movies to society as men like movies which are related to crimes and they try to imitate it in their real life and its surrounding [4]. Seeing the variation in crime against women year wise highest was found in years of 1998-99 (0.58), 2004-05 (0.47) and 2010-11 (0.49).

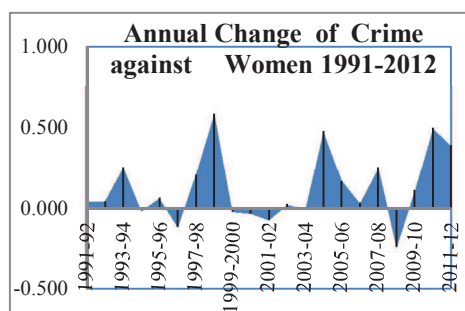


Figure-3

Types of Crime against Women: Until 1994, three types crime were being registered against of women under Indian penal code and special local law namely rape, kidnapping and abduction. In 1995, seven newly women related crime were registered under SLL such as dowry death, molestation, sexual harassment, cruelty by husband/relatives, child marriage, indecent woman act and sati act [5]. In 1991, the per cent of reported cases of kidnapping and abduction was 19.28 and cases of rape were 14.05 per cent. Reference [6] states that the victims of such cases are mostly women of 15-44 age groups. Younger female has reported difficult stages of physical and sexual violence than older women especially who were not engaged in relationship[7]. At that time, dowry cases under the special local law was 2.48 per cent. Both cases related kidnapping and abduction alongwith rape began to decline in 1991-96 and reached to 12.83 and 12.86 respectively. In 1997-04 the rape related cases jumped up and reached 13.39 per cent. After that there was continues slow declining reaching up to 10.20 per cent by 2012. The reason might be make a new law of rape attempt and the punishment became tough for this type of criminal. Another reason may be that many rape survivors don't report the crime due to feeling of

humiliation, degradation and denial [6]. Similar picture could be observed in cases related to kidnaping and abduction and touch the mark of 15.66 per cent in 2012. Reference [8] states that, exposure of movies portraying violence against women as having positive consequences increase male acceptance of inter personal violent against women. The dowry crime under SLL had a fluctuated trend up to 2010 sharing 2.43 per cent of total crime against women and 3.70 per cent in the year 2012. The share of dowry death was in 1995 was 4.37 per cent. It had a fluctuating trend up to 2012 with going up in initial years, then again going down and finally reached 3.37 per cent in 2012 of the total crime against of women. The government has made new laws against dowry demand and aware to people by electronic and print media that demand of dowry and acceptance of dowry is crime. If anybody found guilty, he will be punished. The crime of sexual harassment was increased to 9.38 per cent in 2003 from that of 4.40 per cent in 1995. Declined and reached 3.76 per cent by 2012.

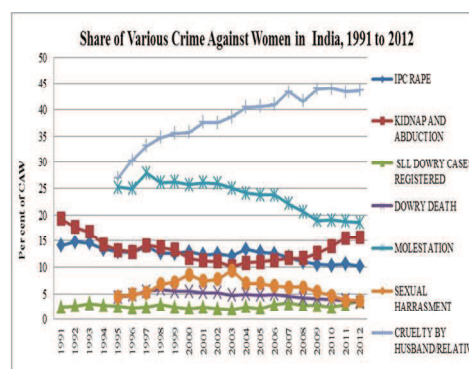


Figure-4

Living in our tradition society a new type of crime originates against women after marriage issues related to dowry demand or son preference which mostly involves her husband and in-law's family. In 1995, the share of cruelty by husband or relative related crime accounted for 26.84 per cent of the total crime against of women which increased steadily to 43.61 per cent in 2012. It means that those women who have married face a domestic violence in her laws home. It is a very drastic situation for female in India. If it is increase in similar pace then it will prove to be bad for our society resulting in girls not getting married. Bring imbalance in the society. Collapsing the society and may be resulting in homo sexual marriage. The effect of this type of marriage will bring a new type of disease. The rest of crime has very low share like child marriage, indecent act, sati act and import of girls.

Spatial Distribution of Crime against Women in India: State wise analysis of crime against women observed that U.P. state has highest recorded alongwith M.P. and Andhra Pradesh. Seven sister states have the lowest rate of crime against women. The states like West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Kerala and Haryana has shown an increasing trend in crime against

women over the period of time. On the other hand states like M.P., U.P., and Bihar have witnessed a decline

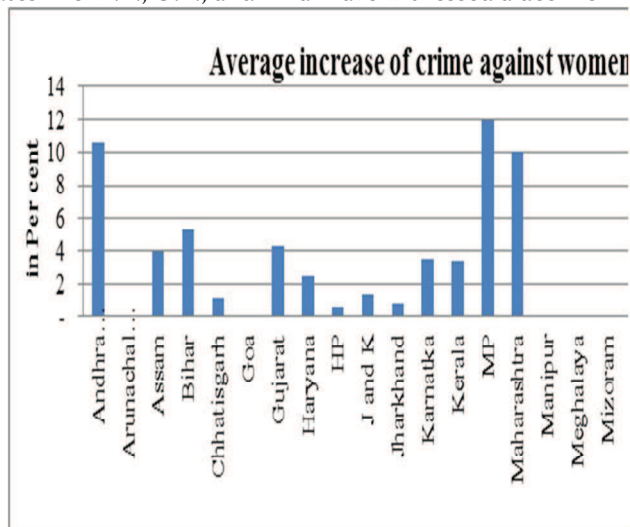
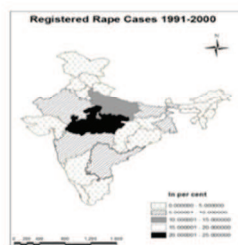


Figure-5

.Reported Cases of Rape: The existence of rape in the society has been stigmatized since past. The term rape is legitimately defined under section 375 of Indian Penal Code, 1860. Rape in India is a cognizable offence [5]. If a man has sexual intercourse with a woman against her will, without her consent, give threat of death or hurt, pretending by husband, mentally disorder, under the influence of drinks or drugs given to her by any person and sexual intercourse with a woman who is below sixteen years of age even if she gives consent to such act, is called rape [9].

Highest number of



Map-1

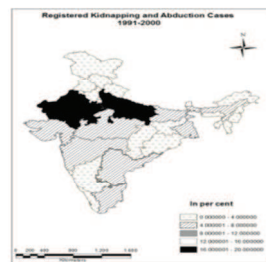


Map-2

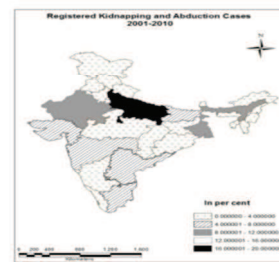
Reported Cases of Kidnapping and Abduction: A person transported without the will or his consent, holding a person in false imprisonment is called to be a kidnapping in criminal law. When this is done with legal authority is called as arrest or imprisonment [9]. Abduction means that whoever by force compels, or by any deceitful means induces any person to go from any place, is said to abduct that person [9]. The word kidnapping and abduction is lawfully defined under section 359 to 374 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 often done in furtherance of other crime, reasons may vary [9]. Kidnapping and abduction of girls is mostly in order to defy abuse and forcefully marry in India. It occurs in the undeveloped area and with poor people [16]. Bihar is one of the poorest states where kidnapping for ransom is common and has become an industry over there. In northern India, the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh,

cases were reported by M.P. (18.38 per cent), followed by U.P. (9.87 per cent), Maharashtra (8.21 per cent), and W.B. (7.67 per cent) during last two decades. On the other hand it is low in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, H.P., Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Tripura. States like Assam, Orissa, Punjab, Goa, Karnataka, Tripura, W.B. and on the other hand states like, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, H.P., Jharkhand, M.P., Maharashtra, T.N., and U.P. incidents of such cases have shown increase and decline respectively in last 22 years. Union territory of Delhi has reported highest number 10204 of rape cases from 1991- 2012 as compare to rest of union territories. The reason might be that the modernization of female and their dress or behavior [10]. If a woman is recognized as an enjoyable object or a tease and wears aggressive clothing, she is requesting for attention and admire. But she is not requesting to be raped [11]. Visual media also contribute to the incident of rapes where copied from films [12]. Poverty might be a reason because there a number of people have living below poverty line and for their survival these female enter into the prostitution or become a sex worker [13]. Lust forms to be one commonly driving force for committing such crimes [14]. In these crimes victim is well choose by the attacker [15]. Primarily this form of violence shows a strongly male-dominated society which observed insecure females for use as game for sexual desire [10].

Rajasthan and West Bengal and the National Capital Region (NCR) constitute an attractive area for kidnapping [16]. Kidnappers are on watch of their prey [14]. They attach when female is alone in home or outside. Such gangs carve up the slum and middle-class areas of Indian cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai into territories controlled by competing groups [16]. Overall picture of kidnapping and abduction cases shows that U.P., Rajasthan and Assam are on top as compare to others. North-east states and Goa have better performed relatively lower number such cases reported. From 1991-2010 some states like Andhra Pradesh, W.B., Haryana and Orissa have increased their contribution in such crime. Moreover, Gujarat, Karnataka and M.P. number of case reported has decline. Delhi has highest share 23381 cases among all the other union territories during 1991- 2012.



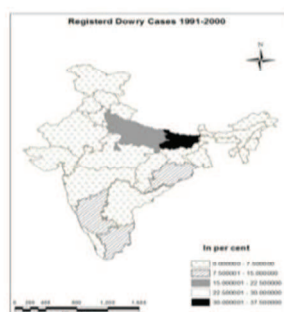
Map - 3



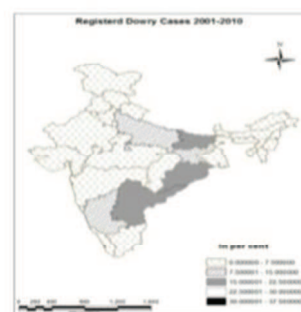
Map - 4

Report Cases of Dowry Deaths/ Dowry Related Cases (SII): An ancient culture, where is a share of parental property is given to the daughter for her future security. It prevailed in different parts of world and called by different names like Dahej in Hindi, Jahez in Arabic, Çeyiz in Turkish, [Trousseau](#) in French, and in Africa as Serotwana, Idana, Saduquat, Mahari, Lobola, Mugtaf, and Wine Carrying. It has undergone changes with time. Dowry means any goods or valuable safety given or agreed to be given by the bride to the groom or by the groom to the bride, by the parents of either the bride or the groom or by any other person, at or before or any time after marriage, giving, taking, demanding or even advertising for dowry is an offence [9]. Any person who takes or gives dowry at his or her son's or daughter's or relatives wedding commits an offence. Today boy's parents' usually demand dowry thinking it to be their legal right and when not fulfill leads to physical or psychological torture of girl after marriage [13]. Many a times she is beaten to death. Witch-hunt resulted heavy toll on middle-class urban India families, not sparing any part of society [17]. "Dowry deaths" even

happened in upper caste families. Status of female and her paternal family is considered to be subordinate in respect to her in law's family [18]. She faces discrimination and humiliation at every stage of her family life. States like Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Western Uttar Pradesh, and the Saurashtra region in Gujarat are worst affected by these regions. The highest share of dowry death is records U.P. (28.68 per cent) followed by Bihar, M.P. and Andhra Pradesh. The north eastern states, Goa, J&K and Uttaranchal have negligible share, out of total dowry death from 1991-2012. Delhi has highest share 95.30 per cent of dowry death compare to other union territories. There are 15 states have less than one per cent of dowry death. Few of the states like Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan have declined in number of such cases. Dowry is transferred to the bridegroom's family, not to the bride. The parents-in-law have full control over the distribution of the dowry. Second, land is never given as dowry. In the final analysis, the woman is property less for she is unable to generate any wealth from her so-called property [18].



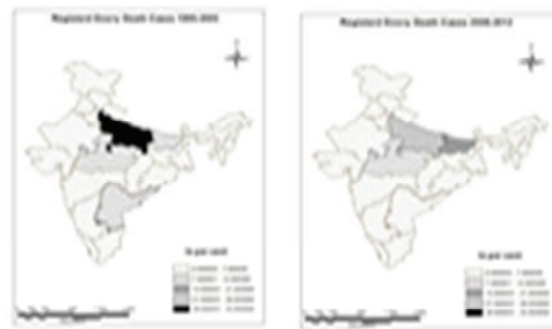
Map - 5



Map - 6

According to data states like Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and U.P. respectively contributed highly to SLL in dowry related incidences from 1991-2012. If we see quinquennial year wise 1991-95, Bihar, U.P., Karnataka and T.N. had high share of that crime and remains were had very low or very few share. In 1996-2000, Andhra Pradesh had increase 3 per cent share from 4.12 per cent, Orissa had also inclined about 4 per cent share from 5.62 per cent and M.P. had also

increased 2 per cent share from 1991-95 year. After that, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had inclined more shares from 2001-10 about 11 per cent, Orissa had increased the share about 11 per cent and Karnataka had increased 3 per cent share. West Bengal had also increased very little from 2001-10. In union territories, Delhi and Pondicherry had two union territories who had about 90 per cent share of that crime from 1991-2012.

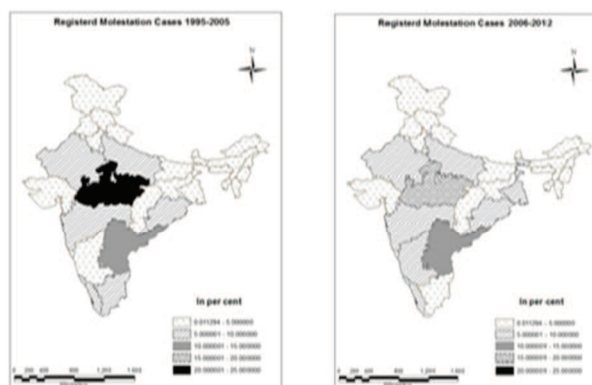


Map-7

Map-8

Reported Cases of Molestation/Teasing Girl or Women: Molestation is nothing but the sexual exploitation of a woman that definitely satisfies the sexual desire of men but kills the hope of living for women. Any kind of sexual abuse including touching, mutual masturbation, anal inter course, and forceful relationship is a form of molestation [19]. The highest share of teasing girl or women found in M.P. followed by Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and U.P. respectively. Approximately 11 states especially, north-east states, Goa, H.P., Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttaranchal have less than 1 per cent share of molestation case out of total crime against women.

Delhi has again highest share (87.88 per cent) of molestation than rest of the union territories. Major causes of molestation can be rapid urbanization, loss of values, degradation of morality, contact of children to media in terms of violent movies and indecent magazines [19]. Even internet is a major cause of such an uncivilized act [11]. Treating women as commodities to fulfill personal desires has become common in Indian society. Just for one short-lived moment of enjoyment and sexual pleasure men rob the honor, self-respect, and even virginity of women. Unluckily, the joy of sexual pleasure is received by men at the cost of women's sufferings.



Map - 9

Map-10

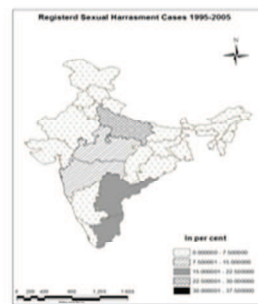
Reported Cases of Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is bullying or coercion of sexual nature. It is most worrying, threatening, and disrespectful form of violence against women often overthrown and suppressed by men with their power and masculine behavior [6]. Apart from the known reports on media there are many hidden and thrown away cases where the dignity of a woman is squeezed out of the soul and they are left with deep psychological marks. It includes a number of actions from mild transgressions to [sexual abuse](#) or [sexual assault](#) [2]. This is the most clear kind of behavior in the modern era where many permission the proposal in order to satisfy their need of money and prestige. Unfriendly work environment is a more obstinate form wherein physical touching, gazing at

women, uncivilized remarks, and indecent images make situation vulnerable for women. The security and dignity of women especially at workplace is at stake of defenselessness, if all this continues years after [6]. U.P., Andhra Pradesh, T.N. and Maharashtra together contribute more than 50 per cent of this incident in the country. T.N., J & K, and M.P. have shown an effective declined whereas in Kerala and Haryana number of such cases increased during 1995-2010. Reporting of sexual harassment in Delhi decline unlike Chandigarh, Pondicherry and Andaman Nicobar Island where it increased over a period of time.

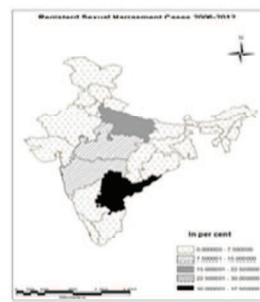
These incidents are mostly carried by someone familiar to the victim. Lust is an inspiring driving force of such crimes. These crimes are relatively desire of sex and

attacker waits for suitable time. When she lives temporarily, without husband, father or brother

observes as un-safe property and claimed by male.



Map - 11



Map- 12

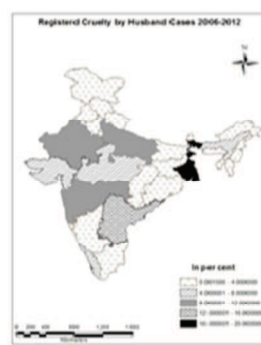
Reported Cases of Cruelty by Husband/Relatives:

Another crime is when female bear cruelty by husband or relatives after the marriage. This type of crime becomes domestic crime either in any form like physically or psychological abuse given [13]. Relationship of marriage is a bond affection and trust. When any kind of supremacy and doubt comes in husband or their relatives about bride's or their family, then argument or dispute starts. In beginning minor incidents occurs but with the time brutness of crime increases as the number of case against a women. At first it starts with verbal and sexual abuse and finally leading to physically tortured [15]. This often is ignored by the neighbors call it to be their personal matter and thinking to be societal norm that it's a man's right to control and punish his wife [10]. Physical violence against female is threat to her life as

many a times it makes her handicap or may lead to miscarriage if she is pregnant during the time of incident. Often it found that only her husband but her in-laws are also engaged in such cruelty. Most of the time domestic violence is related to dowry demands of bridegroom's family. They are of view torturing bride would compel her family to fulfill their demand. Reference [9] says that if husband or their relatives harassed to female in any form such as physically, sexually, verbally, emotionally and economically abuse are called in the form of domestic violence. Complaints this respect has increased to more than 10 lakhs during last two decades. Out of 10 lakhs, there is highest cases were reported in West Bengal followed by Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan and U.P. respectively.



Map -13



Map-14

Reported Cases of Indecent Representation of Woman:

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, was enacted to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, and figures or in any other manner and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto [22]. Sexual images encourage us to think of sex as a product and may contribute of violence against women [20].

When data is seen related to indecent representation of woman act from 1991-2012, the highest share observed in

Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Other states of country contributed very less to it. There in a decade contribution of Andhra Pradesh increased by 43 per cent year and decline by 4 per cent in next five year. Rajasthan shows increase in this type of case since last decade. Tamil Nadu and West Bengal too have increased number reporting. Reporting's in Kerala and U.P. has declined with the time. Union territories have negligible share of this incidence.

Others CAWs (Child Marriage, Sati Act and Immoral Trafficking Of Girl): Other crime against women

includes child marriage, sati act and trafficking of girl. As compared to other crime against women these have less reporting. According to reference [9], the prohibition of child marriage act, 2006 prohibits validation of marriage of a boy who is less than 21 years of age and girl who is less than 18 years of age. It is a very common in country till now after having so many laws against it. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan had the share of child marriage from 1991-12. Its causes are poverty, lack of education and job opportunities and the force of custom and tradition [21]. Sati means when any female's husband die and she burns also on her husband's funeral ceremony [9]. It started in India during medieval period when the Turks invaded. At that time women preformed sati in order to protect themselves from invaders. Now a day this act is rarely seen. The data shows 30 such incidents between 1995- 2012.

The latest crime against women included in SLL (1999) is immoral trafficking of the girl or woman. The trafficker gives false promises to their parents or guardians for her job and marriage and forced sex work [9]. Only 957 cases were registered under this crime during last decade. Bihar has contributed to 50 per cent of the total cases registered followed by Jharkhand, West Bengal and M.P. has leading that crime. Looking at the

development index of these states shows that they are poverty ridden. In 2011 and 12, cases from Karnataka and M.P. were also reported.

Conclusion: We have seen that women are not safe in any part of our country, through above explanations. The only favorable part is they enjoy a respect and crime against them is negligible in north eastern state and other small states. These are the states with tribal influence till present and have maternal society. Other than these states all have shown high rates of crime against women. Crime against women is not only a serious issue of human rights but it has a negative impact on her and her children. She feel unsecure always and if face any type of incidence then our society does not accept it and try to make distance. So it is our responsibility that acceptance of these victims and gives a ray of hope in her life. There should be some more strict laws to secure their identity and safety. It should be more punishable and fearless law for culprits. The social norms of the society should be reviewed and brought in to practice. In our society women does not represent as independent person and shows depend on male at any stage of life. This thought represents the mentality of male dominated society. The status of women can improve with the help of awareness of society or to give more economic status.

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