

Crimes Against Women in India: A Critical Study

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ABSTRACT

Crimes against women are on the rise in India. Women are victims of matrimonial cruelties, trafficking, rape, stalking, voyeurism, kidnapping, etc. These various factors are contributory towards the increase in offenses against women. Various departments like the Police, lawmakers, the judiciary, national human rights institutions have shouldered the responsibility to protect women against crimes but despite it, the situation does not seem developed. Though it is considered that with the coming of the 21st century, women have become empowered. However, they are still victims and face exploitation both in public and private spaces. The SDG focuses on preventing violence against women by 2030. The research delves into various types of crimes, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and human trafficking, providing a comprehensive overview of the current situation and its evolution over time. The study aims to identify patterns, underlying factors, and possible solutions to mitigate this growing issue. The present paper aims to discuss some common causes of crimes against women. The study further aims to throw light on major shortcomings in some of the existing women-related laws. The last part of the paper contains suggestions to counter increasing offenses against women in India.

Keywords: Crime, Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Trafficking, Offence, women empowerment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indian society has traditionally accorded a place of paramount importance to women. Women's safety is fundamental to the social, economic, and cultural well-being of any nation. In ancient India, women were regarded as vital pillars of society. However, violence against women and girls remains a global issue, transcending national and cultural boundaries. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crimes against women in India increased by 15.3% in 2021. Furthermore, the World Health Organization (2021) reported that 27% of women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner. Ancient texts such as the *Manu Smriti* emphasize the reverence due to women, stating that divinity resides in households where women are respected, and that all noble acts lose their merit in homes where women are dishonored. This ideal has not been realized in the modern context, where crimes against women are rising at an alarming rate and India is no exception to it.

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In many regions of the country, women are still viewed as a burden on male family members dependent on their father before marriage, on their husband after marriage, and on their sons in old age. While the birth of a son is often celebrated, the birth of a daughter may be met with silence or disappointment. As a result, women have come to be seen as a weaker section of society, not only in terms of physical strength but also from a sociological standpoint. Discrimination begins even before a girl's birth and continues throughout her life. She may be harassed for dowry, subjected to sexual violence, or face exploitation in the workplace. The increase in crimes against women has prompted to enact several gender-specific laws aimed at their protection. Nevertheless, despite these legislative efforts, violence and discrimination persist. When women attempt to empower themselves economically, they often encounter further challenges ranging from sexual harassment at work to domestic violence. In such circumstances, the judiciary remains their strongest hope for justice.

This study aims to examine the problems faced by women in India, examine the root causes, review the legal frameworks established for their protection, and analyze significant judicial decisions that have contributed to safeguarding their rights.

2. CAUSES OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Crimes against women are not a recent phenomenon. Women have endured suffering since ancient times, facing acts such as rape, assault, harassment, abduction, discrimination, and humiliation throughout history. Despite societal progress and increased awareness, the status of women today has not seen a significant transformation. Although society has begun to recognize the severity of the issue and has established legal and practical mechanisms to address it, challenges persist. A range of factors are social, biological, cultural, economic, and legal continue to contribute to the increasing incidence of crimes against women. These contributing factors can be examined under the following categories:

Social Causes

- Man dominating society
- Orthodox thoughts
- Domestic Violence, immorality, cruelty etc
- Broken families
- Excessive interference of family in the lives of women
- Unnecessary expectations from women in society (e.g. bringing dowry, remaining silent)
- Rigid Tradition or Culture
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Personal or Psychological Causes

- Lack of Education
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Religion
- Alcoholism /drunkenness

- Physical weakness

WOMEN IN INDIA

Historical Period

Historically the Indian women were recognized as a divine force, but, the status of Indian women never remained uniform because of multicultural Indian society that placed women at different places. However it is true that there had been a continuous upliftment of women's position in Indian society. As per Romila Thaper, "Within the Indian subcontinent there have been infinite variations on the status of women diverging according to cultural malice, family structure, class, caste property rights and morals". While defining the position of women in India it has also been said that "The Indian philosophy poses the women with dual character. On the one hand, she is considered fertile, patient and benevolent but on the other hand, she is considered aggressor and represents 'shakti'.

The Vedic Period

The Vedic period can be termed as a golden period for women as their position during this period was glorious because they enjoyed sufficient equality and considerable freedom and high status in society. They got equal freedom like men and studied in Gurukul which enriched their position in society. While explaining the position of women in Vedic period Mamta Rao said that "The Vedic period is characterized by the absence of the purdah system, equal rights in selecting life partners, polygamy being rare, mainly confined to ruling class. The dowry system was prevalent only in rich and royal families and only in the form of movable gifts. A widow could marry again or could undertake recourse to leveratge (niyogya). There was no discrimination between a boy or a girl. Girls were allowed to undergo Upanayana or thread ceremony.

The Post Vedic Period

The Post Vedic Period is comparatively worse so far as position of women is concerned. During this period various restrictions were imposed on freedom of women. The period of male domination started during this period. The birth of a girl child was considered as a disaster for the family. Girls were not allowed to undergo Upanayana or thread ceremony. High barriers to female education, and challenges to girls education. However, the females of the ruling class were an exception to it. During this period the women were put under the surveillance of a father, husband, or son, according to her age. But, it has also specified that she should be loved, respected, and protected and shall never be dishonored.

The Medieval Period

This period witnessed the further degradation of position of women in Indian Society. The Indian society was bound to place the women behind the veil to protect them from the invading soldiers. The participation of women in matters of community and their education came to a sudden halt. There started a continuous decline of social, economic, political, and cultural life of women. The social problems like child marriage, sati-partha, Devdassi, dowry, female infanticide etc. developed during this period. Women basically were treated as object and there existed high number of crime against women.

The British Period

The Britishers who entered as traders ruled India initially under the East India Company and later through the direct control of the crown. During early period the British Government did not pay any attention to the lowering position of Indian women. But later this period witnessed various social reforms as well. The Britisher's enacted several laws to eradicate disparity, social evils, discrimination, and dissimilarities in Indian society. During this period several social evils/practices like child marriage, prohibition on widow's remarriage Sati-Pratha, female infanticide, Purdah Pratha etc. was eliminated. Efforts were also made to educate women. Despite many efforts of British Government, there were no major improvements in the position of women in India. Rather the Indian society remained male dominating society only even though on papers they were equal.

The Post-Independence Period

After independence a democratic government was established in India and its Constitution guaranteed equal rights and status of women. Women can freely participate in each activity such as social, political, cultural, educational, science and technology etc. The Constitutional itself provided equality, no discrimination by the State, special provisions for women, equality of opportunity, equal pay for equal work, maternity relief, duty of every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women. Besides Constitutional provisions plenty of special legislations were also enacted form time to time.

The special enactments providing relief to women are Special Marriage Act, 1954 Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, Immoral Traffic in Women And Girls Act, 1956, The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, Muslim Women (Protection on Divorce) Act, 1986, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, Pre-natal Dignostic Techniques Act, 1994, Information Technology Act, 2000, Protection of Women from Domestic Violation Act, 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. Besides these legislations the Parliament also established women Commission to help, assist and provide justice to each woman.

Although plenty of laws have been framed for the protection and upliftment of women in the position of women has not improved as desired by these laws. The major reason behind the same is the lack of proper enforcement of these laws. The Indian society is still a male dominating society. The woman is still facing violence, harassment, exploitation, discrimination etc. The position of women in rural areas is worst. The most alarming problem is that the crime against women is increasing continuously day by day.

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA AND PROTECTION

The position of women in India is degrading day by day, but, still they have a ray of hope from the judiciary that came forward at several times for their protection against crimes against women. This problem is not a new one but exists since the time immemorial. Women have been subjected to various crimes and she has also been protected under various laws. The crimes against women and their protection can be discussed under the following heads:

Dowry

Dowry is one of the biggest social problem that exists since time immemorial. Dowry basically is a demand of property or money associated with marriage. According to Webster's New Dictionary the dowry means and includes:

- The money, goods, or estate, which a women brings to her husband in marriage; the portion given with the wife
- A natural talent, gift, or endowment: as poetry was her dowry
- A gift given to or for a wife

As per the Dowry prohibition Act the term dowry means “any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly”, but it does not includes dower or mehr. Thus, the term dowry means the property brought by the female as gift to the husband or his family. This system of dowry started as customary presents given with love and affection at the time of marriage but slowly it rooted very deeply as a social problem in the entire community at large. With the passage of time it took the ugliest form and now it is a biggest threat of the society. Keeping in view the effects of this social problem the Government of India enacted the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. The Apex Court while dealing with a matter of dowry under this Act held that “The Act is a piece of social legislation which aims to check the growing threat of the social problem of dowry and it makes punishable not only the actual receiving of dowry but also the very demand of dowry made before or at the time or after the marriage where such demand is preferable to the consideration of marriage.”

In another case, the Apex Court clarified the extent of dowry and held that, “the addition of the words ‘any time’ before the expression” after the marriage” would clearly show that even if the demand is made long after the marriage the same could constitute dowry, if other requirements of the section are satisfied”. The Punjab and Haryana High Court Full Bench while dealing with the question of traditional gifts and presents given in marriages held that the traditional gifts or presents given voluntarily because of love and affection does not fall within the category of dowry.

Similarly in Pratibha Rani v. Suraj Kumar, the Apex Court held that all gifts including jewellery, clothes, furniture, and utensils etc. are included within the meaning of Stridhan. All of these gifts etc. can never be said to be given to the husband. In Vinod Kumar v. State, the position of Stridhan was further strengthened and Court held that if the husband and in laws refuse to return Stridhan despite demand it will amount to criminal breach of trust. The Dowry Prohibition Act prohibits or has imposed a ban on advertisements for dowry. It also prohibits any agreement relating to dowry.

In Ramekbal Singh v. Harihar Singh, it was held that “the amount paid at the tilak under a contract contravenes the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act and the contract being an agreement prohibited by law cannot be enforced”. If a person demands dowry he may be behind bars. In Inder Raj Malik v. Sunita Malik, it was by the Apex Court that the demand of dowry has been made a criminal offence punishable under the Indian Penal Code , which was inserted by the Amendment Act, 1983. Thus Dowry stands completely banned in India, but, still it is in practice. The laws made for prevention of the same are not able to stop this social evil.

The Apex Court in Soni Devraj Bhai Baber Bhai v. State of Gujarat cited the following observation of the First Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehra: “legislation cannot by itself normally solve this deep rooted social problem. One must approach in the other ways too, but legislation is necessary and essential, so that

it may give push and have that educative factor as well as the legal sanctions behind it, which helps public opinion to be given shape.” In this case, even the Apex Court believed this social problem of dowry is a bane of Indian society and the same can be eradicated only when the society itself comes forward.

Rape

Rape is one of the most common crimes against women India . Rape is sexual intercourse with a women committed without consent. As per the Oxford Dictionary rape means “to force to have sex with you when they do not want to by threatening them or using violence”. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita also defines this term. According to it a man commits the offence of rape when it is committed without consent or will or with consent but consent is obtained by threat or fear or the women thinks that the man is her husband or the unsound mind women gave consent or the women was under intoxication or the girl was of 16 years or under sixteen years of age.

In India rape is considered as killing a woman several time as it attaches a stigma for the rest of her life. This offence is committed not only against her body but also against her soul as well. It becomes very difficult for her to face the society after commission of this crime against her even though she committed no wrong. In India the number of cases of rape is increasing intensively. The Apex Court while dealing with the rape case held that “Rape is a crime not only against the person of woman, it is a crime against the entire society. It destroys the entire psychology of a woman and pushes her into deep emotional crisis. Rape is therefore the most hated crime against basic human rights and is violative of the victim’s most cherished right, namely, right to life which includes right to live with dignity contained in Article 21 . Keeping in view the large number of rape cases in India and the gravity of the offence of rape, it can be said that the implementation of rape laws is lacking somewhere. Police reforms are required to stop the crimes against women. Besides this the society requires to be acquainted with moral values to respect women.

Women Trafficking and Prostitution:

The trafficking of women for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a universal problem and India is also facing the same. It basically is an organized crime that destroys the life of the victim. Keeping in view the seriousness of this problem the Constitutional Fathers inserted a specific provision in the Constitution which completely prohibits the traffic in human beings. By virtue of the power conferred on Parliament under Article 35 to implement the fundamental rights the Indian Parliament enacted the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act to prevent trafficking in human beings. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita also provides for punishment for this offence.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that involves the illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of some form of forced exploitation. The basic purpose of human traffic is either sexual exploitation or forced labour. This sexual exploitation includes putting a woman in the business of prostitution as well. The victims cannot escape from it, as the criminal organization control the whole chain from recruitment, transportation, and the sexual exploitation. Therefore it is necessary to find out such females and to rehabilitate them in the main stream of society. In a landmark judgment the petitioner sought appropriate directions to be issued to the government for the improvement of the plight of the prostitutes, fallen women, and their children.

The Apex Court issued a number of direction. The Court held that it is the duty of the Government and the Non-Governmental Organizations to take necessary steps for protection rehabilitation of such women so that they can live life with dignity. The Court further directed that they should be provided opportunity for education, financial support developed marketing facilities for goods produced by them. The Court also directed that the rescue and rehabilitation of the child prostitutes and children should be kept under nodal department, namely, Department of Women and Child Development.

Triple Talaq:

Triple Talak is a form of divorce under the Muslim law. It permits a muslim man to divorce his wife by uttering the word Talak three times. The man can give divorce orally or as well as in written form. In recent times even the electronic media can also be used for triple talak. Triple Talak is also known as talak-e-biddat and talak-e-mughallazah. It is the instant divorce and irrevocable divorce. Triple Talak remained a subject of controversy and has been debated several times on the ground of equality, gender justice, human rights, justice etc.

On 22 August, 2017 the Apex Court of India settled the law pertaining to Triple Talak in India and declared it to be unconstitutional. The Constitutional bench of the Apex Court declared it to be unconstitutional with a majority of 3:2, as it violates the fundamental rights of muslim women and it takes the option of the attempt for reconciliation or revocation because it becomes irrevocable when it is pronounced.

To protect the rights of married muslim women and to prohibit divorce by triple talak the Parliament of India on 26 July, 2019 passed an Act. This Act made the act of Triple Talak a cognizable, non-bailable. This offence is punishable with imprisonment of maximum 3 years and fine as well. It also provides for subsistence allowance to be paid by the husband to the wife, after taking into consideration the dependants if any. The custody of child, if any, remains with mother. The Act also provides that the bail application of accused shall not be entertained without giving an opportunity of being heard to the wife.

Domestic Violence:

The dominance of male is the major cause behind this universal problem of domestic violence. It exists in every society irrespective of caste, class, colour, religion, or nationality. India is not an exception to it. The position of India is worst and the family violence against women is on the rise in this country. In India women have been socially, economically, physically, psychologically, and sexually exploited from time immemorial, sometimes in the name of religion, sometimes on the pretext of writing in the scriptures and sometimes by the social sanction. In India women are facing much more problems of violence at home than outside. The violence against women inside the house is not committed by strangers but the family members i.e. the near and dears or loved one's of these women, themselves are involved in these heinous crimes against women. This domestic violence includes verbal, physical, economical, sexual, emotional, or psychological abuse of women.

The domestic violence against women in India includes dowry death, cruelty, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, abetment to commit suicide, cruelty, sexual intercourse during judicial separation, bigamy, hurt, grievous hurt and adultery etc. Besides these there are plenty of other acts that are although domestic violence but are not judicially recognize such as using abusive language, taunting, curtailing the

basic needs of food, clothes, medicines etc. Keeping in view the worsen conditions of women, the Indian Parliament passed the Domestic Violence Act in the year 2005 and the same came into force on 26 October, 2006.

The main object of the Act was to provide more effective protection to women as guaranteed under the Constitution of India. This Act is the first enactment that recognized the domestic abuse as an offence and the prime beneficiaries of the Act are women and children who are tortured physically, mentally or in any other way. It covers all acts, conducts, omissions, or commissions that harms or injures. Such acts etc may be physical, verbal, psychological, economical, or emotional or they may constitute a threat of the same. This Act provides for setting up of Protection Officer. The Protection Officer remains under the jurisdiction and the control of the court and have a duty to monitor the cases of domestic violence. He submits the Domestic Incident Report before the court or an application of aggrieved for protection. He will have to ensure legal aid, safe shelter, medical aid, or other necessities of the aggrieved persons. If the Protection Officer fails to do his duty he may be punished for the same.

This Act also provides for immediate and emergency relief against domestic violence. First of all the Protection Officer shall make a safety plan for the victim. The Act also provides for appointment of a counselor for such cases. He will assist the victim during counseling process. The Act further provides that later the opposite party can be made accountable by the orders of the Court for all expenses incurred and losses suffered by aggrieved person which may include loss of earnings, medical expenses, maintenance, compensation etc. The court may also provide for the custody of child to the aggrieved person.

Honour Killing:

Honour killing is one of the ancient system or approach seen throughout the world. As per this approach the family member is killed by the family itself because the family believes that the victim brought dishonour or shame upon the family or violated the principles of the community. The major reasons behind this crime are marriage against the will or culture or religion or caste of the family, relationship of married women with some other man, separation from spouse, non-acceptance of arranged marriage, having relationship outside religion or caste, Gotra etc. Although the victims in such cases are both men and women but the rules for men and women are different. Women are biggest sufferers of honour killing at large.

In India, the cases of honour killing are increasing despite the modernization of Indian society. The Khap Panchayats in India are well known for their orders of honour killing or to inflict any other atrocity on women. There is no specific law to deal with this crime but if any offence is committed against any person then he can be penalized under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita as per the offence committed. In absence of specific law for honour killing this crime cannot be dealt with properly.

Sexual Harassment at Workplace :

The sexual harassment of women a biggest problem of world has unfortunately out of control in India. The sexual harassment of women at workplace started when the female started to work. This employment is at workplace where employer and employee relationship exist or it may be a place where refusing to the orders given by the authorities may have negative consequences. It may be organized or unorganized sector. Employment may be permanent or non-permanent. The sexual harassment basically

includes physical contact, demand, or request for sexual favours, showing pornography and sexually coloured remarks even nonverbal like staring to make other person uncomfortable by making unwanted sounds, making offensive gestures etc.

In India, it is unfortunately true that years after established tradition of Indian working women their harassment at workplace has been very common. There are millions of women who enter all fields from daily wage to top posts even that in politics, yet nearly all of them face harassment. In India we have provision for the protection of women in the Constitution itself such as Article 14, 15, 19, 21, 42, 51-A, 226.32 etc. Despite this fact the position of women at work place is not safe hence the Apex Court was to give guidelines for the safety of women in the landmark judgment in Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan case wherein the court observed that Gender equality includes protection from sexual harassment and right to work with dignity, which is a universally recognized basic human right.

The common minimum requirement of this right has received global acceptance. The international conventions and norms are therefore, of great significance in the formulation of guidelines to achieve this purpose. Besides these guidelines issued by the Apex Court the Parliament enacted a specific law to protect women from sexual harassment .

This Act defines the term sexual harassment at workplace and provides for establishment of internal complaints committee of the institute to be headed by some female working on higher post in the concerned institute. The Institution may be private or public sector institute the instructions must be followed. This committee of the institute shall be a quasi judicial authority and has powers of civil court of summoning any person and examining evidence etc. If a woman is not willing to file complaint before the internal complaints committee, she is free to lodge FIR in police station.

Acid Attack:

Acid attack a cruel form of violent assault against women which originated in the modern world is the acid throwing or acid attack or acid violence. This is a planned crime wherein acid is thrown on the face of the victim. This crime not only inflicts physical injuries but destroys the entire life of the victim by leaving permanent scars on affected area of body or disfigurement of face. In India this cruel crime is also in existence till now. Although this crime can be committed on any ground such as sex, caste, religion, or age etc, but in India it is seen that the crime is committed mostly against women. Therefore this horrible crime is also called as gender terrorism.

The victims in such attack are mostly the young girls and the reason behind majority of cases is the rejection of love or marriage proposal, dowry, divorce, property issues etc. In India, acid attack is penalized under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita with minimum 5 years imprisonment which may extend upto life imprisonment with fine. Although many steps have been taken to prevent acid attack but acid attack cases are growing continuously in Indian society.

Cyber Crimes:

Internet is one of the most important inventions of the modern world that permits people around the globe to interact or communicate with each other any time irrespective of physical distance between them. It should be used for the purpose for which it came into existence, but if it is misused then it can commit blunders. It can be used as a weapon to commit crimes including crimes against women. As a

matter of fact internet has been used to target women in this modern world wherein the crime against women was rapidly increasing. In comparison to other crimes the cyber-crime against women is more traumatic in nature.

Cyber-crime can be committed with the help of a device such as computer mobile phone etc. and it is a wrong “which is committed against a single individual or a group of them with a criminal mind to intentionally cause harm to the dignity of the sufferer or to cause physical or mental trauma to the victim in any manner, direct or indirect, by way of modern telecommunication networks like the internet. There are plenty of cyber-crimes committed against women such as cyber stalking, cyber harassment, cyber pornography, trolling, email spoofing, phishing, cyber defamation or morphing etc.

The primary law that deals with such crimes in India is the Information Technology Act. Although there is a specific law to deal with cyber-crimes in India but the number of cases is increasing day by day and thereby affecting women drastically. The under reporting of such matter is one of the major reason that is encouraging the criminals. The victims do not know their rights and the remedies available to them. They are unaware of the procedure to file a complaint.

Indecent Representation of Women :

Women who possess the most respectable place in society are also have been victims of indecent, vulgar, and obscene depictions. The advancement of technology and the development of electronic media and above all the introduction of internet provided platform for indecent representation of women. The indecent representation of women is on peak in commercial society wherein advertisement is the most powerful and influential method and women play a major role in advertisements. Women are used to promote the product or a concept as a weapon of convincing. The reason of preferring or targeting women to promote a product is that in many societies’ women make majority of consumption decisions.

Although it is good from the point of view of employment or empowerment of women but, unfortunately, it is true that in most of the advertisements women are made victim of cheap advertising techniques as it represent women in indecent ways. Indian Parliament has already enacted Indecent Representation of Women Act in the year 1986 to prohibit the indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto. Indecent Representation of women means the depiction in any manner of the figure of a woman; her form or body or any part thereof in such way as to have the effect of being indecent, or insulting to, or defame women, or is likely to degrade, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals. This representation of women may be through newspaper, magazines, hoardings, hanging, painting, posters or through electronic media.

3. CONCLUSION:

It is an unfortunate reality the females are considered as weaker section of society not only from the point of view of physical abilities but also from the sociological aspects as well. In India females have been considered as a burden on males since ancient times. They are dependents of father, husband, or son. The position of women was degraded gradually with the development of male dominating society and became worst in the present environment. Now the crimes against women and exploitation of women in India is on rise in India even though many efforts have been made by legislature and the judiciary to stop or prevent the crime against women. The Constitution of India itself provides protection against arbitrary

treatment of women and there are number of protective laws enacted by the legislature but, still the crimes against women had reached its peak and victimizing more and more women in the crimes of matrimonial cruelties, trafficking, rape, stalking, voyeurism, pornography, prostitution, and eve teasing etc.

Women have also been subjected to socio-economic crimes and cultural deprivations. Although justice is the part of basic structure in India but, in practice the gender justice cannot be seen practically on ground. Gender justice basically means that there shall be no discrimination based on gender, but, as a matter of fact the women are the major ones who suffers of injustice in Indian society. The main causes behind the poor condition of women are lack of education, powerless, poor health, malnourished, unskilled, overburdened, living in male dominated society etc. There are certainly some social causes behind the same such as inferior status of women, orthodox thoughts of society, broken homes, cruelty, permissive atmosphere etc. Unemployment and poverty play a major role in crimes against women. The under reporting of crime is another major problem in India.

The Indian society feels it more shameful for women to lodge a complaint of violence committed against her. It is believed if the matter remains within the four walls then it will be better. Although the judiciary is doing its level best but the number of cases are increasing day by day. It clarifies the position of the executives. The implementation of law seems to be lacking everywhere. So many laws made for protection of women including constitutional provisions are of no use until implemented at ground level. Hence it is true that making law is not sufficient. It must be strictly adhered and enforced rigorously.

4. SUGGESTIONS

Based on this study the researcher is of the view that the following suggestions shall play a great role to deal with the problem of crimes against women:

- Education of women is the necessity in present society. The rural area in India contains more number of uneducated women therefore the educating women in those areas shall be more aggressive.
- Women should be educated about their rights and duties. It has been seen that plenty of educated women do not like to file a complaint against crimes against them despite being educated as they are unaware about their rights.
- Empowerment and educating of women is necessary so that the reporting of cases shall increase.
- The Human Rights Commission shall take such matters on priority basis.
- The women Commission of India shall be stuffed more adequately for the education, complaints and ministering of the policy for women.
- There shall be separate courts for dealing matters of crimes against women to provide speedy justice to women.

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