

# **Laws for women protection in India: A critical study of the flaws and drawbacks of laws for women protection in India**

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**DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM**

**SREE NARAYANA COLLEGE**

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**Laws for women protection in India: A critical  
study of the flaws and drawbacks of laws for  
Women protection in India**

Career Related First Degree programme In Journalism, Mass Communication and  
Video Production

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## **CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that the dissertation **Laws for women protection in India: A critical study of the flaws and drawbacks of laws for women protection in India**, a record of studies carried out by Aswathy J, Ammu Satheesan, Anantharaman R S, Vysakhan C, Abhirami S Sharma, Mukesh P at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Sree Narayana College, Kollam, under my guidance and submitted to the University of Kerala in partial fulfilment of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts. First Degree Programme in Mass Communication, Journalism and Video Production under CBCS System.

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## **DECLARATION**

We hereby declare that the dissertation entitled **Laws for women protection in India: A critical study of the flaws and drawbacks of laws for women protection in India** is a record of research work carried out by us at the Department of Mass communication and Journalism, Sree Narayana College Kollam, under the guidance of Anaswara Krishna and submitted to the University of Kerala in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts, First Degree program in Mass Communication Journalism and Video Production under CBCSS system.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Our country must have the largest number of laws, ostensibly for the benefit of women. The constitution and the different acts passed by the union government and the states give special protection to women, aware of their weak position. In spite of all these piece of legislation loaded in favor of women, their condition is improving only at a snail's pace and the laws are not utilized well enough or they are not satisfactory because with all these laws the crimes against women are increasing day by day.

Each day a single woman, a girl child, a young girl, a mother and women from all walks of life are being assaulted, molested, and violated. The streets, public transport, public spaces, in particular, have become the territory of the hunters. There are certain common crimes against women are rape, dowry deaths, sexual harassment at home or workplace, kidnapping and abduction, cruelty by husband, relatives, assault on a woman, child and sex, trafficking, attack, child marriages and many more. Though the Constitution of India has given the equal rights of dignity, equality, and freedom from gender discrimination but in practical filed no one bothers to follow such law until and unless the people's mindset towards a woman does not change.

# **CONTENTS**

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**
- 3. RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY**
- 4. CONTENT ANALYSIS**
- 5. FINDINGS**
- 6. CONCLUSION**
- 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- 8. APPENDIX**

1

# **INTRODUCTON**

## **WOMAN AROUND THE WORLD**

A woman is an adult female human. The term woman may also refer to girl (a female child or adolescent). The plural women is sometimes used for female humans regardless of age.

Throughout human history, traditionally gender roles have often define and limited women's activities and opportunities; many religious doctrines stipulate certain rules for women. But during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with all the restrictions loosening in many societies, women have gained access to careers beyond the traditional homemaker and the ability to pursue higher education.

Women have, throughout history, made contribution to science, literature and art. One area where women have been permitted most access historically was that of obstetrics and gynecology. About half of the world are women but still the equality is not completely established. Women are under-represented in the economics profession worldwide. Even though gender inequalities around the world have decreased tremendously, various challenges remain there. 'Equal pay for equal work's still a myth in many fields. Gender gaps exist in educational, financial and many other fields. Women still makes only 80% of what men earn for full time work. The inequality towards women starts from the home itself and extend towards the higher levels of the society. Many women are expected to put their educational and career goals on hold in order to raise a family, while their husbands become primary breadwinners. However, some women choose to work and also fulfill a perceived gender role of cleaning the house and caring for children. Despite the fact that certain households might divide chores more evenly, there is evidence supporting the issue that women have continued being the primary care-giver in family life even if they work full-time jobs. Women have traditionally been viewed as being caring and nurturing and are designated to occupations which require such skills. While these skills are culturally valued, they were typically associated with domesticity, so occupations requiring these same skills are not economically valued.

## **WOMEN PROTECTION**

Women's rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls worldwide, and they formed the basis for the women's rights movement in the 19th century and the feminist movements during the 20th and 21st centuries. In some

countries, these rights are institutionalized or supported by law, local custom, and behavior, whereas in others, they are ignored and suppressed. They differ from broader notions of human rights through claims of an inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women and girls, in favor of men and boys. Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights include the right to bodily integrity and autonomy, to be free from sexual violence, to vote, to hold public office, to enter into legal contracts, to have equal rights in family law, to work, to fair wages or equal pay, to have reproductive rights, to own property, and to education

As Hillary Clinton once said “Human rights are women’s rights and women’s rights are human rights.”

The basic human rights include

- Natural rights
- Equal employment
- Right to vote
- Property rights
- Freedom of movement
- Right to health
- Right to education
- Reproductive health
- Freedom from violence
- Family law

Women’s human rights apply to both the “public” and “private” spheres of women’s lives. For many governments, however, addressing women’s rights in the “private” sphere is challenging because the private sphere is often thought to be beyond the purview of the state, exempt from governmental scrutiny and intervention (UNIFEM [now UN Women], *About the Convention*). As a result, in many countries, discrimination and violence against women and girls that occur in the family and under the guise of religious and cultural traditions and practices continue to remain hidden in the private sphere, where perpetrators of such human rights abuses typically enjoy impunity for their actions

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Violence against women (VAW), also known as gender-based violence and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), are violent acts primarily or exclusively committed against women or girls. Such violence is often considered a form of hate crime, committed against women or girls specifically because they are female, and can take many forms.

Violence against women can fit into several broad categories. These include violence carried out by individuals as well as states. Some of the forms of violence perpetrated by individuals are: rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, acid throwing, reproductive coercion, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection, obstetric violence, online gender-based violence and mob violence; as well as harmful customary or traditional practices such as honor killings, dowry violence, female genital mutilation, marriage by abduction and forced marriage. There are forms of violence which may be perpetrated or condoned by the government, such as war rape; sexual violence and sexual slavery during conflict; forced sterilization; forced abortion; violence by the police and authoritative personnel; stoning and flogging. Many forms of VAW, such as trafficking in women and forced prostitution are often perpetrated by organized criminal networks. Historically, there have been forms of organized WAV, such as the Witch trials in the early modern period or the sexual slavery of the Comfort women.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms should be birthrights, but across the globe some countries fail to accord human rights to women. Moreover, women are often victims of human rights abuses. Women's human rights are abused when they cannot participate in decisions that affect their lives and are denied political participation and fair representation, when they are prevented from going to school or receiving health care, when they face discrimination in employment, when they are denied equal rights to own land and property, when they suffer from violence within their homes and when they are subjected to harmful traditional practices such as genital mutilation and honor killings.

Violence is among the most severe human rights violations, and women are often attacked for sexual reasons or even on account of their gender. The phenomenon of femicide is on the rise and reports estimate that of all women killed in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members. Women human rights defenders are also often the deliberate targets of violence. According to a 2012 Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women,

women community leaders in Colombia, and women fighting for their rights, are the main targets of gender-related killings.

These type of gender based violence/ violence against women is often seen as a mechanism for the subjugation of women, in society or interpersonal relation. These violence may arise from sense of entitlement, superiority, misogyny or similar attitudes in the perpetrator or his violent nature, especially against women.

The secretary-general of the United Nations declared in a post of UNIFEM website stated that “violence against women and girls is a problem of the pandemic proportions. At least one out of every three women around the world have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone known to her”. This was posted back at 2006, more than a decade has passed after this but sadly its still relevant and somehow the rate is being elevated.

Even after passing and forming all these laws for women protection the cases are not declining but increasing day by day.

## **WOMEN IN INDIA**

The status of women in India has been subject to many changes over the span of recorded Indian history. Their position in society deteriorated post the Vedic period and their subordination continued to be reified well into India's early modern period. India is a land of culture and civilization. In the ancient mythologies and Vedas the role of women are glorified as a mother, the almighty, the goddess and the significance of women in the society and the nation.

India has one of the highest number of female politicians in the world. Women have held high offices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Leader of the Opposition. The Indian states Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, AndhraPradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tripura have implemented 50% reservation for women in PRIs. Majority of candidates in these Panchayats are women. In 2015, 100% of elected members in Kodassery Panchayat in Kerala are women. There are currently 16 female chief ministers in India as of 2020. The status of women in India is strongly connected to family relations.

Several women have served in various senior official positions in the Indian government, including that of the President of India, the Prime Minister of India and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. However, many women in India continue to face significant difficulties. The female literacy rate in India is less than the male literacy rate. Far fewer girls than boys are enrolled in school, and many girls drop out. In urban India, girls are nearly on a par with boys in terms of education. However, in rural India, girls continue to be less educated than boys. The rates of malnutrition are exceptionally high among adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women in India, with repercussions for children's health. Violence against women, especially sexual violence, is a serious concern in India.

### **LAWS FOR WOMEN IN INDIA**

The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article 14), no discrimination by the State (Article 15(1)), equality of opportunity (Article 16), equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)) and Article 42. In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favor of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51(A) (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.

- 1) Guardians & Wards Act, 1890
- 2) Indian Penal Code, 1860
- 3) Christian Marriage Act, 1872
- 4) Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- 5) Married Women's Property Act, 1874
- 6) Workmen's compensation Act, 1923
- 7) Indian Successions Act, 1925
- 8) Immoral Traffic (prevention) Act, 1956
- 9) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- 10) Commission of Sati(Prevention) Act, 1987
- 11) Cinematograph Act, 1952
- 12) Births, Deaths & Marriages Registration Act, 1886

- 13) Minimum Wages Act, 1948
  - 14) Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
  - 15) Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929
  - 16) Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application, 1937
  - 17) Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986
  - 18) Special Marriage Act, 1954
  - 19) Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
  - 20) Hindu Successions Act, 1956
  - 21) Foreign Marriage Act, 1969
  - 22) Family Courts Act, 1984
  - 23) Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
  - 24) Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956
  - 25) Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
  - 26) Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
  - 27) National Commission for Women Act, 1990
  - 28) The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994
  - 29) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
  - 30) Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013<sup>[143]</sup>
  - 31) Indian Divorce Act, 1969
  - 32) Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
  - 33) Hindu Widows Remarriage Act, 1856
  - 34) Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986
- Rights of Woman enshrined in the Constitution of India:

Article 15(1) provides that the state shall not discriminate against any citizen of India on the ground of sex

Article 15(3) provides that the state is empowered to make any special provision for women i.e. the state can make affirmative discrimination in favour of women.

Article 16(2) provides that no citizen shall be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the state on the ground of sex.

Article 23(1) provides that traffic in human beings and forced labour is prohibited.

Article 39(a) provides the state to secure for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood

Article 39(d) provides the state to secure equal pay for equal work for both Indian men and women.

Article 39(e) provides that the state is required to ensure that the health and strength of women workers are not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their strength.

Article 42 provides that the state shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.

Article 51-A (e) provides that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women

Article 243-D(3) provides that one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women.

Article 243-D(4) provides that one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women.

Article 243-T(3) provides that one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Municipality shall be reserved for women.

Article 243-T(4) provides that the offices of Chairpersons in the Municipalities shall be reserved for women in such manner as the State Legislature may provide.

**Legal Rights of Women enshrined under various Indian Legislations:**

- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) is a comprehensive legislation to protect women in India from all forms of domestic violence by the husband or any of his relatives. Domestic violence is subjected to any kind of physical, sexual, mental, verbal or emotional.
- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1986 (PITA) has amended The Immoral Traffic (Suppression) Act, 1956 (SITA). This Act is the premier legislation only for prevention of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation i.e. for the purpose of preventing and ultimately prohibiting prostitution for women and girls to criminalize sex work. In 2006, the Ministry of Women and Child Development proposed an amendment bill i.e. the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2006 that has yet to be passed.
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (1986) prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner.
- Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act (1987) provides for the more effective prevention of the commission of practice of Sati or the voluntary or forced burning or burying alive of widows, and to prohibit glorification of this action through the observance of any ceremony.
- Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) prohibits the giving or receiving of dowry at or before or any time after the marriage from women
- Maternity Benefit Act (1961) protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her to a 'maternity benefit' and certain other benefits. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 an amendment to the Maternity Benefit Act (1961) has been passed. The Act is applicable to contractual or consultant women employees, as well as to the women who are already on maternity leave at the time of enforcement of the Amendment Act.
- Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (1971) provides for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners on humanitarian and medical grounds.
- Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (1994) prohibits sex selection before or after conception and prevents the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination leading to female foeticide.

- Equal Remuneration Act (1976) provides for payment of equal remuneration to both men and women workers for same work or work of a similar nature. It also prevents discrimination on the ground of sex, against women in recruitment and service conditions.
- Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act (1986) protects the rights of Muslim women who have been divorced by or have obtained divorce from their husbands.
- Hindu Succession Act (1956) recognizes the right of women to inherit parental property equally with men. Then there came the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act 2005 granting daughters the right to inherit ancestral property along with their male relatives.
- Minimum Wages Act (1948) does not allow discrimination between male and female workers or different minimum wages for them.
- Mines Act (1952) and Factories Act (1948) prohibits the employment of women between 7 P.M. to 6 A.M. in mines and factories and provides for their safety and welfare.
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention and Protection) Act (2013) provides protection to women from sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organised or unorganized.
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 prohibits the engagement of children in all occupations and of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes, where adolescents refer to those under 18 years and children to those under 14 years.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO Act) 2012 was formulated in order to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. It defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years and provides protection to all children under the age of 18 years from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.
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Apart from the above-mentioned rights, there are following general laws that every woman should know:

### Right to free aid

When a woman goes to the police station without being accompanied by a lawyer she should be aware of the fact that she has a right to get the legal aid and that she should demand it.

### Right to privacy

A woman who has been raped has a right to record her statement in private in front of the magistrate without being overheard by anyone else or with a lady constable or a police officer in person. Under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the cops will have to give the privacy to the victim without stressing her in front of masses.

### Right to Zero FIR

As according to the Supreme Court ruling a rape victim can register her police complaint from any police station under the Zero FIR.

### Right to no arrest

According to a Supreme Court ruling, a woman cannot be arrested after sunset and before sunrise. Except, in case the woman has committed a serious crime, the police require to get it in writing from the magistrate explaining why the arrest is necessary during the night.

### Right to not being called to the police station

According to section 160 of the Criminal Procedure Code, women cannot be called to the police station for interrogation. The police can interrogate a woman at her residence in the presence of a woman constable and family members or friends.

### Right to confidentiality

Under no conditions a rape victim's identity can be revealed. Neither the police nor media can make known the name of the victim in public. Section 228-A of the Indian Penal Code makes the disclosure of a victim's identity a punishable offence.

Recent amendments to certain laws:

The gang rape that took place on the night of 16th December 2012 took the entire nation in such an outrage stage that it forced to give a new shape to the criminal law by the enactment of the most awaited Act i.e. the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 Thus the Act has included the following sections:

Section 354A provides for Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment.

Section 354B provides for Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe.

Section 354C provides for Voyeurism.

Section 354D provides for Stalking.

The definition of "Rape" under section 376 has been amended.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017 makes instant "**Triple Talaq**" in any form "**illegal and void**". The proposed law would also give the woman the right to approach a magistrate seeking "**subsistence allowance**" for herself and her minor children.

## **WOMEN COMMISSION IN INDIA**

The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act. The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik. As of 30 November 2018, Rekha Sharma is the chairperson. The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns.

The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour. They have also discussed police abuses against women.

The commission regularly publishes a monthly newsletter, *Rashtra Mahila*, in both Hindi and English

- Generation of legal awareness among women, thus equipping them with the knowledge of their legal rights and with a capacity to use these rights.
- Assisting women in redressal of their grievances through Prelitigation services.
- Facilitating speedy delivery of justice to women by organizing Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats in different parts of the country.
- Review of the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommending amendments thereto, any lacunae, inadequacies or short comings in such legislation's.
- Organizing promotional activities to mobilize women and get information about their status and recommend paradigm shift in the empowerment of women.
- Investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws;
- Review, from time to time, the exiting provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women;
- take up cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and of other laws;
- look into complaints and take suo moto notice of matters;
- deprivation of women's rights;
- special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women;
- undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement;
- advice on the planning process of socio-economic development of women;

- evaluate the progress of the development of women under the Union and any State;
- inspect or cause to be inspected a jail remand home women's institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary.
- fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women;

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA**

Crime against women such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, honour killings, and the forced prostitution of young girls has been reported in India. Police records in India show a high incidence of crimes against women. The National Crime Records Bureau reported in 1998 that by 2010 growth in the rate of crimes against women would exceed the population growth rate. Earlier, many crimes against women were not reported to police due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation. Official statistics show a dramatic increase in the number of reported crimes against women.

The matter of violence committed against women in India is massive and widespread. It requires more attention and adherence than what it already deserves. A decade back, the concern was discussed in elitist groups and beyond the ordinary people's grasp. However, in recent years, the matter is being addressed more openly due to the advent of technology and widespread education. India is not safe at all for women. Delhi accounts for the highest number of cases of violence against women in India. Although policies and schemes are being carried out to mitigate the matter, the concern seems to grow and double itself with every passing year.

- Violence against women encompasses physical, sexual, emotional, and mental abuse inflicted upon women.
- India is one of the most vulnerable countries when it comes to the number and amounts of crimes committed against their women.
- A number of crimes account as violence against women in India.
- Rape accounts for the most number of cases; marital rape and non-marital rape are widespread.
- The violence is mostly carried on by men.

- Such high rates of violence against women occur due to the inherent patriarchal mindset of the Indian folks.
- In addition to rape, girl child abuse, girl-child marriage, and abduction, it also accounts for the crimes that are carried out upon the Indian women.
- Female infanticide is yet another example.
- The topic of violence against Indian women is of great concern.
- The concern should be immediately addressed. The concept of victim-blaming should be stopped, and proper actions should be taken.

## **ACID THROWING**

Women belonging to any class, caste, creed or religion can be victims of this cruel form of violence and disfigurement, a premeditated crime intended to kill or maim permanently and act as a lesson to put a woman in her place. In India, acid attacks on women<sup>1</sup> who dared to refuse a man's proposal of marriage or asked for a divorce<sup>1</sup> are a form of revenge. Acid is cheap, easily available, and the quickest way to destroy a woman's life. The number of acid attacks has been rising.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic violence in India is endemic. Around 70% of women in India are victims of domestic violence, according to Renuka Chowdhury, former Union minister for Women and Child Development. Domestic violence was legally addressed in the 1980s when the 1983 Criminal Law Act introduced section 498A "Husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty".

The National Crime Records Bureau reveal that a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes, a woman is raped every 29 minutes, a dowry death occurs every 77 minutes, and one case of cruelty committed by either the husband or relative of the husband occurs every nine minutes.<sup>1</sup>This occurs despite the fact that women in India are legally protected from domestic abuse under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

In India, domestic violence toward women is considered as any type of abuse that can be considered a threat; it can also be physical, psychological, or sexual abuse to any current or former

partner. Domestic violence is not handled as a crime or complaint, it is seen more as a private or family matter. In determining the category of a complaint, it is based on caste, class, religious bias and race which also determines whether action is to be taken or not. Many studies have reported about the prevalence of the violence and have taken a criminal-justice approach, but most women refuse to report it. These women are guaranteed constitutional justice, dignity and equality but continue to refuse based on their sociocultural contexts. As the women refuse to speak of the violence and find help, they are also not receiving the proper treatment.

## **DOWRY**

Cruelty in the form of torture or harassment of a woman with the objective of forcing her to meet a demand for property or valuable security is a form of dowry crime. The cruelty could be in the form of verbal attacks or may be accompanied by beating or harassment in order to force the woman or her family to yield to dowry demands. In many instances, the cruelty may even force the woman to commit suicide and it has been specifically criminalized by the anti-dowry laws in India.

Dowry deaths and dowry murder relate to a bride's suicide or killing committed by her husband and his family soon after the marriage because of their dissatisfaction with the dowry. It is typically the culmination of a series of prior domestic abuses by the husband's family. Most dowry deaths occur when the young woman, unable to bear the harassment and torture, commits suicide by hanging herself or consuming poison. Dowry deaths also include bride burning where brides are doused in kerosene and set ablaze by the husband or his family. Sometimes,

In 2012, 8,233 dowry death cases were reported across India, while in 2013, 8,083 dowry deaths were reported. This means a dowry-related crime causes the death of a woman every 90 minutes, or 1.4 deaths per year per 100,000 women in India. Due to their abetment to commit suicide, the bride may end up setting herself on fire.

## **CHILD MARRIAGE**

Child marriage is the result of the interplay of economic and social forces. In communities where the practice is prevalent, marrying a girl as a child is part of a cluster of social norms and attitudes that reflect the low value accorded to the human rights of girls. 1.5 million Girls in India, as per UNICEF reports, on an average, 27% of girl children in India are married off before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, 7% by the time they are 15.

## **FEMALE INFANTICIDE AND SEX SELECTIVE ABORTION**

In 1994 the Indian government passed a law forbidding women or their families from asking about the sex of the baby after an ultrasound scan (or any other test which would yield that information) and also expressly forbade doctors or any other persons from providing that information. In practice this law (like the law forbidding dowries) is widely ignored, and levels of abortion on female fetuses remain high and the sex ratio at birth keeps getting more skewed.

Female infanticide (killing of infant girls) is still prevalent in some rural areas.<sup>1</sup> Sometimes this is infanticide by neglect, for example families may not spend money on critical medicines or withhold care from a sick girl. Continuing abuse of the dowry tradition has been one of the main reasons for sex-selective abortions and female infanticides in India.

## **HONOR KILLING**

Honor killing is a type of domestic violence in the broadest sense of violence within a family (not limited to intimate partner violence, which is another common meaning of the term). The justice systems of some countries, whether by explicit provisions or by lack of enforcement of existing laws, either does not prosecute or dispense reduced penalties for killings committed in the name of family honor. Some jurisdictions have more lenient penalties for crimes of passion committed without premeditation (such as murder immediately upon discovery of adultery), or explicitly have reduced penalties for a husband who kills a cheating wife.

Honor killings have been reported in northern regions of India, mainly in the Indian states of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, as a result of the girl marrying without the family's acceptance, and sometimes for marrying outside her caste or religion. Haryana is notorious for incidents of honor killings, which have been described as "chillingly common in villages of Haryana".

## **MARITAL RAPE**

In India having sex with the wife without her consent after marriage is not considered as rape and so it is highly practicing it and avoiding the crime.

Section 375 of the **Indian** Penal Code (IPC) considers the forced sex in marriages as a crime only when the wife is below age 15. Thus, **marital rape** is not a criminal offense under the IPC. **Marital rape** victims have to take recourse to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 (PWDVA).

## **RAPE**

**Rape** is the fourth most common crime against women in India. According to the 2019 annual report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 32033 rape cases were registered across the country, or an average of 88 cases daily,<sup>[3]</sup>slightly lower than 2018 when 91 cases were registered daily Of these, 30,165 rapes were committed by perpetrators known to the victim (94.2 % of cases), a high number similar to 2018. The share of victims who were minors or below 18 - the legal age of consent - stood at 15.4%, down from 27.8% in 2018. On the other hand, rapes by juveniles remained high in India with 3 minors being arrested for rape, assault and attempted violence on women and girls each day in 2019

## **SEXUAL HARRASMENT**

Sexual harassment is a type of harassment involving the use of explicit or implicit sexual overtones, including the unwelcome or inappropriate promise of rewards in

exchange for sexual favors. Sexual harassment includes a range of actions from verbal transgressions to sexual abuse or assault.

Rape is not the only mode of sexual harassment women face in daily lives. In India, Many such crimes are normalized and go unreported,

### **VICTIM BLAMING**

Victim blaming is the act of blaming the victim for the crime happened. This is common in cases such as sexual harassments and rapes where the victim is blamed for what happened. It mainly says that the crime has been happened due to the dressing of the victim or any of their act or time of travelling. These are very common in India and it's high time that the practice should be stopped.

### **TRAFFICKING**

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act was passed in 1956. However many cases of trafficking of young girls and women have been reported.

### **FLAWS IN LAWS AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

- Due to the lack of proper law, the number of cases of violence against women is increasing day by day.
- This also leads to people not filing cases against many issues.
- “Delayed justice is denied justice”. The delay in finalizing may cause serious issues to the life and mental health of the victim.
- One of the greatest flaw of the law is the privacy of the victim is not properly considered, which, it indeed leads to make people hesitant to file cases.
- Many women doesn't even know about the laws that are available, which also leads to non-existence of the case.

**2**

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Gender violence in India has increased in a tremendous amount in last years. Even though Indian Government has a largest number of laws for women protection the cases against violence increasing day by day.

Rinky Bhattacharya(2004) mentioned that domestic violence ,marital rape and many other problems that are faced by women especially married women go unreported as they are not really considered as real violence or abuse. But still countless women in every culture experience these problems and they are not really taking much steps to stop it. She further accuses that the age old system is the main culprit and change in it can ensure women liberalization from brutality.

Nivedita Menon(2012) describe about what is like to be a feminist or having a feminist view in India. She says that feminism is not about a moment of final triumph over patriarchy but about the gradual transformation of the social field so decisively that old makers shift forever. From sexual harassment charges against international figures to the challenge that caste politics poses to feminism complicate the field irrevocably.

Shilpa Phadke(2011) wrote her book 'Why loiter? Women and risk on Mumbai Streets' After her three years life experience at the Mumbai city. She explains that even at the 21<sup>st</sup> century the freedom of women in public places are very much restricted and not to mention the fact that Mumbai is one of the well developed cosmopolitan city in India. She claims that even after all there years women's freedom has not yet reached a satisfactory pace. Even though womens access to urban public space has increased.They still do not have an equal claim to public space in the city.

SP.Singh(2005) does a rigorous social scientific examination of the issue of violence against women in India, which resulted in the book 'Domestic violence against Women in India'. It draws from the latest criminological research on the nature and extent of such violence and he discusses cultural myths and practices that underlie the problem and examines policies and programmes that respond to it. He also advance his research about justice and social action to tackle the problem.

Uma chakravarthi(2003) discuss about socio-economic and political changes caste based marriage and control over women's sexuality have been crucial for the construction of the caste system in India. She mentions the brutal reprisals that have followed when dalits and women have tried to challenge the caste based marriages and inequality which allots strict rules conduct for

women and all dalits. She highlights in the new ways in which caste violence targets women and on the changes within the family that keep women subsequent to caste norms. She points to the new discussion on an economy in transition to capitalism and persistent conflicts over religion, language, ethnicity, and other difference that relate to gender.

Amitabh singh (2011) In his research identifies that "Female foeticide has indeed became one of the most gravest issue in contemporary world."Also his research further mentions that "Uneven sex ratio all over the world and especially In India has raised doubt on social development".This research will concludes the female foeticides is the need of the hour,as the society cannot move forward and prosper without the development of fairer sex.

Viney Kapoor (2011) Highlights the rights of the daughter under the various personel laws all over the world and discusses that the women were treated like chattel and they are deprived of proprietary rights ubder various International and Indian Laws.He Emphasizes on "Proprietary rights in the sense of their social status ,economic independence ,individual security and assures prosperous and dignified life.

Asmita Bhattacharyya and Dr.Bhola Nath Ghosh(2012) Analyzes "The emergence of Information Technology as a potential employment opportunity for women benefiting their job environment and offering,in principle,least gender discriminations and attempts to analyse the issues of opportunity and constraints the women employees face in the Information technology sector in India which resulted in Women Empowerment".

Amtul Waris and Virakthamath(2013) Considered "gender equality is essential for sustainable development"..The study highlights "discrimination against women in India ,which started from early days and in evident in Sex Ratio." The present study analyze "The gender gap and lists out the strategies in the Twelfth Five Year Plan of Government of India for Women's Empowerment."

**3**

**RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY**

### **3. RESEARCH**

Research is "creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge".It involves the collection, organization, and analysis of information to increase understanding of a topic or issue. A research project may be an expansion on past work in the field. To test the validity of instruments, procedures, or experiments, research may replicate elements of prior projects or the project as a whole.

The goal of the research process is to produce new knowledge or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.

There are two major types of empirical research design: qualitative research and quantitative research. Researchers choose qualitative or quantitative methods according to the nature of the research topic they want to investigate and the research questions they aim to answer:

#### Qualitative research

This involves understanding human behavior and the reasons that govern such behavior, by asking a broad question, collecting data in the form of words, images, video etc. that is analyzed, and searching for themes.

#### Quantitative research

This involves systematic empirical investigation of quantitative properties and phenomena and their relationships, by asking a narrow question and collecting numerical data to analyze it utilizing statistical methods.

### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

Analyzing Indian laws in protection of women.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

- To examine the effectiveness of the laws for women protection.
- To ensure the rights of women.
- To examine the flaws in the laws.
- To know its consequences.
- To study how to overcome it.

## **RESEARCH DESIGN**

Research design refers to the overall strategy utilized to carry out research that defines a succinct and logical plan to tackle established research question(s) through the collection, interpretation, analysis, and discussion of data.

The methodologies and methods incorporated in the design of a research study will depend on the standpoint of the researcher over their beliefs in the nature of knowledge (see epistemology) and reality (see ontology), often shaped by the disciplinary areas the researcher belongs to.

A survey is a research method used for collecting data from a predefined group of respondents to gain information and insights into various topics of interest. The process involves asking people for information through a questionnaire, which can be either online or offline.

## **METHOD OF STUDY**

Quantitative content analysis was chosen as the method of study. In the study, we choose deductive approach to attain findings and conclusion. We referred different books, newspapers and blogs about the violence towards women in India and the laws provided for it.

The study relies on public survey about this subject and used it as main source.

## **FIELD OF STUDY**

The study is conducted on the basis of public survey.

## **PERIOD OF SUTDY**

The study was conducted from 2020 December to 2021 April. The span of time is mainly focused for collecting dates, analyzing newspaper, preparing for survey and reading related books.

## **SELECTING OF SAMPLE STUDYING**

The study is conducted on the basis of analyzing Indian laws in the protection of women through public survey. Its faults or drawbacks. The study indicates the lack of proper operation of the laws for women protection in India and its results.

The research was done among the common people with no gender or age restriction but most of the response was marked from teenagers and youngsters. The research was done on a common base between random people as the subject affects everyone. As per gender women or females were the most to give response. Over 86 people responded to the survey.

**4**

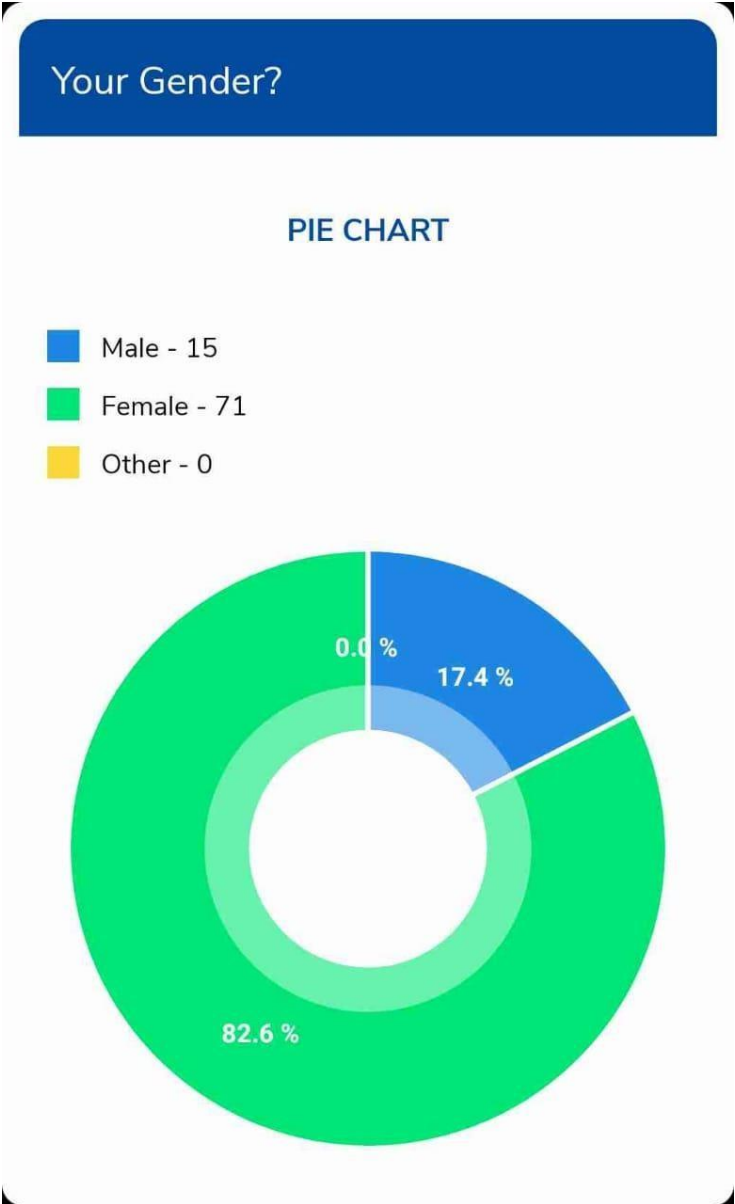
**CONTENT ANALYSIS**

# QUANTITATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS

This survey presents a content analysis of public opinion on the women protection and its laws in India.

## SURVEY

Age of people reacted: 16-45

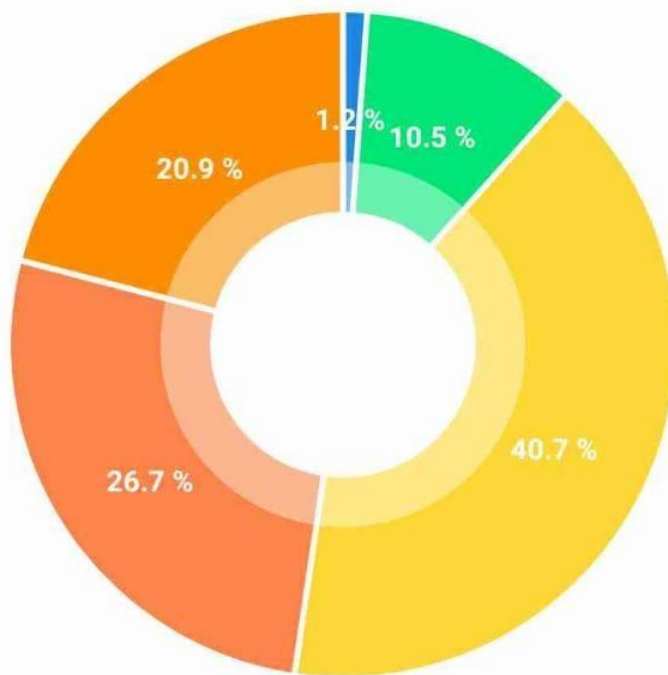


1.

What do you think about women security in India?

PIE CHART

- Excellent - 1
- Good - 9
- Average - 35
- Below average - 23
- Poor - 18



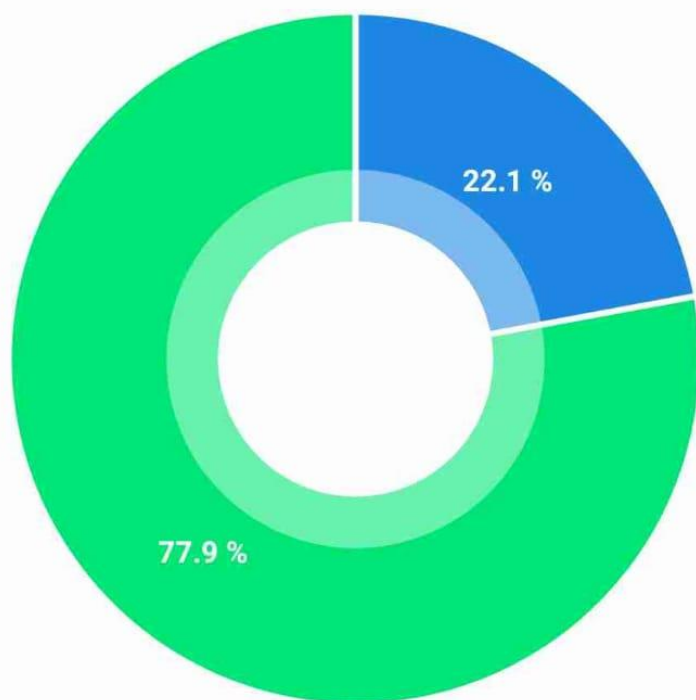
2

Do you believe the laws for women protection are effective?

PIE CHART

Yes - 19

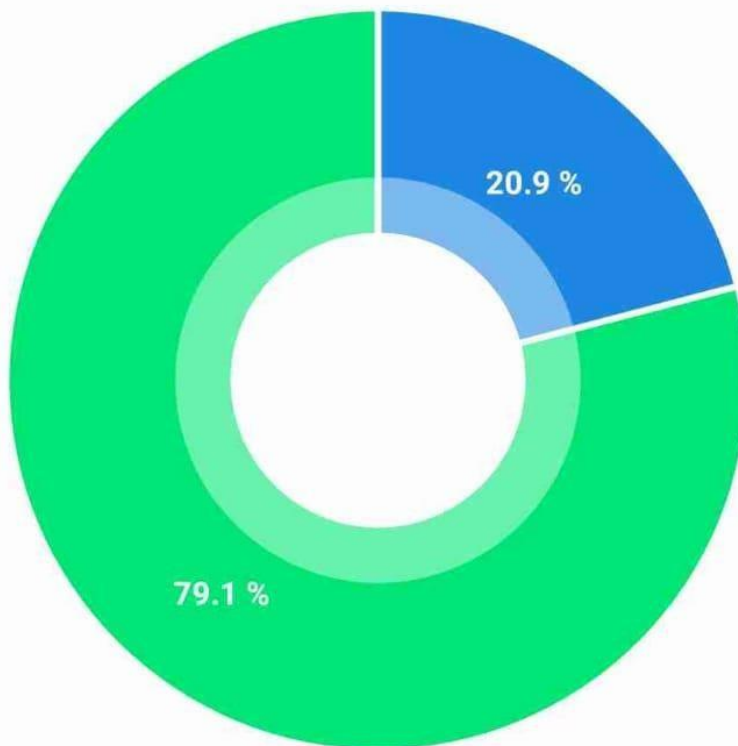
No - 67



Do you think the laws for women protection in Indian are enough?

PIE CHART

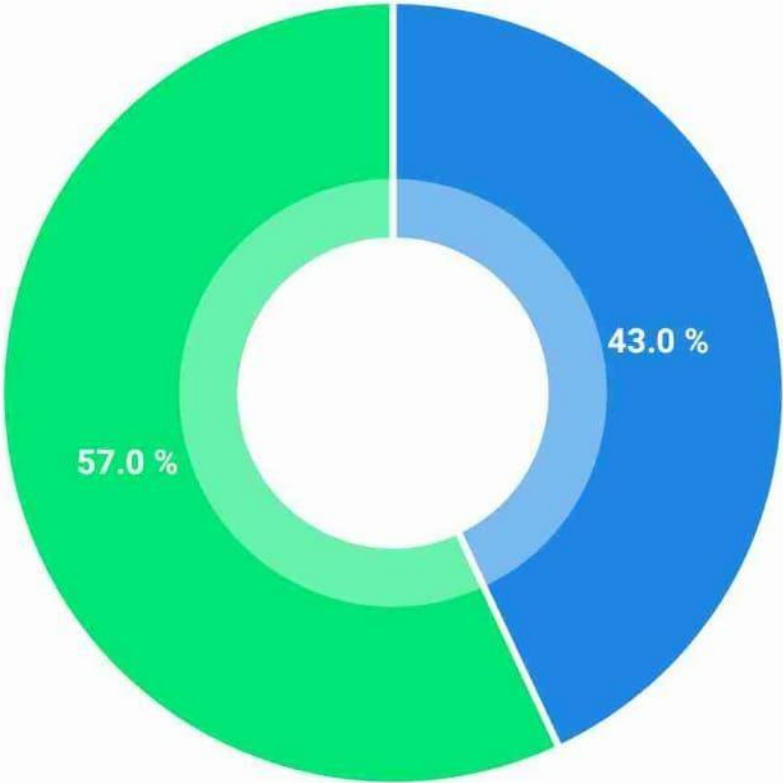
■ YES - 18  
■ NO - 68



Are you aware of all laws for women protection provided by the Indian judiciary?

PIE CHART

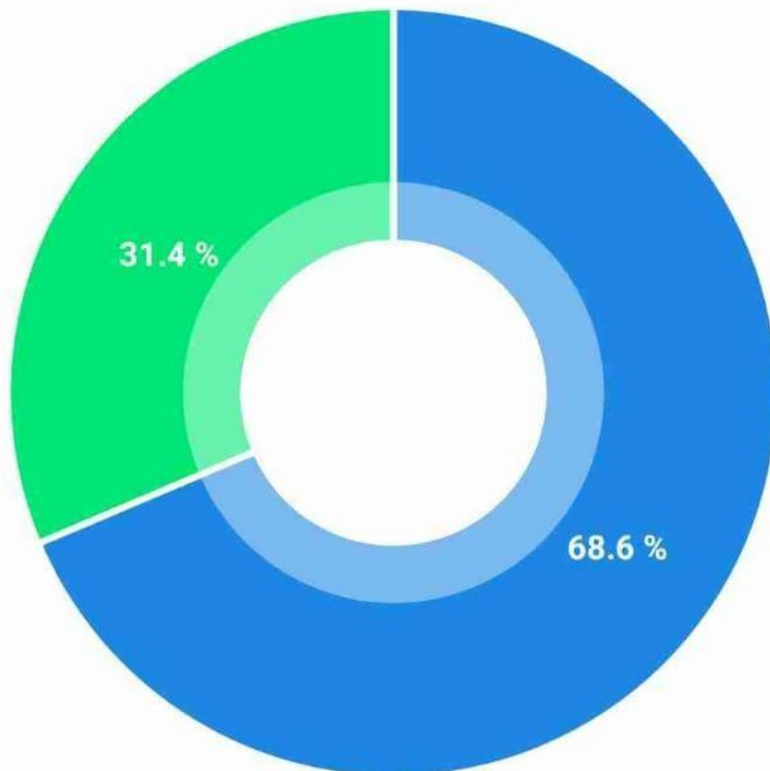
- Yes - 37
- No - 49



Is there a need of criminalizing marital rape (raping the partner after marriage)?

PIE CHART

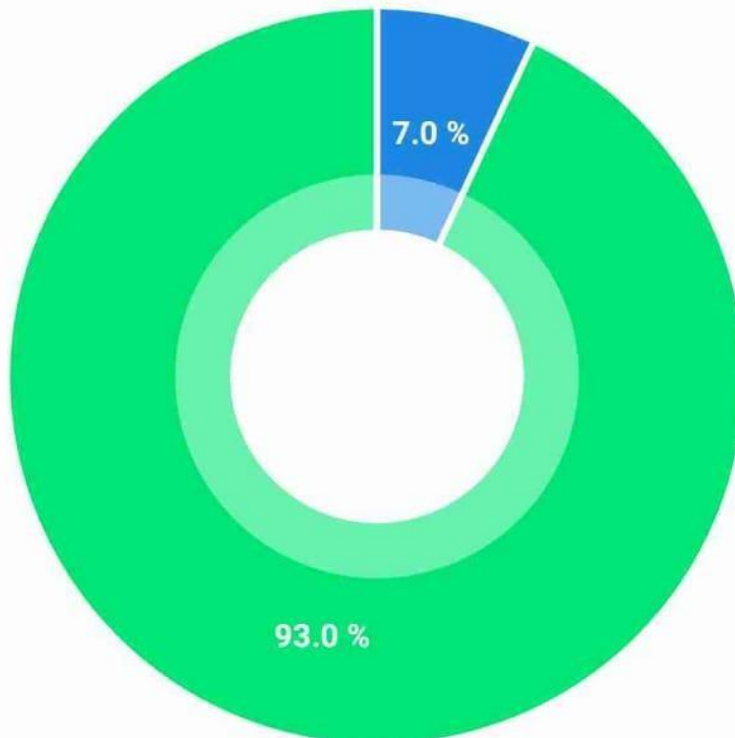
- Yes - 59
- No - 27



Recently an Indian judge supported the 'marring your rapist' theory by asking the rapist to marry the victim. Do you support it?

PIE CHART

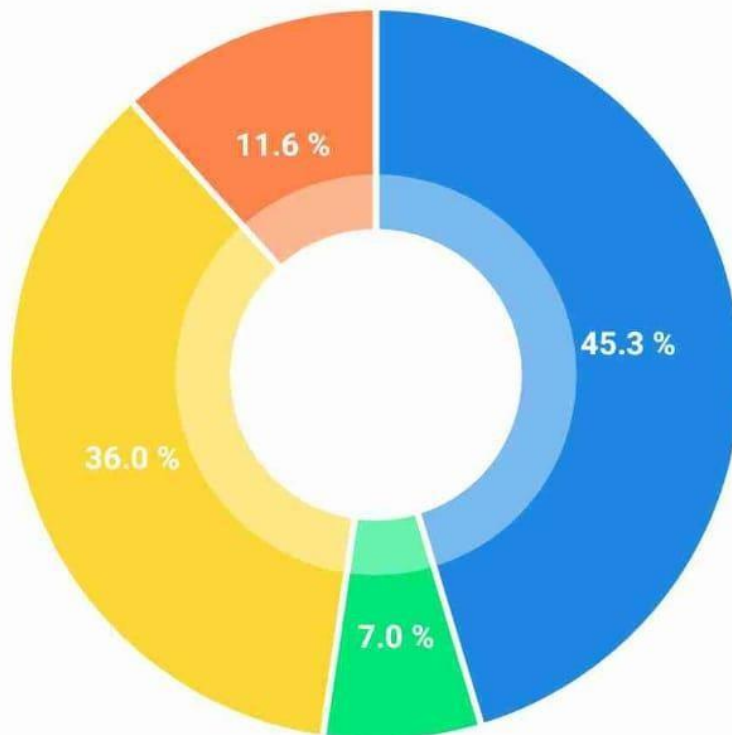
- Yes - 6
- No - 80



Is there still promotion of rape culture by the victim blaming ?

PIE CHART

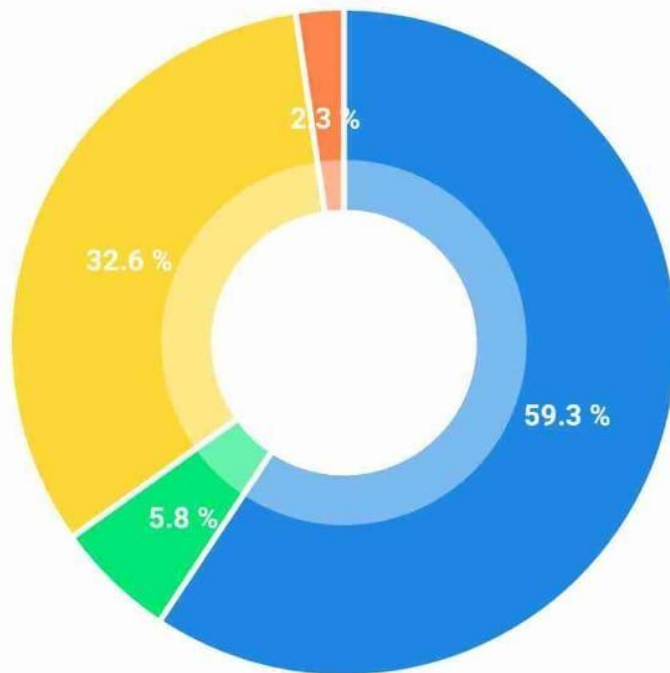
- Yes - 39
- No - 6
- Sometimes - 31
- Never - 10



Do you think women are still hesitant to file cases against domestic violence and harassment at the workplace?

PIE CHART

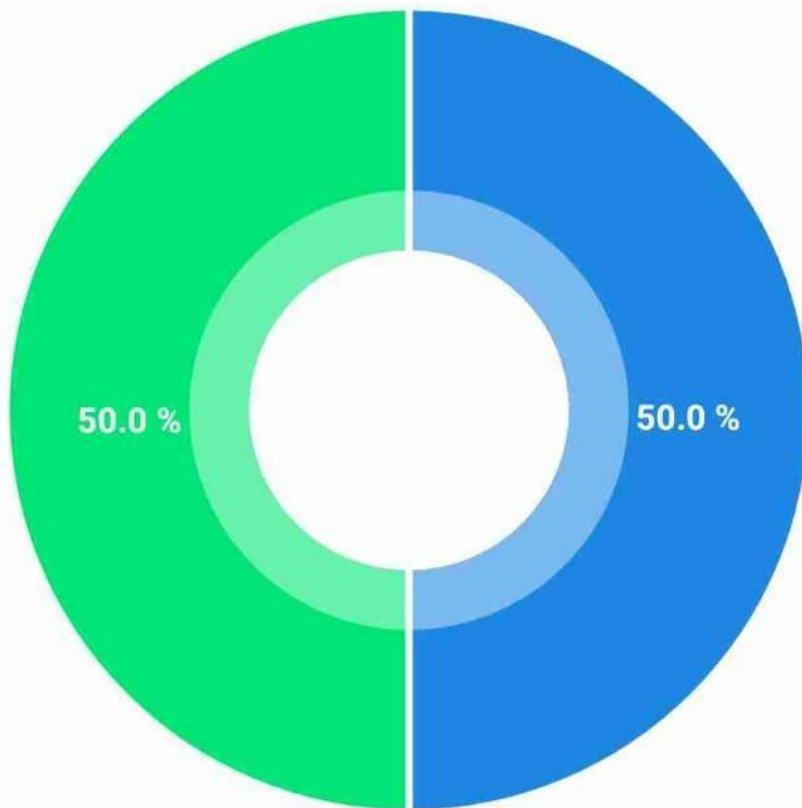
- Yes - 51
- No - 5
- Sometimes - 28
- Never - 2



Do you believe in the idea of feminism ?

PIE CHART

- Yes - 43
- No - 43



## ANALYSIS

### ANALYSING THE SURVEY

As visible from the survey most people reacted to the survey are women.

1. From this we can understand that less than one fourth of the people are satisfied with the women security in India. This means even after passing all these laws women it is still in effective.
2. Almost 78% people agree that the laws for women protection are not effective. This shows either the laws are not enough or working properly.
3. 79.1% people agreed that the laws are not enough. The government should enact proper laws for the protection of women. At many time span of day women are restricted to go outside as to the concern of their safety.
4. Even though there are lot of laws for women protection more than half of the citizens are not aware of it. Even women are not properly aware of their rights. There should be a proper way to acknowledge women of their rights and laws in their favor.
5. Our country still haven't considered marital rape as a crime. 68.6% people support marital rape being criminalized. Having sex with a person without their consent is a serious crime let it be before or after marriage. Marriage cannot be considered as a consent.
6. 'Marring your rapist' is a highly unacceptable theory. Recently in a case of a minor the Supreme Court itself suggested the rapist to marry the victim which can't be accepted even if the victim was a major. This could cause serious trauma and mental stress to the victim. 93% people do not support this suggestion as it is a high injustice to the victim.
7. According to the survey it is visible that victim blaming is still happening in the society. It is totally unacceptable as the victim had nothing to do with the crime and still getting blamed. Victim blaming is equal to justifying the rapist and thus promoting the rape culture.
8. Still most of the domestic violence and harassments at workplaces go unreported. These happen mainly due to emotional attachment, fear of defamation and losing jobs. But these shouldn't even be considered. It is to be taken as a pride to stand against a violence. And fear of losing jobs must not be a reason to tolerate the violence. Safety at the workplace should be guaranteed.
9. In India most people are still not aware of the idea of feminism. They still consider it as a privilege for women. That must be the reason why the survey shows 50-50 on supporting

feminism. Feminism is equality and it should be restored for the balance of the society. We should acknowledge people about the need for feminism and thus build a better society. In this era of development men and women should participate equally in the society.

## **DISCUSSION**

Violence against Indian women is widespread and has deep roots. Here are some reasons behind the issue.

**Few female police.** Studies have found that women are more likely to report sex crimes if female police officers are available. In New Delhi, just 7 percent of police officers are women, and they frequently are given posts that don't involve patrol duty, according to the Times of India.

**Not enough police in general.** There aren't enough police dedicated to protecting ordinary citizens, rather than elites, a recent Brookings Institution article argues. It said that "according to the Times of India, there is one officer for every 200 citizens and about 20 officers for every VIP."

**Blaming provocative clothing.** There's a tendency to assume that the victims of sexual violence somehow brought it on themselves. In a 1996 survey of judges in India, 68 percent of the respondents said provocative clothing is an invitation to rape.

**Acceptance of domestic violence.** A 2012 report by UNICEF found that 57 percent of Indian boys and 53 percent of girls from ages 15 to 19 think wife-beating is justified. A recent national survey also reported that a sizable percentage of women blame themselves for beatings by their husbands.

**Lack of public safety.** The gang rape occurred on a bus, and even Indian authorities say the country's public places can be unsafe for women. Many streets are poorly lit, and there's a lack of women's toilets, a Women and Child Development Ministry report said recently.

**Stigmatizing the victim.** When verbal harassment or groping do occur in public areas, bystanders frequently look the other way rather than intervene, both to avoid a conflict and

because they, on some level, blame the victim, observers say. Also, male politicians make statements that make light of rape or vilify rape victims' supporters.

**Encouraging compromise.** Rape victims are often encouraged by village elders and clan councils to “compromise” with the family of accused and drop charges — or even to marry the attacker. Such compromises are aimed at keeping the peace between families or clan groups.

**Sluggish court system.** India’s court system is painfully slow, in part because of a shortage of judges. The country has about 15 judges for every 1 million people, while China has 159.

**Few convictions.** For rapes that do get reported, India’s conviction rate is no more than 26 percent. There is also no law on the books covering routine daily sexual harassment, which is euphemistically called “Eve-teasing.”

**Low status of women.** Perhaps the biggest issue, though, is women’s overall lower status in Indian society. For poor families, the need to pay a marriage dowry can make daughters a burden. India has one of the lowest female-to-male population ratios in the world because of sex-selective abortion and female infanticide.

**5**

**FINDINGS**

## **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

The major finding evolved after the study of Indian laws for the Women protection and its effect are

- India might have the largest number of laws for women protection but the safety of women is still at risk.
- Many laws are just for name sake and they need to be changed.
- Domestic violence are in serious rate in India and most of them go unreported.
- Many people are still not aware of the need for feminism.
- Most women are still unaware of the laws for their protection and its existence.
- The rape culture is still being promoted by victim blaming.
- The patriarchy in the society is still at its peak.
- Marital rape should be criminalized.
- The women at lower economic status and caste are more at risk than other women.
- Many ancient practices and cultures like the dowry system and all should be abolished for the sake of good.
- Even though women got the freedom to access urban public places they still do not have an equal claim to public space in the city.
- The cultural myths and practices are the main reason that underlies the problem.
- Many people are still not considering marital rape and domestic violence as 'real' violence

and so proper steps are being taken in this case.

- Most cases in the society goes unreported.
- Having a feministic view is considered as a sin in many places. Feminism is a taboo in most places of India.
- The caste violence targets women and on the changes within the family that keep women subservient to cast norms.
- Sustainability in the society can only be gained by gender equality.
- Even with the property right laws property rights are still neglected for women.

**6**

**CONCLUSION**

## 6.1 CONCLUSION

This project critically analyzed the flaws and drawbacks of women protection laws in India. We used various statistical methods for data analysis at its depth.

The violence against women is mushrooming at an alarming rate every single day. Some of the expressions of violence are not considered crimes because of Indian culture and values. They go unreported and undocumented. Due to pervasive faulty justice system, there is no termination to such hideous crimes. The list of violence is huge and continue to grow long. Husbands and in-laws try to extort money or expensive valuables through dowry. If the wife fails to provide them with the things, they demand then they face continuous torture and harassment.

Sexual violence against women is pervasive in India. According to latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), India recorded 88 rape cases every day in 2019. The northwestern state of Rajasthan reported almost 6,000 rape cases in 2019 followed by Uttar Pradesh with 3,065 cases. These figures are likely to be just the tip of the iceberg. Only a fraction of women who are raped file a complaint. Most victims prefer to remain silent because of the social stigma attached to rape. It is not uncommon for the victim to be blamed or for aspersions to be cast on her character.

Although the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 provides for a wider definition of rape and for more stringent punishment, including a longer jail term in most cases of sexual assault and even the death penalty for repeat offenders and in cases that resulted in the victim's death, this hasn't reduced the incidence of rape in India. In fact, the number of reported rape cases has increased by 31 percent over the past 10 years. Clearly, the magnitude of the punishment is not a deterrent to rape. What could deter crime is the certainty of punishment. India's record in this regard is dismal, especially when it comes to rape cases where the victim is a Dalit woman. India's criminal justice system is predominantly male, misogynistic, and upper-caste.

Acid throwing is a brutal act of throwing acid on the person's body or face with the intention to torture, disfigure or kill. They take place if a girl rejects a marriage proposal or refusal for sexual advances. Sometimes, it can even occur due to business disputes or property issues. It is the most common and vicious crime against women. Women are killed, tortured and tormented. The Nirbhaya gang rape experienced a significant increase in rapes. Many cases go unreported, or

complaints are withdrawn due to family honour. Women do not receive justice, and the claims in the court keep on piling.

The laws passed by the government requires refinement and changes. The new rules should be stringent that ensures rapid punishment to the criminals instead of hearings. The police and the judiciary must act quickly in taking action against the culprit. Moreover, men must be instilled the importance and value of a woman in their life. A positive attitude needs to be developed in terms of their equality and growth.

It is this mindset that India and the world — sexual violence is rampant in societies across the world — need to destroy to fight sexual violence. Putting the onus on women to prevent sexual violence is not just absurd but dangerous.

Warning girls and women to not go out alone or to dress and behave in a culturally appropriate, male-mandated way cannot prevent sexual violence. Rather, we need to din into boys and men (as well as women) that aggression is not masculinity and being macho is not “cool.” It is only by tackling misogynistic mindsets among men and women and dismantling the patriarchal aspects of the sanskar that people like Singh uphold that sexual violence can be tackled.

**7**

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**8**

**APPENDIX**

## NEWSPAPER AND ONLINE NEWS

### GENDER PARITY

# India falls 28 spots on 2021 Global Gender Gap index to 140th rank

India was the third-worst performer in South Asia, after Afghanistan and Pakistan. Bangladesh topped the list in the region.

Scroll Staff

Mar 31, 2021 · 06:32 pm



Representative image. | Danish Siddiqui/Reuters

# Woman locked inside toilet for over a year by husband rescued in Haryana

The woman's husband, however, alleged that she was intentionally made unstable and that there was no improvement in her condition despite taking her to doctors.

By: [Express Web Desk](#) | New Delhi

Updated: October 23, 2020 11:47 11 am



Women Protection and Child Marriage Prohibition Officer  
Gupta, who led the operation, said that the woman did not seem mentally unstable and that it looked like she is starved.  
(Source: ANI)

READ  
IN APP



# Multifold spike in domestic violence complaints during lockdown

By Ridhima Gupta | Express News Service | Published:

05th November 2020 11:25 AM



X

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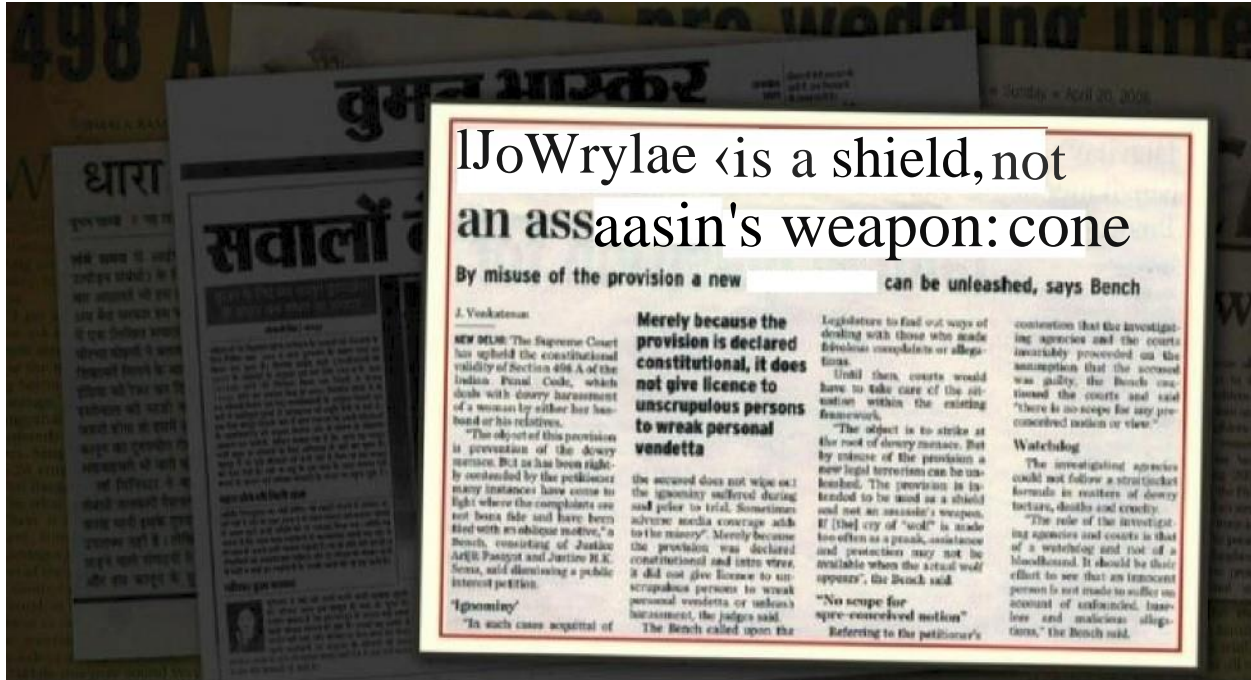
# Alarm as rape prosecutors are urged to abandon 'weaker' cases

*The conviction rate goes up to 61% if we take 350 weak cases out of the system*

CPS training seminar







= Oini\tax rxxrss

Shocker as SC asks alleged rapist if he'll marry victim

Express News Service | Published: 02nd March 2021

08:55 AM



Supreme Court (Photo | Shekhar Yadav, EPS)

# Lockdown 'tinderbox' as family abuse soars

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**Tammy Mills**  
Legal affairs reporter

**NEWS**  
Reprieve for volunteer court service

**PAGE 9**

More women are coming forward for the first time to report family violence, according to Victorian research that shows COVID-19 lockdowns have worsened the potential for abuse in many homes.

In what researchers believe to be Australia's first published study measuring the early impacts of the crisis on domestic violence, Monash University surveyed 166 family violence victim support practitioners across Victoria during a four-week period from the end of April.

"With the families being stuck at home, with even the playgrounds in our area roped off, this has been a tinderbox in many households and has made the circumstances for many women unbearable," one practitioner said.

The report found:

■ Almost 60 per cent of practitioners said the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the frequency of violence against women. Half of

respondents said the severity of violence had increased;

■ The number of first-time family violence reports had gone up for 42 per cent of practitioners; and

■ Practitioners were struggling working from home, which was "wreaking havoc" on their boundaries and mental health.

Family violence workers are also reporting new forms of violence, including perpetrators demanding that women wash their hands and body excessively, to the point that they bled, and spreading rumours that victims had COVID-19 so no one would come near them.

Practitioners also reported perpetrators were not letting women out of their homes, "to protect them" from coronavirus, and were

**Continued Page 8**

## Bengal woman gangraped by six, **han1r>kered to dk**

**HORROR STORY** Husband battles for life after being forced to drink acid by accused; liver and kidney



**IN ANOTHER INCIDENT,** ALL EVIDENCE WILLED BY HER FIANCÉ, HIS FRIEND

**Mission Majnu: MP cops shame roadside romances**

**MP Copassaults**

**has decided to withdraw charges**

article14

Justice. Constitution.  
Democracy.



# How India's Rape-Survivors End Up Marrying Their Rapists

Updated: Aug 26, 2020



**SHIELD'**

Section 41 lays down a 9-point checklist for police to follow before arrest after conduct of the accused, in 'NB possibility of exasperation over rampant misuse of Section 498A, a bench of justices CK Prasad and BC Tiwari said if Alice read the accused. the magistrate should weigh the preliminary evidence under Section 41 : checklist allow further detention.

**'by disgruntled wives'**

➤ Cops to apply 9-point checklist under Sec 41 of CrPC before making arrests

➤ Magistrate to weigh preliminary evidence before allowing further detention

registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under the parameters (checklist) provided under the criminal

convicted cases, it directs governments "not to auto-arrest when a case under 498A of IPC is

the husband and his

> b••ma•ek<case> s .

## DOWRY CASE

# Husband, in-laws booked for assaulting 22-year-old woman

HT Correspondent

■ chandigarh@hindustantimes.com

**PANCHKULA:** A Kalka man, along with his parents, has been booked for allegedly assaulting and harassing his wife for dowry.

Rajni, 22, of Tanda village in Chandimandir told the police that she had got married to Balwinder Singh in 2016, soon after which he, his father Gurmukh Singh, mother Kamlesh, and brother Lakhwinder Singh started harassing her for dowry.

"My mother-in-law and my husband used to abuse and beat me on several occasions, and demanded ₹10 lakh and jewellery items from me," Rajni has alleged in her complaint.

Police said the woman informed her parents, who then approached the police.

"We have registered a case

 My mother-in-law and husband used to abuse and beat me on several occasions, and demanded ₹10 lakh and jewellery items from me.

RAJNI, victim in her complaint

under Sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code on the basis of the medical reports and the allegations made by the victim. Investigations are on," said Chandimandir station house officer inspector Naveen Kumar.

# Her dream didn't even last for three months

## Software Engineer Killed for Dowry, Alleges Father

THE NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore. At 1 am on Thursday, neighbours heard her cry for help. Half an hour later they saw a car leave her house. It was only in the morning that they realized Sowmya was dead.



Sowmya Chandra

The incident happened at ITI Colony in Chandra Layout. Neighbours talk about it in hushed tones, and do not want their name to be dragged into "unnecessary complications".

On May 9, Sowmya Chandra (20), a software engineer, was a happy girl. She thought she had found an ideal partner in Arjunash Babushan (20). A graduate from Malnad Engineering College, Hassan, she worked in Bangalore for the past three years. Three months of marital life, and fate, it seems, had different plans for her.

In the wee hours of Thursday, Arjunash brought Sowmya's body to a private hospital. He claimed that Sowmya had hanged herself while he tried to save her. However, Sowmya's father Chandrabhekar has a different



**REVEALED:** Grief-stricken mother and relative of software engineer Sowmya, who is said to have committed suicide, in Bangalore on Thursday



Gul Naaz with her children before the acid attack which left her disfigured and blind in one eye (inset)

SHE waited for justice for seven years but it was all in vain. Gul Naaz came to know earlier this week that a court has exonerated the men accused of throwing acid on her and leaving her disfigured for life.

Her fault: She had dared to open a beauty parlour in Kishtwar district of Jammu.

"Two men who threw acid on me at the petrol station for a night on Sunday the next day. The case went to the sessions court. I was called once to record my statement. I was told that I'll be called again, but it never happened," Naaz, 34, said.

"The police informed me on Tuesday that the case has been closed and the accused exonerated by the court," she said, adding that she plans to file an

**'All these years I have gone through hell for nothing and those who attacked me are roaming freely'**

# Kashmiri victim letdowa@law

opposed against the driver.

In 2006, Naaz, who has three children, opened a beauty parlour in Wawor near her home. Her husband had suffered serious injuries in a traffic accident.

She sent two returns — Sagod Ahmad and the driver — to the beauty parlour or she would have to face serious consequences.

"I just laughed at Sajjad, who was also the imam of a local mosque. I thought they were joking."

Naaz said the court's decision is a relief. "The men who attacked me are roaming freely," she said.

Kulbir Singh, additional SP of Kishtwar, said the police filed a complaint against the driver a month later. "I don't know what happened in the court," he said. Arrrdu In fact, police seemed to be some personal rivalry between the woman and the driver, which led to the attack.

Naseer Ganai in Srinagar

# WHY INDIAN WOMEN DON'T FEEL SAFE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY

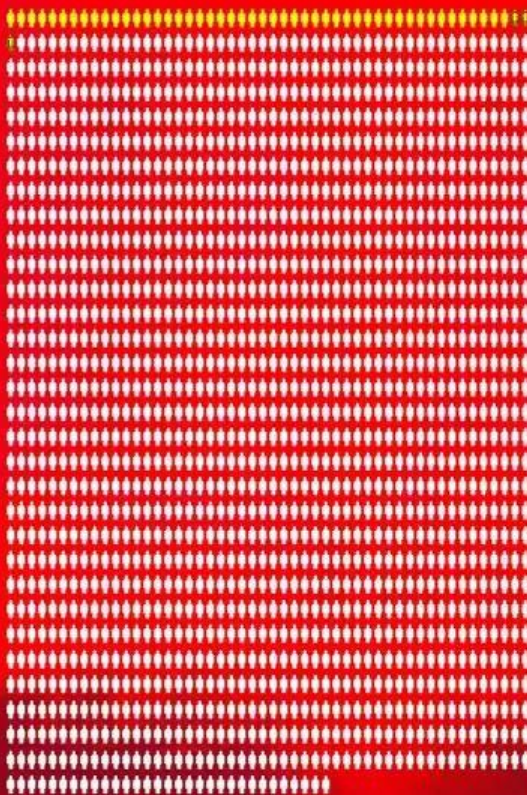


Crime against women: Lawmakers are lawbreakers



**NEARLY 30%**  
of all legislators  
have a criminal  
background

**1,581**  
sitting legislators  
have a criminal  
record



**51**  
are involved in  
crime against  
women

**3 MPs, 48 MLAs**  
of these **4** have rape  
cases against them



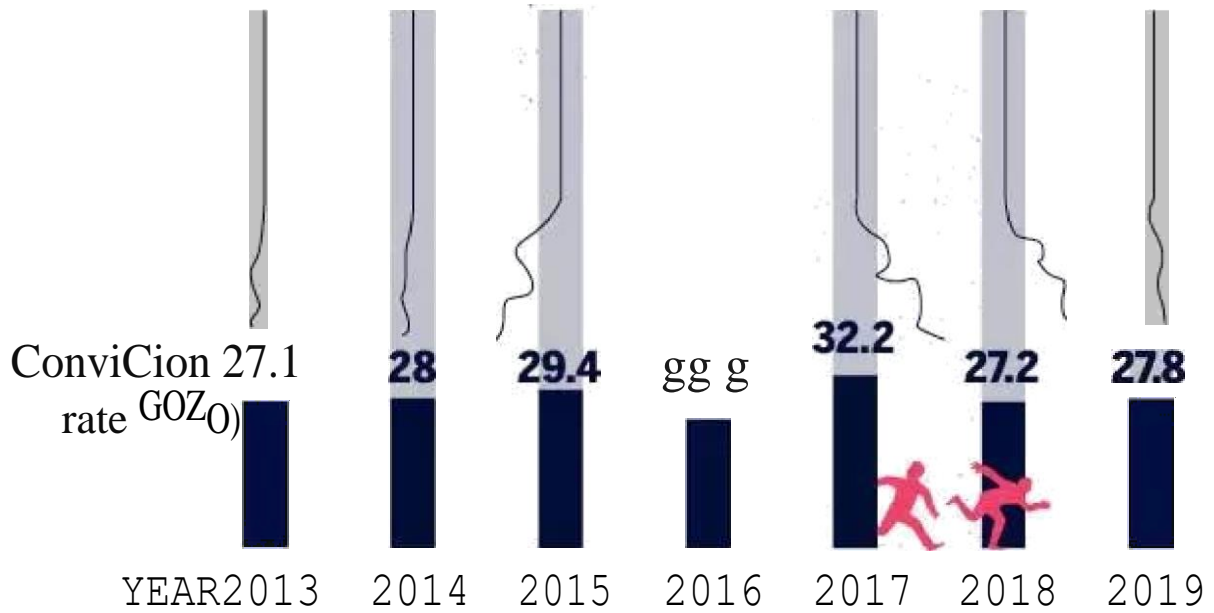
Source: ADR India



FOR MORE INFOGRAPHICS DOWNLOAD TIMES OF INDIA APP



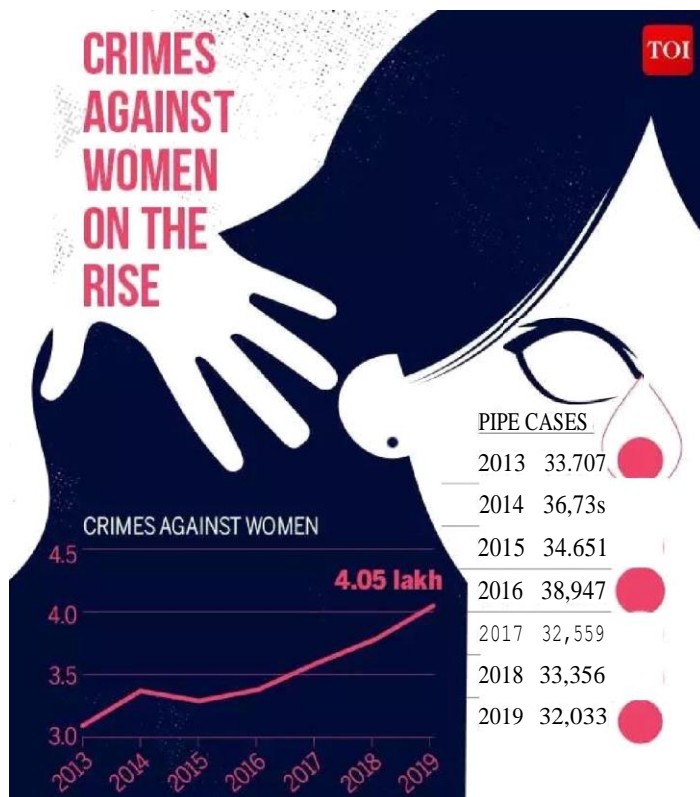
# POOR CONVICTION RATE\*



\*for rape cases

Source: NCRB

# CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN ON THE RISE



WHAT THE  
LATEST NCRB DATA  
REVEALS ABOUT

WOMEN'S

IN INDIA

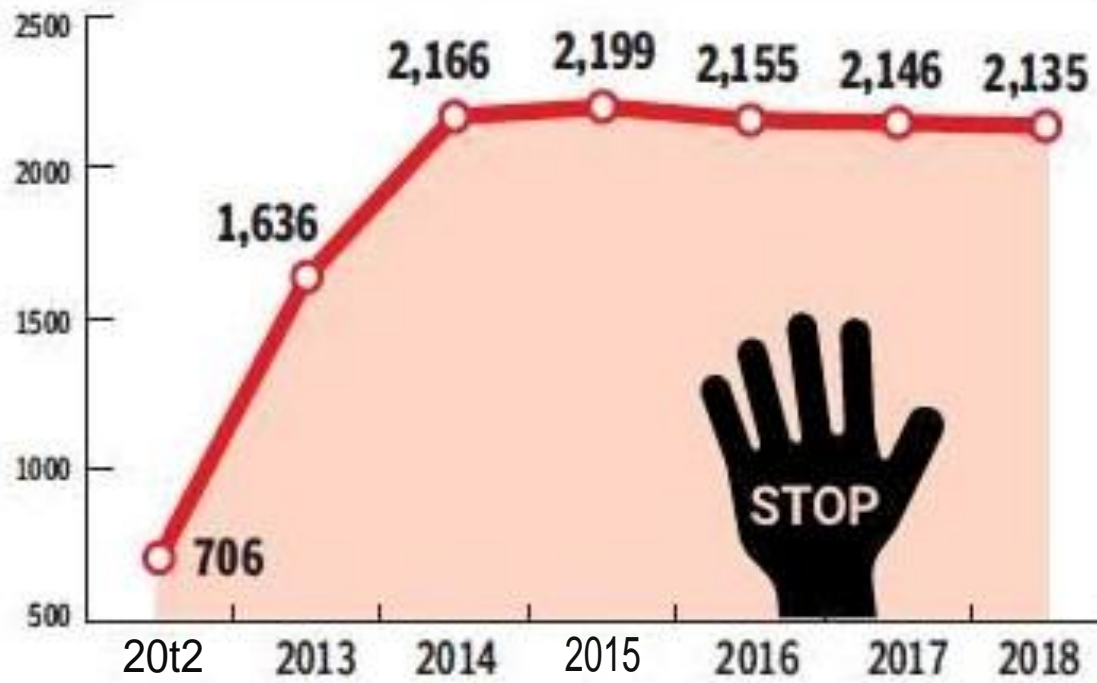


Asault with

trafficking Rape Attempt to rape intent to outrage modesty

2 BAYS 2 HOURS NifNñTE s 2 HOURS EVENT G MINUT ñS

# WoitRYI9fi S7AFIS7ICS



## Cases up to July 15



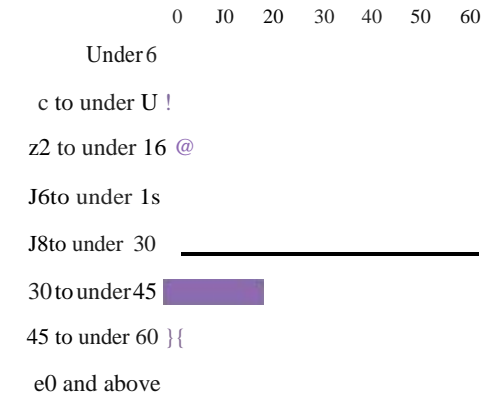
# Rape cases in India

More than 145,000 rape cases were pending trial in Indian courts by end-2019, the latest year for which data is available.

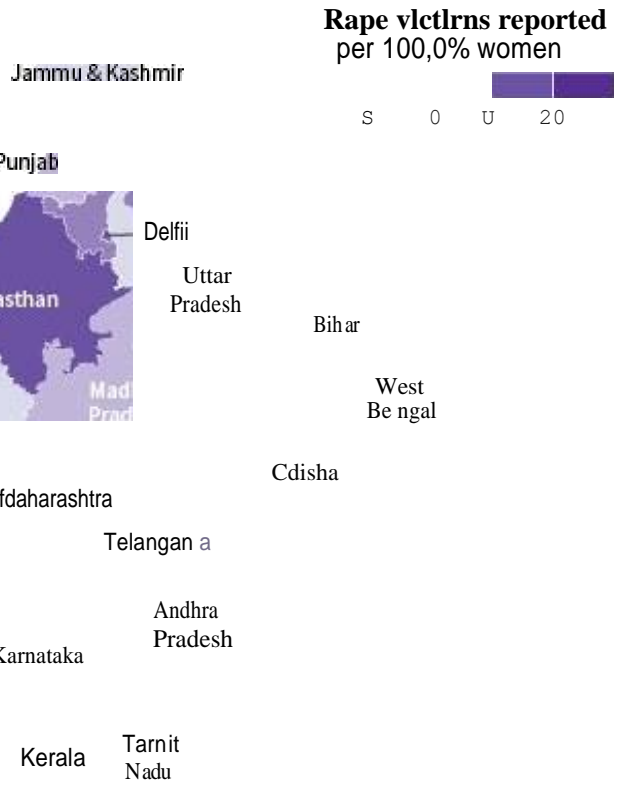
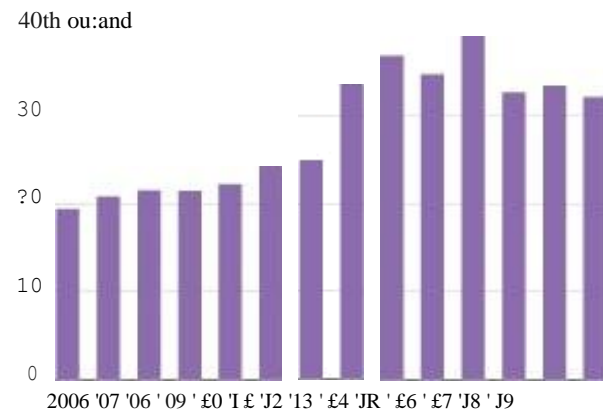
## Rape cases with female victims by age group

Out of the over 32,000 reported victims in 2019, about 15 percent of the victims are children.

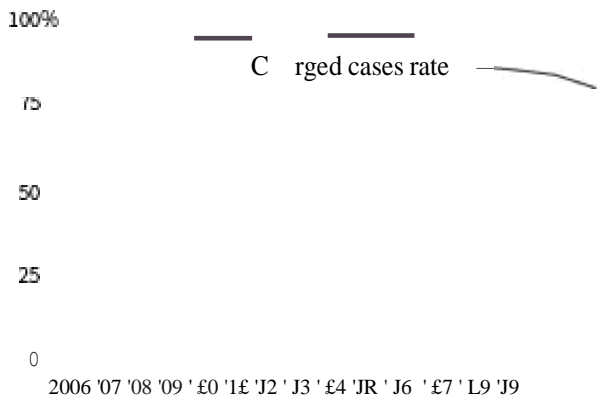
Out of the over 32,000 reported victims in 2019, about 15 percent of the victims are children.



## Total rape cases reported by year



## Charged cases and conviction rate



Note: Crime statistics in India follows the primary offence rule. In an event where the victim is raped and murdered, the incident will be recorded as a murder and not rape, because the primary offence is what the government considers the "most heinous crime" - in this case, murder. Such cases will be excluded from data about rape. Figures for West Bengal are *mom* 2018.

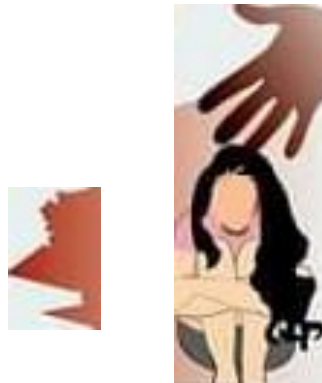
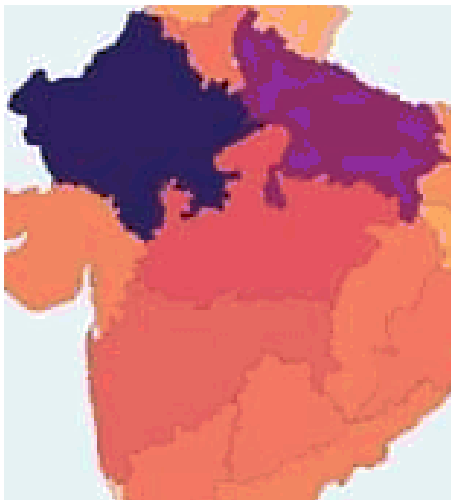
Source: National Crime Records Bureau: Census of India 2011.

# 10 EVERY DAY IN INDIA

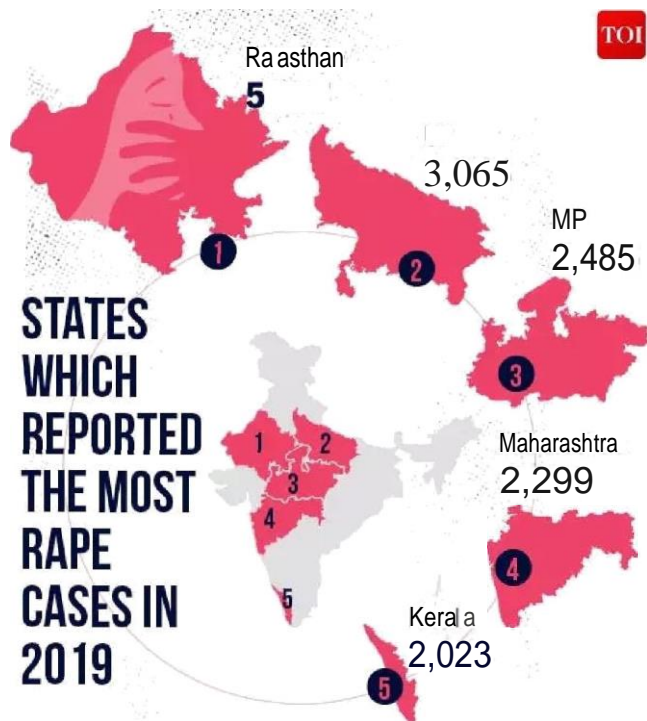
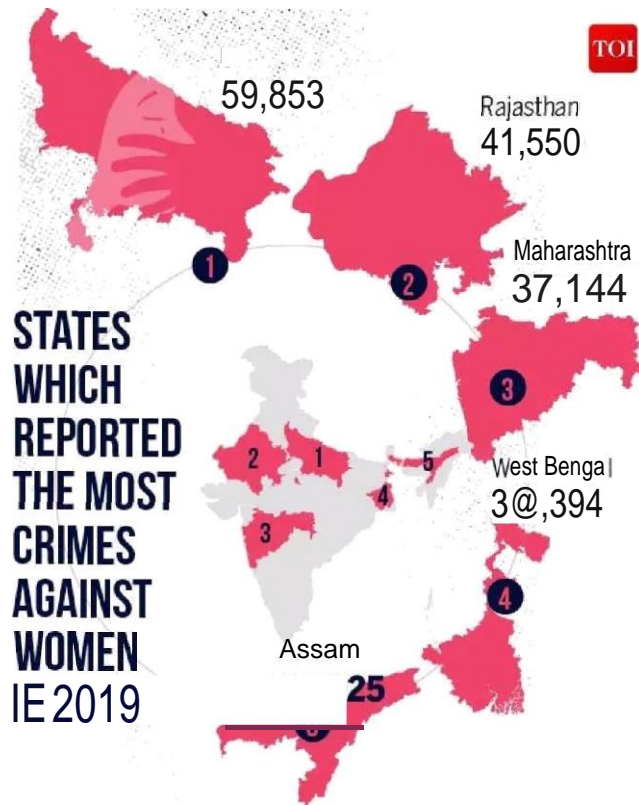
NEARLY 3,500 DALIT WOMEN WERE RAPED IN 2019,  
'W HONG-TMR00PSMSC\$SESDPP0RT85PP0K1  
RAJASTHAN AND UTTAR PRADESH

## REPORTED DALIT RAPE CASES IN 2019

0 523 554



Data for J&K and Ladakh not available  
Data from West Bengal are not available in CII  
report for 2019 report, data furnished for 2018  
has been used for the same;  
Map: Dipu Rai Graphic; Sarfaraz



END