

## Regional Dimension of Crime against Women in India

Manju Sharma<sup>1</sup> and Sandeep Kumar<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

Development is nothing for any country without the safety, happiness and respect of its people, especially children and women. Any violence alters sufferers' physical and psychological status and generates feelings of fear, dishonesty, and immorality in the related community. Contrary to this, the violence-free milieu in any nation signifies its social and economic prosperity. Whether inside or outside the threshold, the violence or crime incidences against women are incredibly apprehensive for India. The study desires to analyze the temporal variations in some such selected incidents. To determine the level of accountability of different sources, the authors tried to establish the correlation between particular crime happenings and their determinants. The secondary information findings reveal that most Indian women undergo mental and emotional torture and cruelty in their households, either by husbands or their relatives, rather than any other crime. Moreover, assaulting, kidnapping, abduction, and rapes are significant outdoor concerns. In terms of population and area, the bigger states recorded the highest criminal incidents against women, but the condition is not better in economically and socially developed states.

Keywords: Immorality, Apprehension, Assaulting, Emotional and Violence.

### Introduction

A woman is much more than herself, and any threat or harm to her existence is a big attack on human rights that will invite hazards to humanity itself and the natural panorama. Despite being a significant counterpart of society, they often suffer from many unpleasant incidents in and out of doors. In the criminological discussions, it is seen that

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Dayanand College, Hisar, Affiliated to Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar-125001, India.  
 Email : manju.haritash@gmail.com  
 Manju Sharma ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6014-7424>
2. Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Institute of Integrated and Honors Studies, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra-136119, India. Email : sandeepihs@kuk.ac.i

Received on 15.06. 2022, Accepted on 8.11.2022

women along with children has remained soft and prime target from household conflicts to massive wars and battles worldwide. Many historical shreds of evidence prove that rape, indecent representation of women or sexual violence have been exercised as weapons to defeat the opposite in wars and clashes (Khanna, 2008). For example, in 1947, during the partition of India, several females from both countries endured sexual brutality in the name of caste and religion. Even after being a victim, relatives compelled them to suicide in reverence of the family's reputation (Dey, 2016). Women suffer the detrimental mindset of males from pre-birth to death. They are nipped in buds when incarnate as the foetus in the mother's womb. Suppose they succeed in birth anyhow; the claptrap social customs make their lives harder, stressful and horrendous beyond the limits (Sharma et al., 2018). Amazingly, she has not been accepted as a family member and is eligible for reputation in the family without producing a baby boy (Nongbri, 2016). In other words, from womb to tomb, a woman must follow a systematic way designed by a patriarchal hierarchy. Often, she fails to uncork the discrimination, and the circle of violence always follows her like a shadow and just like a river, she ends her life only searching for her own identity.

The literary shreds of evidence also disclose that, maximum times, a woman has to allow a male to rule over her without this issue, whether he is able or not. In most cases, that male is her father in childhood, husband in womanhood and son in her elderly phase. According to the UN women's report (2018), about one-fourth country has no laws to protect women against domestic violence. They are equally susceptible for general crimes as well as gender-specific, but being a sensitive matter, these are under-reported worldwide. Women at a young age are more susceptible of street-based and other forms of sexual harassment at their workplaces. Inclusively, less or more universally, many women endure the violence either by ill-treatment, taunting, beating or avoiding, blackmailing or unnatural sexual exercises and abusing their life partners. Such violent behaviour is like a public catastrophe that physically and emotionally affects the victim and jeopardises human cohesion and ethics. It also challenges the aim of equality or a gender-free society where every girl or woman can feel safe and enjoy her all rights.

### Facts about Atrocities Faced by Women: Past to Present

Paradoxically, in a country like India, whose peace and non-violence have remained efficacious armaments and a woman is called *Devi*, a girl child must suffer hostility, physical versus psychological and familial versus communal. While discussing our religious scriptures, folk tales, local proverbs and other non-material heritage, we encounter several misconducts, ferocities and abuse against women. Here, being or not being faulty of any woman character in others' views is not a matter of conversation, rather than this is only a victim-centred discussion by female perspective. The curse of converting *Ahilya* to a statue by her husband, sage *Gautama* and letting *Lord Indra* free, who contributed the same in sin, presents an example of unequal punishment for equal blame.

In the great epic of *Ramayana*, the assault of *Surpankha* (sister of *Ravana*), kidnapping of *Sita* (leading female character) by *Ravana* and then *agnipariksha* and exile by *Rama* are some other examples of this kind. In *Mahabharata*, the kidnapping of three sisters by the legendary character of *Bhisma* from their wedding ceremonies is another example. Moreover, sharing *Draupadi* with five *Pandavas*, placing her at stake, grabbing her with hair, publicly humiliating her by *Duryodhana*, and then stripping her sari by *Dusashana* were some other mythological samples of crime against women in older times. Such incidences disgrace women and represent males' conservative philosophy and dominating nature. Why does society blame a woman when she opposes ongoing cruelty from family members or outsiders? There is no answer, but the authors think the community doesn't want to perceive women beyond their assumptions of being '*Dhra sa Dhcer*' and '*Abla*', which means tolerant like the earth and weaker sex.

From the equivalent significance to men throughout the flagging position in middle age to equal rights in the modern era, the journey of Indian women has remained more doleful. She is the eyewitness of high discrimination. It was the medieval period when women faced mistreatment on a large scale in the name of various traditions and customs. The marriage in early childhood, instructions of always remaining indoors, and being a follower of her husband are described as necessary for an ideal wife in '*Stri Dharma*' by *Tryambakavajom*, an administrator at *Tanjavur*. The *Parda Pratha* in the *Mughal age*, ban on widows' remarriage, polygamy, and *Sati Pratha* also prove unfairness to women throughout the period. It was the 19<sup>th</sup> century when many social movements started to rupture those hogwash practices of the society that allowed the exploitation of women in the name of religion (Verma et al., 2017). This succession of reforms continued in the form of statutes that resulted in attaining social freedom, security, equality, respect and dignity, and political rights by the Constitution of Independent India. The police records also claim that reporting crimes against women are increasing due to media awareness, public support, speedy investigation, inquiry, trial and responsive handling of such sensitive cases by the judiciary. An increase in the female literacy rate has equally contributed to such reporting. It makes women conscious for their rights and helps to mend the ill-mentality of individuals or groups. (Sharma and Kumar, 2020). Even after having so many social welfare legislations and stringent punitive laws, women suffer from various types of violence, harassment, bantering, vulgarity, threatening, etc., at domestic and international levels.

#### Objectives

The study wishes to go with the following objectives:

- To study the trends and patterns of crime against women in India at states and union territories levels from 2001 to 2020.

- To explore the responsible factors for increasing crime rates against women nationwide.
- To review and understand the administrative and judicial responses within the existing framework to address these crimes.

#### Data Source and Methodology

Being a sensitive matter and keeping in mind to limitations of primary information, the present study analyses the secondary data in all suitable ways. The annual reports of crimes printed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and police records are sources of crime statistics. Twenty years (2001-2020) data is exercised with continuity to make comparisons and change detections. However, legally, many crime incidences have been re-classified under different sub-headings in recent years. Yet, the same incidents registered under the Indian Penal Code 1860 are considered to ensure similarities in analysis. These are rape (section 376), kidnapping & abduction (sections 363-373), dowry death (sections 302, 304B), assault on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty (section 354) and insult to the modesty of women (section 509). It also includes cruelty by husband or relatives of husband (section 498A), and cases registered under special laws fall under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986. The Census enumeration has been suspended for further due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So, statistics like literacy, scheduled caste population, and urbanization are taken from the Primary Census Abstract (Census of India, 2011) to examine the correlation of crime facts with possible determinants. Information related to the below poverty line (BPL) population is derived from Press Note on Poverty Estimates, 2011-12, Government of India and Planning Commission for getting evenness with other data. The numbers of states and UTs in India have been updated chronologically. As a part of the methodology, with different appropriate ways (tabulations and mapping), the composite index is used to observe the overall crime pattern at the state and UTs levels. Karl Pearson's correlation is applied to reveal the existing interrelationship among crime variables. Kendall's ranking method is exercised to calculate the composite index as:

$$\text{Composite Index of Crimes } I_j = \sum_{i=1}^n R_{ij}$$

Here  $R_{ij}$  is the rank of  $i$ th crimes in the  $j$ th State/UT, and  $n$  is the number of selected crimes.

Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient identifies the association between crimes against women and their key determinants.

$$r = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][n\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

[Where r is the Coefficient of correlation (Karl Pearson's) and n = no. of observations, x and y = variables].

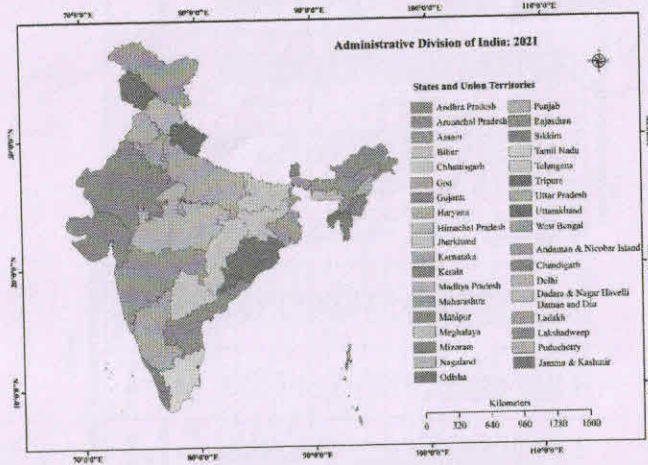


Fig. 1 Administrative Map of Study Area

Source: By authors

**Study Area**

In South Asia, with recognition for its natural and artificial diversities, India is the selected site for the present study (Fig. 1). The country has a great history of several blue stockings and ad monitors in ancient times to rulers, warriors and parsons in the medieval period. Adding to the achievement of recent times, leaders, astrologers, scholars, doctors, engineers, pilots, business holders, excellent entrepreneurs and others, the nation has much more glorification for females. There are many literary or oral substantiations of the prosperity and achievements of women. Equally, they have many incidences of rape, assault, burning alive or murder in homes or outside in the same country. Infact, they continuously face various forms of nastiness from purported Satyug to Kalyug in great Bharatvarsh. Apart from legal procedures, they have to perform *Agni Priksha* willingly or forcibly to prove themselves innocent.

**Results and Discussions**

In India, the statistics have documented increasing incidences of crimes against women for every year, despite having the punishment of lifelong locking up to death in the IPC and other special or local laws (Fig. 2). It is a negative sign for the sustainable development of the nation. While analysing the official temporal statistics of NCRB, we find that in 2001, rape cases were 16075, followed by 14645 kidnappings and abduction, 6851 dowry deaths, 34124 assaults on women intended to outrage her modesty, and 9746 insults to the modesty.

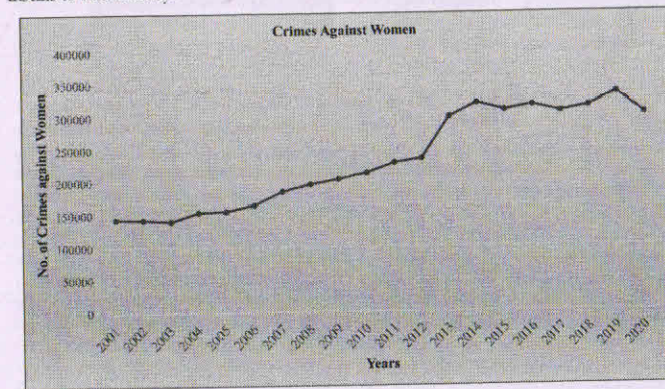


Fig. 2: Trends of Crimes against Women (2001-2020)

Source: National Crime Record Bureau, India.

There were 49170, 8796 and 1052 cases of cruelty by husbands or relatives, immoral traffic and indecent representation of women, respectively. The year 2005 documents the 155553 overall incidents of crime against women in India in which reporting of rape, kidnapping, dowry death and assault was 18359, 15750, 6787 and 34175 in that order.

In 2011, 73097 crime episodes were observed, more than in 2005, and 228650 incidents were registered. During this year, the maximum reporting (99135) was of cruel behaviour of husband or next to kin, followed by the physical attack (42968), kidnapping and abduction (35565), rape (24206), dowry death (8618) and immoral trafficking (Fig. 2 and Table 1). The data of 2015 reported a total of 308536 incidences of crime with an absolute addition of 73363 compared to 2012. After insignificant fluctuations from 2016 to 2019,

Principal  
Dayanand College  
HISAR

Table 1  
Trend of crime against women in India, 2001-2020

Sl. No.	Years	Rape	Kidnapping and Abduction	Dowry Death	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Her Modesty	Insult to the modesty of women	Cruelty by Husband or Relatives	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act	Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act	Total Crimes Against Women
1.	2001	16075	14645	6851	34124	9746	49170	8796	1052	143795
2.	2002	16373	14506	6822	33943	10155	49257	6598	2508	143054
3.	2003	15847	13286	6208	32939	12325	50703	5510	1043	140001
4.	2004	18233	15578	7026	34567	10001	58121	5748	1378	154333
5.	2005	18359	15750	6787	34175	9884	58319	5908	2917	155553
6.	2006	19348	17414	7618	36617	9866	63128	4541	1562	164765
7.	2007	20737	20416	8093	38734	10650	75920	3568	1200	185312
8.	2008	21467	22959	8172	40413	12214	81344	2660	1025	195857
9.	2009	21397	25741	8383	38711	11049	89546	2474	845	203304
10.	2010	22172	29795	8591	40613	9961	94041	2499	895	213585
11.	2011	24206	35865	8618	42968	8570	99135	2436	453	228650
12.	2012	24923	38262	8233	45351	9173	106527	2563	141	235173
13.	2013	33703	51881	8083	70739	12589	118866	2579	362	298802
14.	2014	36735	57311	8465	82235	9735	122877	2070	47	319465
15.	2015	34651	59277	7634	82422	8685	113403	2424	40	308536
16.	2016	38947	64519	7621	84746	7305	110378	2214	38	315768
17.	2017	32559	66333	7466	86001	7451	104551	1536	25	305922
18.	2018	33356	72751	7166	89077	6992	103272	1459	22	314115
19.	2019	32033	72780	7115	88367	6939	126298	1185	23	333740
20.	2020	28046	62300	6966	85392	7065	111549	868	12	302198

Source: National Crime Records Bureau, India

there was a reporting of 302198 episodes of crime in 2020. Alike the previous pattern, in recent (2020), domestic violence in the form of unkindness from her life partner and his relatives has been reported as 111549 cases, followed by 85392 assaults, 62300 kidnappings and abduction and 28046 rape. As compared to the increase in the previous decade (2001-2010), the later (2011-2020) period has witnessed to dropping in cases of dowry deaths and indecent representation of women. The less number (868) of trafficking incidences at the country level confirms the prevention measures regarding immoral trafficking or under-reporting. The general information clears that domestic violence (cruelty by husband and family members) is more common in Indian society in every period. Except for an insignificant decline in some years, the total crime against women in India has increased by 2020 (Fig. 2). However, some kinds of crime have declined, which is good from a women's perspective. In the case of domestic violence, its prevalence is extensively supported by profoundly rooted discrimination against women and male dominance in society. Even after having more or equal capability and getting opportunities, women are rarely considered equal to men in social practices and professional areas. If any woman exercises her right to move forward against their will, the patriarchal power (generally husband or fathers-in-law in case of married) tries to tease or torture her to back away, and the degree and nature of violence rise as the disobeying or opposition increase from her side. In case of wrong representation, insult and assault incidences, the pre-decided male's consideration for females as a weaker section and less acceptance of females in the workforce contribute more at workplaces. Moreover, the vast and easy accessibility to offensive material on social sites, the declining proportion of females and moral values in society and the social taboo for discussing and reporting crimes done by relatives or neighbours are some significant responsible factors for the acceleration in trafficking, abduction, rapes and other sexual offences.

#### State-wise Episodes of Selected Crime against Women

As per NCRB records, overall, there were 143795 crimes against women at the national level in 2001, which increased to 228650 in 2011. According to inter-state information from 2001, the overall highest occurrence (20227) of women crimes was in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Andhra Pradesh (16477), Madhya Pradesh (14549) and Maharashtra (12524). On another side, during 2011, the state of West Bengal (in the seventh position in 2001) came forward with the first position by highest occurrence (29133) of female crimes. In the same year, the chain was followed by the states Andhra Pradesh (28246), Rajasthan (19888) and Uttar Pradesh (22639). The state Sikkim had appeared as a safer place for women with minimum crimes (24) in 2001, whereas in 2011, this rank was occupied by Nagaland state, where only 38 women had seen any criminal deeds. The nature of crime discloses that cruelty by husbands or family members has remained the highest reported crime against women afterwards assaulting in 2001, 2011 and 2020. As maintained by the spatial pattern

of 2001, Madhya Pradesh recorded maximum rape incidences (2851), accompanied by Uttar Pradesh (1958), Maharashtra (1302) and Rajasthan (1049). In contrast, minimum rapes have occurred in Sikkim (8), Goa (12) and Nagaland (17) state (NCRB, 2001). In 2011, among 24206 rape cases, Madhya Pradesh state maintained its position with reporting of 3406 whereas, amazingly, West Bengal has scored second highest (2363) registration of this happening while this number was 709 in 2001. Among UTs in 2001 and 2011, the maximum number of rapes reporting is from Delhi. The kidnapping and abduction of the female also emerged as a big crime in the next census.

There is reporting of 35565 cases in 2011 compared to 14645 in 2001. A total of 7525, 3711 and 3192 women were kidnapped from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam, respectively, in 2011. A significant awareness is observed in society about dowry. The dowry death cases increased from 6851 in 2001 to 8618 in 2011 at a country level. The highest reporting was from Uttar Pradesh (2211 and 2322) state, followed by Bihar (859 and 1413) and Madhya Pradesh (609 and 811) in both years, respectively. In 2001, the experiences of assault were listed as highest (7063) in Madhya Pradesh, subsequently Andhra Pradesh (3544), Rajasthan (2878) and Uttar Pradesh (2870). In 2011, the top two ranks were the same, and Maharashtra and Kerala replaced the third and fourth positions. But, the states of Nagaland (8), Sikkim (24) and Manipur (38) showed the minimum exposure to assault (NCRB, 2011).

In 2001 highest number of 7365 females had reported cruelty by husbands and relatives from Uttar Pradesh, while in 2011, West Bengal documented the uppermost 19772 cases, followed by Andhra Pradesh (13376), Rajasthan (12218) and Maharashtra (7136) state. The country had also encountered 2436 and 453 cases of immoral trafficking and offensive demonstration against women in 2011. In the case of UTs, in all phases, the national capital city Delhi was on top, accompanied by Chandigarh in all types of crime against women, while Lakshadweep has nil crime in the same. In this regard, D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu had also registered minor female crimes. In 2020, the highest 38523 women's crime incidents were reported from Uttar Pradesh, followed by 32338 in West Bengal, whereas states Nagaland (22) and Sikkim (42) had witnessed to least number of such cases. During the inter-crime analyses, nastiness with females at the household level, either my husband or family members, was found to be more common in all states, and the maximum was in West Bengal (19962), Uttar Pradesh (14454), Rajasthan (13765) and Assam (11408) states. The more reporting of rape cases is from Rajasthan (5310), Uttar Pradesh (2769) and Madhya Pradesh (2339), whereas dowry deaths are more prevalent in Uttar Pradesh (9109), West Bengal (7740) and Bihar (6671) states than others. The comprising states of seven sisters, namely Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya, have the least ferocities with women at the household level and outsidess as compared to

the rest of India. At the UTs level, the capital city Delhi had the highest (8861) crime record regarding women in all categories, followed by the newly formed UT of Jammu & Kashmir (3135) and Chandigarh (293). In contrast, the other five UTs had fewer or insignificant incidences (NCRB, 2020).

The whole information divulges that most of the crime episodes against women are reported from highly populous and larger states in terms of the area, whereas smaller states of eastern India have rolled least crimes in the country in absolute numbers as well as in individual crime. In the same way, the highly developed capital city Delhi has filed utmost crimes against women among UTs. It means that in ordinary situations, in the cases of a more heterogeneous population and area, dominance of a particular segment or religion, male-controlled social hierarchy, high or poor economic standard, the chances of wrongdoings with females increases many times.

#### Composite Indexes of Crime Incidences against Women (2001, 2011 and 2020)

The composite score of ranks based on ten categories of crime exposes the overall crime of all states and the UTs of India. The sum of each grouping makes the composite value where the highest value refers to the lowest crimes and vice-versa. The statistics of three enumerations (Table 2) reveal that by area and inhabitants, the larger states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have maximum incidents of overall crime against women with a low score of the composite index. However, compared to 2001, in 2011, the number of states with the lowest composite index value justify space to figures from 2001, in whole eastern states except Assam, the value of the composite index is highest, which means the lowest criminal incidents with women. Meanwhile, northern states (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana) and the westernmost state, namely Gujrat, recorded low crime against women.

The pattern of 2020 differs from previous years and indicates that most states have upgraded their composite index values as a good sign. The larger states of Gangetic plain (Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) and Peninsular India (Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh), which were the main spots of crime against women in 2001 and 2011, have improved their conditions in 2020 (Fig. 3 and Table 2). Along with seven sister states (except Assam), newly formed UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have appeared as the safest place for women, with fewer crime incidences. In recent years, only state Orissa has reported more crime against women with a high composite index. The study explains that comparatively small and so-called socially and economically backward localities of the nation are much more ahead of developed states regarding protecting women and their rights.

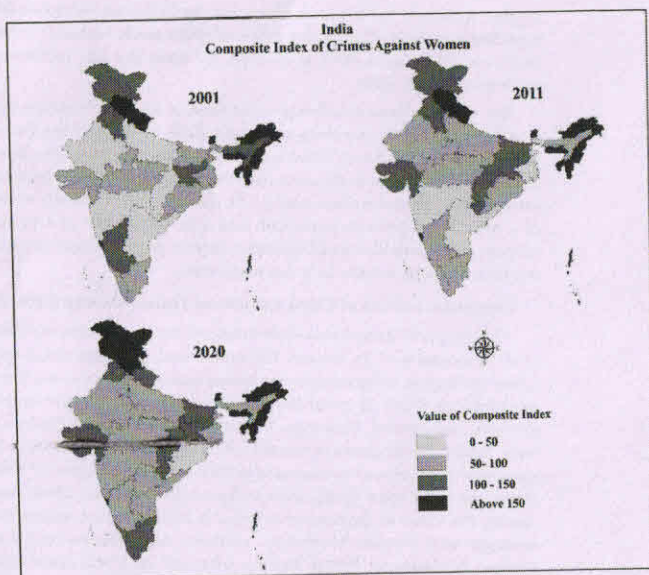


Fig. 3. Composite indexes of crime incidence against women

Source: By authors

Table 2  
Composite index of crime incidence against women (2001, 2011 and 2020)

Sl. No.	State/UT's	Composite Index		
		2001	2011	2020
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28	26	85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	206	223	213.5
3.	Assam	103	94.5	78
4.	Bihar	82.5	101.5	106.5
5.	Chhattisgarh	111.5	123.5	117.5

Annals of the National Association of Geographers, India

6.	Goa	195.5	175.5	206
7.	Gujarat	99.5	112.5	119.5
8.	Haryana	111.5	103	85
9.	Himachal Pradesh	170.5	170	174
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	138.5	143	160
11.	Jharkhand	145.5	141.5	126.5
12.	Karnataka	101	81.5	84
13.	Kerala	87.5	71	105.5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	65.5	65	68
15.	Maharashtra	38	45.5	52
16.	Manipur	210.5	213	209.5
17.	Meghalaya	224	200	200
18.	Mizoram	215.5	214.5	229.5
19.	Nagaland	233.5	241.5	237
20.	Odisha	95.5	81	49
21.	Punjab	112	133	137.5
22.	Rajasthan	42	55.5	58
23.	Sikkim	238	237.5	242.5
24.	Tamil Nadu	67	70	111
25.	Telangana	DNA	DNA	87
26.	Tripura	195.5	171.5	187.5
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31.5	56.5	59.5
28.	Uttarakhand	166	162	147
29.	West Bengal	92.5	42.5	70
30.	A&N Islands	233.5	224	244
31.	Chandigarh	177	202.5	204
32.	D&N Haveli	242	247.5	237
33.	Daman & Diu	236.5	243	
34.	Delhi	97	100.5	107.5
35.	Lakshadweep	254.5	260.5	256
36.	Puducherry	192	206.5	230

Source: By authors

**Correlation Matrix of Crime Incidences and other Variables**

Traumatically, the diverse nature of violence against women not hurts them only when it occurs but also tracks her lifetime, whether as psychological melancholy or physical soreness. The documentation reveals that once after experiencing aggression or crime, the possibilities of re-victimisation become higher with more shocking consequences and melancholy, suicide tendency, exposure to infectious and terminal diseases, miscarriages, and social humiliation are such associated outcomes of the violence (Wyatt et al., 1992;

Annals of the National Association of Geographers, India

Adjah and Agbemafle, 2016). Public health issues have been acknowledged as crucial and long-lasting consequences of violations against women (Heise, 1998; Velzeboer et al., 2003). Its later results in severe and persistent health complications such as migraine, unconsciousness, backache, vulnerability to diseases, abnormal uterine blood loss, virginal diseases, food distaste disease, stomach pain, gastrological problems or other related disorders (Campbell et al., 2002). It is horrifying that sexually and physically abused and tortured women by their husbands have considerably more complications than others. These can be gynaecological, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), psychological disorders like drug addiction, loss of confidence, nervousness and suicidal tendencies (WHO, 2005). The incidences of assault and abuse during pregnancy increase the risk of abortion, premature delivery, stillbirth, and mental disorder. At the country level, a violation against women is a consequence of the insensitive attitude of people and loopholes in administrative and judicial systems towards such serious issues. It is found that differing from region to region, the violence is rooted in community structure, and its cruelty rate fluctuates with fluctuating socio-economic factors like fiscal deficiency, lower social reputation and more responsibilities (Markowitz, 2003; People, 2005).

The awareness generated through mass media in the form of movements or campaigns run by mass media has enhanced the active participation of society in preventing such heinous criminalities. Simply, various facets like poverty, less proportion of females, gender biases, low literacy rate, and less accessibility to protection equipment assist the crime in any area. Often, the attitude of both the cultured and the backward section of the society is not ready to accept the freedom and self-style of females. If she becomes a victim, the first mistake is considered herself without knowing the facts deeply. The Bollywood movie *Pink*, directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhary in 2016, highlights this matter very nicely. Here Amitabh Bachchan as a lawyer, says a beautiful line. He states that the crime against women results from so-called crossing the limitations (laughing, speaking, working and even dressing) decided by society for the girls. According to that approach, boys have not fault if they rape or assault girls. Table 3 discloses that rape has a significant positive relationship with other crimes related to women. It means that in case of kidnapping, abduction, trafficking and any further violence, rape increases. The highly recorded incidences of cruelty by husbands and relatives and dowry death are directly associated with low sex ratio, the low literacy rate of females, and BPL families, in addition to gender unfairness. There is a strong positive affiliation between immoral trafficking, the offensive representation of women, and the lower sex ratio. However, the increasing urbanisation has no significant bonding with total crimes against women, yet in general, the chances of violence increase in workplaces in urban areas. Because if a woman wants to pursue her carrier for self-dependency, she must 'adjust' with her partners or associates. A famous Indian movie, 'Fashion' directed by Madhur Bhandarkar in 2008, smartly raised the issues of adjustments by women in their workplace.

Table 3  
Correlation Matrix of Crime Incidences and other Variables

Variables	Y <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>	X <sub>5</sub>	X <sub>6</sub>	X <sub>7</sub>	X <sub>8</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>10</sub>	X <sub>11</sub>	X <sub>12</sub>	X <sub>13</sub>	X <sub>14</sub>	X <sub>15</sub>
Y <sub>1</sub>	1	.645**	.620**	.864**	.355*	.714**	.0.319	.0.234	.857**	-.456**	0.31	-.679**	-0.316	0.19	0.182	.405*
X <sub>1</sub>	.645**	1	.850**	.429*	.082	.612**	.0.166	.0.135	.733**	-.463**	0.239	-.598**	-0.244	0.042	0.021	.388*
X <sub>2</sub>	.620**	.850**	1	.521**	.0.155	.422*	.0.133	.0.162	.643**	-.527**	0.326	-.630**	-0.313	0.03	0.012	.432**
X <sub>3</sub>	.864**	.429*	.521**	1	.599**	.603**	.533**	.419*	.800**	-.4329	0.167	-.511**	-0.225	-0.262	0.269	0.311
X <sub>4</sub>	.355*	.082	.0.155	.599**	1	.472**	.711**	.872**	.560**	-0.201	-0.146	-0.165	-0.041	0.175	0.185	0.103
X <sub>5</sub>	.714**	.612**	.422*	.603**	.472**	1	.479**	.514**	.933**	-0.306	0.011	-.465**	-0.185	0.171	0.167	0.242
X <sub>6</sub>	.0.319	.0.166	.0.133	.533**	.711**	.479**	1	.567**	.543**	-0.07	-0.173	-0.197*	0.03	0.255	0.269	0.03
X <sub>7</sub>	.0.234	.0.135	.0.162	.419*	.872**	.514**	.567**	1	.533**	-0.275	-0.16	-0.202	-0.07	0.138	0.145	0.188
X <sub>8</sub>	.857**	.733**	.643**	.800**	.560**	.933**	.543**	.535**	1	-.433**	0.127	-.668**	-0.253	0.201	0.196	.351*
X <sub>9</sub>	-.456**	-.463**	-.527**	-.4329	-.4329	-.306	-.07	.0.275	-.433**	1	-.575**	.788**	.647**	-0.049	-0.02	-.786**
X <sub>10</sub>	0.31	0.239	0.326	0.167	-0.146	0.011	-0.173	-0.16	0.127	-.575**	1	-.548**	-.379*	0.015	0.003	.492**
X <sub>11</sub>	-.679**	-.594**	-.650**	-.511**	-.0.165	-.465**	-.0.097	-.0.202	-.608**	.788**	-.548**	1	.602**	-0.055	-0.034	-.634**
X <sub>12</sub>	-.0.316	-0.244	-0.313	-0.225	-0.041	-0.185	0.03	-0.07	0.235	.647**	.378*	.602**	1	-.352**	-.336*	-.403*
X <sub>13</sub>	0.0.191	0.042	0.03	0.262	0.175	0.171	0.235	0.138	0.201	-0.049	0.015	-0.055	-.352*	1	.996**	-0.139
X <sub>14</sub>	0.182	0.021	0.012	0.269	0.185	0.167	0.269	0.145	0.136	-0.02	0.003	-0.034	-.336*	.996**	1	-0.162
X <sub>15</sub>	.405*	.388*	.452**	.0.311	0.003	0.242	0.03	0.188	.354*	-.759**	.492**	-.634**	-.403*	-0.139	-0.162	1

Note: \*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Note: Y<sub>1</sub> = Rape, X<sub>1</sub> = Kidnapping & Abduction, X<sub>2</sub> = Dowry Death, X<sub>3</sub> = Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty, X<sub>4</sub> = Insult to the modesty of women, X<sub>5</sub> = Cruelty by Husband or Relatives, X<sub>6</sub> = Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and X<sub>7</sub> = Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, X<sub>8</sub> = Total Crime against Women, X<sub>9</sub> = Literacy Rate 2011, X<sub>10</sub> = Percentage of Below Poverty Line population, X<sub>11</sub> = Human Development Index (2011), X<sub>12</sub> = Urbanisation (2011), X<sub>13</sub> = Share of female, X<sub>14</sub> = Sex ratio (2011), X<sub>15</sub> = Gender gap in literacy (2011).

### Role of Judiciary and Administration in Prevention of Crime against Women

Women have been exposed to torture or other crimes throughout life, physically or mentally, in public or private spheres. Despite the explicit provisions under Articles 14 and 15 in the Constitution of India about equality and no discrimination in the name of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, paradoxically, women have remained the victims of cruelty. The condition of Indian women is more horrible than imagination because they are at the edge of society in receiving the necessities of life like health services, primary schooling, and employment. The Indian government takes numerous legislative and executive initiatives for women's empowerment to ensure equality and respect for women (Verma et al., 2017).

Here, the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court of India, is like a guardian of the Constitution (Adeleke and Olayanju, 2014). Several significant legislations such as The Family Courts Act, 1984, The Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act of 1856, The termination of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1986, Prohibition of Sex Selection Act, 1994, Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, are enacted by Indian Parliament to empower the women. Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, Evidence Act, 1872, Civil Procedure Code, 1907 and their amendments have many other provisions having the same aims. The amendment of 2005 in the Hindu Succession Act is a milestone in strengthening women. It states that a daughter shall be a coparcener as a son by birth and even after marriage. Necessary amendments of 2013 and 2018 in criminal laws signify the efforts and determination of the Indian government to prevent monstrous happenings with women.

In a statement, Chief Justice Warren says that the court is essentially the final arbiter of the rights of minorities. Indian judiciary is playing an active role in the protection of women. While giving life imprisonment to the accused in Delhi gang-rape case, Judge Yogesh Khanna said that this is an inhuman and gruesome crime against women. Now it is the court's accountability to empower the victims (women) by its justice and give a message to the perpetrators through strong decisions (Peterson, 2016). But, increasing crimes, too many lengthy, expensive and tiring procedures from lower to the highest court, lack of evidence, increasing work burden, proportional deficiency of judges or other related issues have decelerated the speed of justice. All this diminishes the deterrent punishments from the heart of offenders. So, there is a need for amelioration in framing laws allied to strengthening and protecting women. The adopted fast-track court model has recently found a prime requirement for making law enforcement and legal procedures

Annals of the National Association of Geographers, India

more efficient. In straight, with strict rules for preventing crime against women, the action against such determining factors should also be considered with priority by the administration. The consumption of alcohol is a common determinant of crime against women. The accused raped the women when they were intoxicated. The episodes of *Jasika Lal's* murder and *Nirbhaya's* brutal gang-rape in real life and various movies like *Ghar* (1978) and *Damini* (1992) in reel-life are some examples of such. So, the permissible age for consuming alcohol should be increased and banned in public places. Rather than being an antagonist (shown in reality shows on television or other social networks), a woman should be a supporter of women in case of misconduct.

Media exposure is equally responsible for such types of ill-treatment against women and works without knowing the degree, nature and determinants of crimes often. However, media can't be blamed always for partiality or wrong representation as it helps also in fast prosecution of crimes, though its occurrence is less. Paradoxically, kissing scenes have remained banned in Indian movies till one-fourth of the twenty-first century; still, the rape scenes were allowed many decades ago as "*izzat lootna*" to represent the villain's power. So, obscene material should be seized, child pornography should be prohibited, and porn sites should be strictly forbidden (Sharma, 2015). The demography should be checked to improve the lower sex ratio as it is one of the significant responsible aspects of the violence against women. The movie '*Matrubhoomi: A Nation Without Women*', directed by Manish Jha (2005), makes it easy to have horrendous imagination caused by the shortage or absence of women on the earth. Here, only enacting the laws is not enough to prevent such crimes. It is the administration's prime duty to make women aware of their rights, make confident to them for objecting to any unkindness and violence, and assure them of police assistance and legal aid in case of any mishap.

### Conclusion

The preceding discussion reveals that rising violence against women is a disquieting silent crisis for the nation. Undoubtedly, Indian woman undergoes different scale and nature of violence from door sill to outer. In general, male governing social organisation, diminishing sex composition, and lack of learning prospects for females are the leading causes behind this crisis. Still, ironically, there are also substantiations of violence against women from purported cultured society. It is very hurting to find that most women are not safe in their homes. They have to suffer violence from their family members as caretakers or in-laws. Secondly, compared to the rest of India, the crime against women is low in small eastern states where females dominate the social hierarchy and have equal opportunities to participate in societal work. The more crime episodes in larger states can be associated with lower female literacy, lesser sex ratios, early marriage practices in some

Annals of the National Association of Geographers, India



communities and prevalent superstitious, racial or religious myths in some parts. All crimes that happen indoors or outdoors are the consequence of various features rather than one or two. So, it is not enough to empower the women to decipher the problem. Girls should be treated equally to boys in households. Because, in general, the possibility of opposing the wrongness is more for those women who have equality in their homes and family is not a blind follower of social traditions. Another essential need is safeguarding the demographic aspects of population equilibrium at the state and nation level. The emerging technology of public communication and its sharing may be also helpful in identifying, monitoring and resolving the crimes against women. To sum up, even after being a victim, every woman has the potential to guard, boom and rehabilitate herself if she is not pressurized or re-victimized by the baloney thoughts of narrow thinkers and judgements of supposed servicers and protectors of social principles.

#### Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank the editor and the anonymous referees of the journal for their valuable remarks and suggestions for better drafting the manuscript.

**Conflict of interest:** We, the authors of this manuscript, state that there is no conflict of interest with any individual, institute or agency.

**Compliance with ethical standards:** Not applicable

#### Data Availability Statement

The study is based on secondary data from the National Crime Records Bureau, New Delhi, India. <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india>.

#### References

- Adeleke, F. A. R., and Olayanju, O. F. (2014). The role of the judiciary in combating corruption: aiding and inhibiting factors in Nigeria. *Commonwealth Law Bulletin*, 40(4), pp. 589-607.
- Adjah, E. S. O., and Agbemafe, I. (2016). Determinants of domestic violence against women in Ghana. *BMC public health*, 16(1), pp. 1-9.
- Campbell, J., Jones, A. S., Dienemann, J., Kub, J., Schollenberger, J., Ocampo, P., and Wynne, C. (2002). Intimate partner violence and physical health consequences. *Archives of internal medicine*, 162(10), pp. 1157-1163.
- Census of India (2011). Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- Dey, A. (2016). Violence against women during the partition of India: Interpreting women and their bodies in the context of ethnic genocide. *Revista de Filologia Inglesa*, 37, pp. 103-118.
- Heise, L. L. (1998). Violence against women: An integrated, ecological framework. *Violence against women*, 4(3), pp.262-290.
- Khanna, R. (2008). Communal violence in Gujarat, India: Impact of sexual violence and responsibilities of the healthcare system. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 16(31), pp. 142-152.
- Markowitz, F. E. (2003). Socio-economic disadvantage and violence: Recent research on culture and neighbourhood control as explanatory mechanisms. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 8(2), pp. 145-154.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) (2001-2020). Crime in India: Statistics. National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. Retrieved from <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india>
- Nongri, I.H. 2016. Women's role in the Household: A look into the Text Manusmriti, *Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-IHSS)*,21(2), pp. 23-28
- People, J. (2005). Trends and patterns in domestic violence assaults. *BOCSAR NSW Crime and Justice Bulletins*, 16. Sydney, Australia.
- Peterson, V. (2016). Speeding up Sexual Assault Trials: A Constructive Critique of India's Fast-Track Courts. *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal*, 18(1), pp. 59-109.
- Poverty Estimate (2011-12). Government of India, Planning Commission, July 2013.
- Sen, A. (2003). Missing women-revisited. *BMJ*, 327, pp. 1297-98.
- Sharma, I. (2015). Violence against women: Where are the solutions? *Indian journal of psychiatry*, 57(2), pp. 131-139.
- Sharma, M. and Kumar, S. (2020). Geographical Appraisal of Gender Disparity and Progress in Literacy of Haryana, India. *Indonesian Journal of Geography*, 52(2), pp. 280-289.
- Sharma, M., Kumar, S., and Kavita (2018). Disappearing of Daughters or Failure to Perforate the Chakravayuha of Favoritism from Womb to Tomb. *Medico-Legal Update*, 18(2), pp. 211-218.
- UN Women (2018). UN Trust Fund to end Violence Against Women. New York: UN Women Headquarters. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/6/un-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women-annual-report-2017>
- Velzeboer, M., Ellsberg, M., Arcas, C. C., and Garcia-Moreno, C. (2003). *Violence against women: the health sector responds*. Pan American Health Organization, Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Washington, D.C.
- Verma, A., Qureshi, H., and Kim, J. Y. (2017). Exploring the trend of violence against women in India. *International journal of comparative and applied criminal justice*, 41(1-2), pp. 3-18.
- World Health Organization. (2005). WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women: initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses.
- Wyatt, G. E., Guthrie, D., and Notgrass, C. M. (1992). Differential effects of women's child sexual abuse and subsequent sexual re-victimisation. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology*, 60(2), pp. 167-173.

communities and prevalent superstitious, racial or religious myths in some parts. All crimes that happen indoors or outdoors are the consequence of various features rather than one or two. So, it is not enough to empower the women to decipher the problem. Girls should be treated equally to boys in households. Because, in general, the possibility of opposing the wrongness is more for those women who have equality in their homes and family is not a blind follower of social traditions. Another essential need is safeguarding the demographic aspects of population equilibrium at the state and nation level. The emerging technology of public communication and its sharing may be also helpful in identifying, monitoring and resolving the crimes against women. To sum up, even after being a victim, every woman has the potential to guard, boom and rehabilitate herself if she is not pressurized or re-victimized by the baloney thoughts of narrow thinkers and judgements of supposed servicers and protectors of social principles.

#### Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank the editor and the anonymous referees of the journal for their valuable remarks and suggestions for better drafting the manuscript.

**Conflict of interest:** We, the authors of this manuscript, state that there is no conflict of interest with any individual, institute or agency.

**Compliance with ethical standards:** Not applicable

#### Data Availability Statement

The study is based on secondary data from the National Crime Records Bureau, New Delhi, India. <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india>.

#### References

- Adeleke, F. A. R., and Olayanju, O. F. (2014). The role of the judiciary in combating corruption: aiding and inhibiting factors in Nigeria. *Commonwealth Law Bulletin*, 40(4), pp. 589-607.
- Adjah, E. S. O., and Agbemafe, I. (2016). Determinants of domestic violence against women in Ghana. *BMC public health*, 16(1), pp. 1-9.
- Campbell, J., Jones, A. S., Dienemann, J., Kub, J., Schollenberger, J., O'campo, P., and Wynne, C. (2002). Intimate partner violence and physical health consequences. *Archives of internal medicine*, 162(10), pp. 1157-1163.
- Census of India (2011). Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- Dey, A. (2016). Violence against women during the partition of India: Interpreting women and their bodies in the context of ethnic genocide. *Revista de Filología Inglesa*, 37, pp. 103-118.
- Heise, L. L. (1998). Violence against women: An integrated, ecological framework. *Violence against women*, 4(3), pp.262-290.
- Khanna, R. (2008). Communal violence in Gujarat, India: Impact of sexual violence and responsibilities of the healthcare system. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 16(31), pp. 142-152.
- Markowitz, F. E. (2003). Socio-economic disadvantage and violence: Recent research on culture and neighbourhood control as explanatory mechanisms. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 8(2), pp. 145-154.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) (2001-2020). Crime in India: Statistics. National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. Retrieved from <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india>
- Nongbri, I.H. 2016. Women's role in the Household: A look into the Text Manusmriti, *Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*,21(2), pp. 23-28
- Peterson, J. (2005). Trends and patterns in domestic violence assaults. *BOCSAR NSW Crime and Justice Bulletins*, 16, Sydney, Australia.
- Peterson, V. (2016). Speeding up Sexual Assault Trials: A Constructive Critique of India's Fast-Track Courts. *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal*, 18(1), pp. 59-109.
- Poverty Estimate (2011-12). Government of India, Planning Commission, July 2013.
- Sen, A. (2003). Missing women-revisited. *BMJ*, 327, pp. 1297-98.
- Sharma, I. (2015). Violence against women: Where are the solutions? *Indian journal of psychiatry*, 57(2), pp. 131-139.
- Sharma, M. and Kumar, S. (2020). Geographical Appraisal of Gender Disparity and Progress in Literacy of Haryana, India. *Indonesian Journal of Geography*, 52(2), pp. 280-289.
- Sharma, M., Kumar, S., and Kavita (2018). Disappearing of Daughters or Failure to Perforate the Chakravayuha of Favoritism from Womb to Tomb. *Medico-Legal Update*, 18(2), pp. 211-218.
- UN Women (2018). UN Trust Fund to end Violence Against Women. New York: UN Women Headquarters. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/6/un-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women-annual-report-2017>
- Velzeboer, M., Ellsberg, M., Arcas, C. C., and García-Moreno, C. (2003). *Violence against women: the health sector responds*. Pan American Health Organization, Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Washington, D.C.
- Verma, A., Qureshi, H., and Kim, J. Y. (2017). Exploring the trend of violence against women in India. *International journal of comparative and applied criminal justice*, 41(1-2), pp. 3-18.
- World Health Organization. (2005). WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women: initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses.
- Wyatt, G. E., Guthrie, D., and Notgrass, C. M. (1992). Differential effects of women's child sexual abuse and subsequent sexual re-victimisation. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology*, 60(2), pp. 167-173.