

Gender Inequality, Crime Against Women

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Abstract

In India a traditional and patriarchal social structure, culture and traditions have inherently accepted gender inequality, it is essential to adopt a broad and multidimensional perspective to the study of gender and inequality in both scientific and critical discourse. Analyzing development paradigms that forget gender empowerment through policy enforcement can generate considerable controversy and requires further analysis by Virani that can address the contemporary scope of gender and development from a critical perspective. Health (reproductive health to precise) education around 54% of women is literature compared to 76% of men. Centuries-old religious practices and traditional values towards women in India have posed deep cultural barriers to economic and political empowerment. These conservative values have often been regressive and oppressive hindering the development of women and marginalized communities. Increasing domestic violence is a terrible reality that women are victims of physical, emotional and economic violence in

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their own homes and sexual crimes against women like rape molestation and sexual exploitation are rampant.

These incidents force women to live in an atmosphere of fear, a lack of you and equal rights in husbands' property makes women, economically weak and dependent on men which reflects unequal treatment to words women and raises questions and gender equality.

Keywords

Gender inequality, crimes against women, patriarchy, domestic violence, women's empowerment.

Introduction

Gender inequality in India leads to a rise in crimes against women, including serious crimes like dowry deaths and widespread domestic violence. Discrimination (inequality) between men and women in the society is the main reason due to why women are killed for dowry or they have to face violence within the house. These crimes against women occur because our society is male-dominated. It is this patriarchal structure that creates such an imbalance in society that it is considered "normal" to oppress and subject women to violence. These imbalances and injustices against women are further exacerbated when factors such as poverty, low education levels (low literacy), and traditional social prejudices are added to them. All these factors together make the situation of women even more vulnerable. Poverty, illiteracy and old conservative thinking together greatly increase the problem of crimes and injustice against women. Simply enacting laws is not enough. Until societal fear and the rising crime rate against women are reduced, achieving true gender equality in the country will be difficult.

Review of Literature

Various studies make it clear that gender inequality is a major cause of crimes against women.

R. Kumari (1995) in her book *Rural Female Adolescence*. Indian screening of social change has stated that in Indian society cow is considered more respectable than women. The society believes that the goal of women is marriage and children and their personal

desires are under the control of the father or husband. In India too, like other societies men play different roles in the lives of women, which is considered to be the result of the old patriarchal thinking of the society.

Nandita Gandhi and Nandita Shah (1997) in their research article, “The issues that stroke theory and practice: in the contemporary women in India”, state that the various forms of violence against women include domestic violence, which manifests as wife beating assault for dowry and can be escalated to dowry death along with crimes like rape exploitation and humiliation of the women.

Dr. Praveen Kumar Shukla (2019) in this book “Women empowerment in Badhayan or Sankalp” an attempt has been made to tell that in our society, women have fewer opportunities and rights that men throughout their lives (from childhood to old age) and the most prominent of these deprivations is the right to education, when women are not educated, they feel powerless. Unaware of their rights, they are unable to make their own decisions and are always dependent on men.

Forms of Crime against Women

Domestic violence: Domestic violence is a serious and pervasive issue it is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is abused by one partner or family member to gain or maintain power and control over another.

It is not limited to assault but can also include.

Physical abuse: Hitting, pushing, and hurting.

Emotional abuse: Constant insults berating, threats and undermining of self-esteem.

Financial abuse: Withholding money, preventing work or controlling all spending.

Dowry Death: A Big increase in dowry death cases compared to last year a 44% has been recorded, indicating a significant and disturbing increase in the number of dowry deaths. The situation in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for 31.8% of all dowry

deaths. Cases reported nationally this means Uttar Pradesh has the highest share of such crimes nationwide, raising serious questions about the safety of women and the severity of the dowry system in the state.

Sexual Harassment: Statistically! according to the data, a large increase of 24.5% has been recorded in cases of 24.5% has been recorded in cases of vaginal rape. Uttar Pradesh's contribution to this is 28.7% Tamil Nadu tops the crime rate with 35% of cases registered much higher than the National average of 11%.

Molestation: Crimes against women at the national level 2023 molestation cases were registered under the IPC section. Assault on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty.

Physical Torture: It is a practice in which the sex of an unborn baby is determined through medical tests (such as an ultrasound). If it is found that the fetus is a girl (Kanya) the pregnancy is terminated abortion is performed, malnutrition of female child, female infanticide eve-testing molestation, abduction and kidnapping, wife beating wrongful confinement fraudulent marriage.

Consequences of Domestic Violence: Domestic violence continues from generation to generation (from one generation to another) which is called the cycle of violence. Women who have witnessed their mothers being beaten by their fathers are twice as likely to be victims of domestic violence as a women who have not witnessed it. Witnessing violence between one's parents as a child significantly increases the risk of becoming a victim of that violence later in life.

Jain and Buddhist Women: According to statistics the rate of experiencing sexual violence among Jain women is 4% and among Buddhist women it is 3%. These rates are the lowest compared to women of other religious groups.

Highest Prevalence: The highest rate 8% has been recorded among Hindu women moderate prevalence Sikh 5% and Christian 6% women are in the middle of this figure.

Recommendations on Gender Inequality and Crimes against Women

1. **Education and Awareness:** Introduce gender sensitization programs in schools, colleges and workplaces. Conduct awareness campaigns in both rural and urban areas about women's rights and legal protections. Promote positive gender roles through media, films and social platforms.
2. **Strict Law Enforcement:** Ensure the effective implementation of laws related to women's safety (e.g., IPC Sections 354, 376, POSH Act, POCSO Act). Establish fast-track courts for the speedy trial of crimes against women.
3. **Economic Empowerment:** Encourage women's entrepreneurship, self-employment, and skill development programs. Support Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and women-led businesses through government schemes. Enforce equal pay and equal opportunity policies in workplaces.
4. **Change in Social Mindset:** Promote gender equality within families, schools, and communities. Involve religious, cultural and community leaders in spreading messages of equality and respect.
5. **Technology and Safety Measures:** Strengthen women's helplines and safety apps (such as 1091, 181). Improve street lighting, CCTV coverage and public transport safety. Organize cyber safety programs to prevent online harassment and exploitation.
6. **Support and Rehabilitation:** Establish more counseling centers and shelter homes for victims of violence. Provide free legal aid and psychological support to women in need. Ensure rehabilitation and reintegration programs for survivors of abuse and trafficking.
7. **Government and Policy Initiatives:** Formulate and implement gender-responsive budgets and policies. Strengthen monitoring bodies like the national and state commissions for women. Promote collaboration between NGOs, police,

and local administrations for women's safety and empowerment.

Conclusion

In our country the structural presence (i.e. deciding factors) of crimes against women or gender inequality is almost the same patriarchy, economic, dependence and cultural traditions make women victims of violence and discrimination therefore international co-operations is crucial to address inequality; to tackle gender inequality and advance the country's development it is essential for the government, women organization and civil society to work to gather at all levels.

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