

Violence against Women in Rajasthan

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Abstract

There is a global epidemic of violence against women. Women are severely disabled by violence and the fear of it, which either prevents them from fully participating in development or prevents them from doing so. The most frequent and pervasive violation of human rights is crime against women. It affects all civilizations, transcends age, socioeconomic status, education, and geography, and is a key barrier to eradicating gender inequality and discrimination worldwide. It is founded on gendered social structure rather than individual and random behaviors. According to data recently provided by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), crime against women in India rose by 15.3% in 2021. In India, the safety and security of women are of utmost importance to both the federal and state governments. Rajasthan came in second place to Uttar Pradesh in terms of total crime against women in 2021, according to the NCRB data. This study used secondary data to investigate violence against women in Rajasthan. In order to observe the evolving trends in the incidence of crime against women in Rajasthan, the researchers statistically examined a variety of data from the state government and NCRB. Its goal is to present relevant information for administrative and policy decisions.

Keywords

Violence, Gender-based violence, Discrimination, Sexual harassment, Eve-teasing

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Introduction

“Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and led to the prevention of the full advancement of women and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanism by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.”(The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, General Assembly Resolution, December 1993) Violence against women is a worldwide epidemic. Violence and fear of violence are profoundly disabling to women, inhabiting or preventing their full participation in development. Gender-based violence extends from the womb to the tomb. It may take different forms depending on history, culture, background and experiences, but it causes great suffering for women, their families, and the communities in which they live. It is often embedded in the concept of gender and the role of men and women that are considered the ‘norm’ in a given time and it is manifested in efforts to exert power and control over women’s bodies and lives. The most frequent and pervasive violation of human rights is crime against women. It affects all civilizations, transcends age, socioeconomic status, education, and geography, and is a key barrier to eradicating gender inequality and discrimination worldwide. It is founded on gendered social structure rather than individual and random behaviors. Rape, kidnapping, abduction, physical and psychological torture, dowry deaths, wife beatings, sexual harassment, molestation, importing females, and other forms of violence against women are all crimes under the Indian Penal Code. Examples of societal violence against women include honor murders, acid attacks, eve-teasing, and forcing a wife or daughter-in-law to commit female infanticide. These cases are sparking other forms of violence in society. Due to compounded forms of discrimination and socioeconomic exclusion, certain groups of women and girls—such as members of racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities; women living with HIV; migrants and undocumented workers; women with disabilities; women in detention; and women affected by armed conflicts or emerging settings—are more susceptible to violence and experience multiple forms of violence. Historical power imbalances between men and women have made violence against women a global problem. It prevents women from achieving their full potential by sustaining prejudice and dominance. Women, their families, and communities suffer greatly as a result of gender-based violence, which can range from birth to death. It seeks to regulate women’s bodies and lifestyles and is frequently based on social conventions.

Methodology: In order to observe the evolving trends in the incidence of crime against women in Rajasthan, we statistically examined a number of data from

the state government and NCRB. The analysis and discussion are primarily based on reports and findings that have been made public through the work of several government agencies, including the Rajasthan State Crime Record Bureau, the National Crime Record Bureau, the United Nations, newspapers, research papers, and publications. Presenting relevant information for administrative and policy decisions is its goal.

Global Scenario

In every culture, women and girls are impacted by gender-based violence. Physical, sexual, psychological, economic, and social forms of violence are all possible. “Any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such an act, coercion, or obituary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life,” is another definition of gender-based violence against women given by the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. (UN,1993) An examination of 2000–2018 prevalence data in 2018 WHO’s work on behalf of the UN in 161 nations and regions nearly one in three women, or 30% of the global population, have experienced physical and/or sexual assault from an intimate partner, non-partner sexual violence, or both, according to an interagency working group on violence against women. (WHO: Geneva, 2021) Physical, sexual, emotional, and physiological abuse are all types of gender-based violence. Female genital mutilation, murder, forced and early marriage, sex trafficking, and homicide for the sake of alleged honor are a few examples. About 47,000 (58%) of the 81,000 women and girls who were murdered worldwide in 2020 did so at the hands of intimate partners or family members, which equates to one woman or girl being killed in their own residence every 11 minutes. Women and girls were the victims in 58% of all murders committed by intimate partners or other family members. (World Bank, 2022) Around the world, 15 million teenage females between the ages of 15 and 19 have been the victims of forced sex. Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to forced sex—forced sexual contact or other sexual acts—by a current or past boyfriend, lover, or husband in the great majority of nations. Just 1% of people have ever sought professional assistance, according to data from 30 nations.(UNODC, 2021) Between 40 and 60 percent of women in the Middle East and North Africa have been the victims of sexual harassment on the street, primarily in the form of inappropriate remarks, stalking or following, starvation, or ogling .Men who reported having engaged in such activities ranged from 31% to 64%.Street sexual harassment was more common among younger males, men with higher levels of education, and men who had been victims of abuse as children. (UNICEF, 2017) In the European Union, one in ten women say they

have been the victim of cyberbullying since they were fifteen. (UN women and Promundo, 2017) In 2018, about five adult women and two girls were among the ten victims of human trafficking who were found worldwide. Ninety-two percent of those found to be victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are women. (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014)

Indian Scenario

Women are the backbone of India's prosperity; they have made contributions in nearly every industry and have always made the nation proud. They are at the forefront, driving the nation, setting precedents, and inspiring many others. But there is also the fact that women in India face systematic discrimination and oppression; the fear of sexual violence has been a significant influence in limiting women's freedom and behavior. In reality, the fight against violence is a fight against the unequal distribution of economic and physical power between the sexes. Crime against women has been reported to have increased significantly in India in recent years. The moral decay in society is reflected in violence against women, and it is upsetting to witness the rise in the severity and type of violence. A female student intern was attacked and gang raped in Delhi on December 16, 2012, in a shocking crime that rocked the nation.

Because of the high number of accidents, harassment charges, and crimes against women, the Thomson Reuters Foundation named India the most dangerous country for women's safety in 2018. According to the 5th cycle of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), women in India face assault and harassment that severely limits their access to possibilities for progress and socioeconomic security. In India, 30% of women aged 15 to 49 report having been victims of domestic, sexual, or physical abuse. In India, the central and state governments place a high premium on the safety and security of women. (Forbes India, August 30, 2022) According to data recently released by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), crime against women in India rose by 15.3% in 2021. The NCRB study states that the rate of cases recorded per lakh women in the population grew from 56.5 in 2020 to 64.5 in 2021 due to the total number of cases registered, the crime rate (17.6%), and the rape rate (7.4%). In 2021, there were 4,28,278 recorded crimes against women nationwide, a 15.3% increase from 2020. The bulk of crime against women cases were filed under the heading of cruelty by a husband or his family (31.8%), followed by assaulting a woman with the intention of offending her modesty (20.8%), and abduction and kidnapping of women. (Outlookindia, 30 Aug. 2022) The numerous laws passed to guarantee equal opportunities and the dignity of life for women, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Sexual

Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, demonstrate India's commitment to implementing reforms to ensure gender equality. In order to eliminate gender-biased sex selection, safeguard and preserve female children, and assure their education and social involvement, the Indian government created the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao program, with the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, a small deposit program, it has further bolstered the effort. In order to accomplish the goals of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and promote women's health and empowerment, the MUDRA Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have been introduced.

Rajasthan Scenario

India's largest state by land area is Rajasthan, which has mostly dry and semi-arid terrain. With only 1% of the country's water resources, the state is home to 5.5% of the people. In this arid state, communities are home to 76% of the people. The state's groundwater resources are under a lot of strain due to a shortage of water resources. Rajasthan has one of the lowest sex ratios in the nation and the highest rate of married women between the ages of 10 and 14. The world may be cruel to women, as evidenced by the horrific crimes of infanticide and female feticide. Rajasthan had the greatest number of rape cases in the nation (6337), according to the NCRB study, and was second only to Uttar Pradesh in terms of overall crime against women in 2021. In 2020, there were 5310 instances recorded, resulting in a 19.34% yearly growth in this market. (Indian Outlook, September 4, 2022). The state has seen a steady increase in crimes against women. The frequency of crimes like rape and kidnapping is rising. According to police data from Rajasthan, the number of dowry death cases is on the rise. There is a rise in rape, molestation, and even kidnapping and abduction. The state recorded 2,461 rape cases from January to March this year, compared to 1,807 incidents from the same period last year. (Times of India, 2 July 2021)

The incidence of registered crime against women in Rajasthan rose from 18,344 in 2010 to 41,623 in 2019, representing a growth of 126.90% during 2010–19 with an annualized growth rate of 10.86%, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's Report on Performance, Audit of Prevention, Protection, and Redressal of Crime Against Women in Rajasthan Report 4 for the year 2022. Compared to 2018, there was a 49.2% increase in the number of recorded offenses against women in 2019. In Rajasthan, the percentage of registered crimes against women in all crimes under the IPC rose from 11.15% in 2010 to 18.15 percent in 2019. Among the state's registered crimes against women, 96.08% are classified as

“rape,” “assault on women with the intention of offending their modesty,” “cruelty by husband or his relatives,” and “abduction.” Rajasthan outperformed the majority of other Indian states in terms of the total number of crimes against women that were reported. According to National Crime Record Bureau figures, Rajasthan was placed fourth in 2010–16, sixth in 2017–18, and second in 2019. 25 Numerous data paint a disturbing image of sexual abuse, assault, and harassment in urban areas all around the world. (Report No. 4 of the Government of Rajasthan, 2022)

Crime against women in Rajasthan 2021

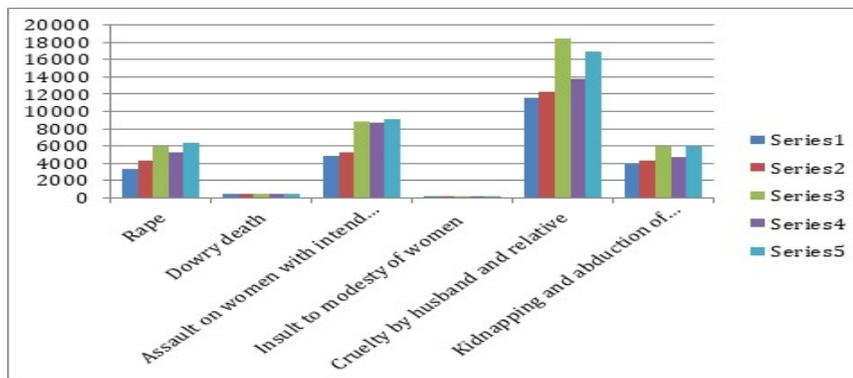
Crime against women	No. of incident	No. of victims	Crime rate per lakh population
Murder with Rape/Gang Rape	14	14	0.0
Kidnapping& Abduction of Women	5964	5986	15.4
Attempt to Commit Rape	987	988	2.6
Assault on Women Intends to Outrage Modesty	9079	9084	23.5
Dowry Death	452	452	1.2
Insult to the Modesty of Women	73	73	0.2
Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives	16949	16973	43.8
Rape	6337	6342	16.4
Cybercrime	51	54	0.1
Acid Attacks	3	3	0.0

Source; NCRB, Crime in India 2021, STATISTICS VOLUME 1

Domestic abuse, female feticide, witch hunts, Devdasi Pratha, Balvivah, human trafficking, sexual harassment of women at work, and other forms of violence have left a trail that is unending. Numerous statistics paint a disturbing picture of violence against women. The concerns that require urgent attention to stop violence against women are displayed in the above table.

Crime Against Women 2017 -2021

Crime Head	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rape	3305	4335	5997	5310	6337
Dowry Death	457	404	452	479	452
Assault on a Women with the intent to outrage her Modesty	4883	5249	8802	8661	9079
Insult to the Modesty of Women	24	34	69	85	73
Cruelty by Husband and Relatives	11508	12250	18432	13765	16949
Kidnapping and Abduction of Women and Girls	3838	4247	5907	4739	5964
Total	24015	26519	39659	33039	38854



Conclusion

Even Nevertheless, women are becoming more visible in public places. Women still endure physical and emotional abuse in their homes and outside of them despite improved educational and employment prospects as well as shifting social views. They might overcome adversity and become mainstream members of society with the aid of education, bravery, and family and governmental assistance. But how many is the question? It is really a tiny portion of the vast majority. Women’s safety and security in public areas should be implemented or improved by the government with the assistance of the general population.

Suggestions

In order to help females become more aware of their surroundings and be ready for anything at any moment, a self-defense training program should be implemented at the

junior high school level. Regular awareness campaigns about laws pertaining to women, their safety, and students' security are required. Regular visits by police officers to schools are necessary to acquaint them with the legislation and complaint procedures. On the other hand, field trips to the police station should be organized for pupils. This will be useful in making sure that no one is scared to go to the police station to file a complaint or to ask for assistance from a police officer. Women and girls should be encouraged to speak out against violence. To prevent violence, a firm and prompt law should be required. According to one respondent, we are not treated with respect by the police. The police should deal with the offenders right away. Making women aware of their legal rights so they can carry the torch is the most significant way to empower women.

Community and societal responsibility: when individuals see harassment occurring in their immediate vicinity, they must speak up. As members of society, it is our duty to make our surroundings safe and secure. In addition to their responsibility to respect women and condemn discriminatory behavior, parents must make sure their children believe in the constitutional rights of equality and dignity. Boys should receive moral education to respect women and girls. CCTV cameras must be installed in public areas and used as a specialized investigative tool.

Make sure that criminals receive severe punishment regardless of their political affiliations, and enforce the law strictly. Social media and the Indian film censor board should be reinforced to forbid needless sexual content in movies, and social media networking sites should be avoided. Caste and gender inequality should be actively combated by the media. When reporting gender concerns, they ought to be more sensitive. Repeated transmissions of stories that glorify atrocities against women, such as rape and sexual abuse, should be avoided since they tend to desensitize young people and children. Advertisements that promote gender equality and gender sensitization should be broadcast by newspapers, television, radio, and various websites with a sizable audience and leadership. In order to get higher TRPs and viewership, awareness programs should be packaged to be both fun and informative. Shadow policing in public areas such as railway stations and bus stops. It is important to take up initiatives that try to alter societal norms regarding men's and women's gender roles. There must be a speedy trial of cases. Fast-track courts must be established in each district headquarters to address the grievances submitted by impacted women since justice is being denied. A natural monitoring system will be created and women and girls will feel safe and comfortable in society if one woman protects five other women or girls around her.

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