



Statistical Analysis of Crimes against Women in India

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ABSTRACT

Crime against women remains a critical issue in India, despite legislative reforms and social awareness campaigns. This study examines the trends, patterns, and socio-economic factors contributing to crimes such as rape, domestic violence, dowry deaths, and harassment etc. The IPC Crime rate (per lakh women) escalated from 38.1 in 2011 to 54.6 in 2022. The incidences of rape increased markedly and poses an alarming situation. Nonetheless, incidence of rape of girls below 18 years declined significantly from 7228 in 2011 to 1001 in 2022. Dowry deaths are still prevalent in modern society. The cases of acid attacks have declined in the 5 years. The cases of molestation have almost doubled from 2011 to 2022. There has been a growing trend of sexual harassment from 2011 to 2017 and thereafter significant decline is being observed. The crime rate of cruelty by husband and relatives is markedly high and is continually increased from 17.24 in year 2011 to 20.94 in 2022. Kidnapping and abduction of women and girls is steeply increased from 35565 in 2011 to 85310 in 2022. The study also highlights the need for stronger law enforcement, gender sensitization, and socio-economic empowerment of women to curb such crimes.

Keywords: NCRB; domestic violence; rape; dowry deaths; sexual harassment

INTRODUCTION

Crime against women is a pervasive issue in India. Despite constitutional guarantees and legal protections, women continue to face violence in both public and private spheres. The status of woman changes throughout her life cycle. [1,2] She had to discharge diverse responsibilities in a family. In childhood, she is influenced by her father, in youth by her husband. Therefore, she never enjoys the freedom. This subordinate position of a woman suited to the man also. The woman is indeed a weak and dependent creature who needs the continual protection of man.

Though women of modern India are now uplifted, emancipated and granted equal status with men in all domains of life, yet there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislations, policies, plans, programs. Women are often being brutalized, commodified, materialized and subjected to inhuman exploitation and discrimination these days. Personal laws of each religion influence and determine the lives of women largely and impose social restrictions on them. Other deep-rooted factors that affect the status of women are kinship, marriage, family, history, religion and culture.

Women have been struggling hard to rejoice her freedom, dignity and equal status as that of men since long. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar realized that the social condition of women was very miserable and urgent reforms are needed. He took certain positive, constructive and revolutionary steps to uplift the social, economic, legal status of women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In India, there is diversity of culture, tradition, and ethics, castes and religion that has tremendous impact on gender inequality in the society. The worth of a civilization can be judged by the place given to women in the society. [3,4] The patriarchal system has confined the women to specific areas such as kitchen and

the bed room and fixed gender roles like bearing and rearing children, cooking and cleaning. Even today, a woman is regarded as a commodity and not a human being who has her own likes and dislikes. [5,6]

There is a burgeoning need to empower women to be self-dependent and provide them access to all the freedoms and opportunities which they were denied in the past only because of their being women. Therefore, this study is also aimed highlight the necessity of empowerment of women in modern times. [7,8] There are many problems which women in India have to go through daily. These problems have become the part and parcel of her life and she has accepted them as her fate.

Research survey divulges that women enjoyed equivalent status & rights like men in ancient India, whereas patriarchal system was highly prevalent yet women enjoyed a position of respect and reverence. [9,10] With the passage of time, the position of women underwent changes in all spheres of life. In the Vedic period, women lost their political rights of attending assemblies. Child marriages also came into existence. The position of women gradually deteriorated with time.

Though women played an important role in all the spheres of development, yet the socio-economic status of women seems quite miserable. Therefore, it is essential to investigate the present status and rights of women to examine the emerging issues like increasing violence against women, declining respect of women, in spite of sincere efforts to empower and strengthen the women.

The most prevalent form of violence against women is domestic violence. [12, 13] Women have to bear the burns of domestic, public, physical, emotional and mental violence against them. S. S. Sharon examined that the types, causes, and consequences of domestic violence on abused women and also highlighted the role of social workers, professionals to intervene and eradicate this menace from society. [14]

Rasida Begum reported that women throughout the world live in a state of fear and deprivation. [15] Ritu Dhanoa studied the violation of human rights against women in various cities of India and ranked Delhi as most dangerous cities in India in terms of crimes against women. [16] Bhattacharya reported violation of women human rights in Tripura state. [17] Studies on domestic violence within marital relationship found that illiterate women face more violence than literate women.

Over the past decade, India has witnessed both an increase in the reporting of crimes against women. The persistence of deep-seated social insouciances, inadequate implementation, and judicial delays continue to undermine progress. A multi-pronged strategy involving legal, social, educational, and economic dimensions is essential for ensuring the safety and dignity of women across India.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Every day, numerous incidents of crime against children are being reported in newspapers, social media, and other print media. Though, numerous commissions have also been set up by the central government as well as state governments and a huge number of non-government organizations (NGOs) are working to stop such violations, yet such violations are neither abated nor stopped. This manuscript is aimed to understand and investigate social, economic, domestic, educational, religious and political rights imparted to woman in India. It aims to give an awareness and insight into the problems faced by women over the years. The major focus of this study is to discuss various crimes against women in India in the past 10 years. The major issues related to women that need attention here are rapes, dowry deaths, acid attack, molestation, cruelty by husband and relatives, kidnapping and abduction etc. Therefore, it has become emergent issue to examine the challenges and root cause of such violations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The required information on crime against women are collected from different secondary sources like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, research articles, internet survey and other publications relating to women rights, domestic violence, crimes against women and government documents etc. The population data of male and females, projected population, gender ratio and literacy rate were collected

from Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. Statistical data of crimes against women have been collected from National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The analysis and discussion of this research is made on the basis of the collected information. This study ensures a comprehensive, data-driven analysis of crimes against women in India, combining statistical rigor with socio-legal insights. It will be helpful to researchers as well as administrative bodies to suggest and formulate policies and to take suitable preventive measures to curb these abuses, violations and crimes against women.

Socio-economic Status of Women in India

The status of women in rural and urban India can be well understood by having a glance not only on their population but also by the gender ratio and literacy rate. The gender ratio of India shows that Indian society is still prejudiced against females. There are 943 females per thousand males in India according to Census of 2011, which did not improve in 2020 as evident from Figure 1.

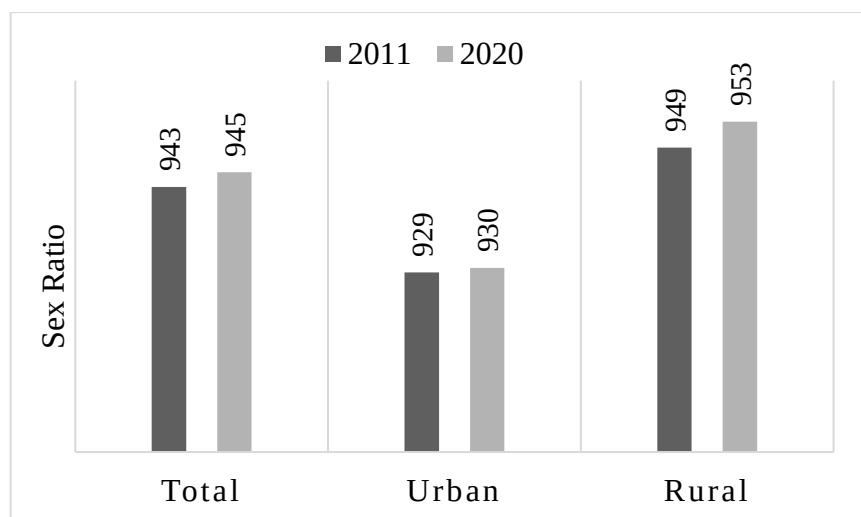


Figure 1: Gender Ratio of India

The gender ratio is much below the world average of 983.2 females. This situation has improved marginally in 2020. The global gender ratio in 2020 was 983.5 and that of India was only 945. The gender ratio is slightly better in rural areas while in 2011, it was 949 and improved to 953 in rural India.

Figure 2 depicts female literacy was 64.6% against male literacy of 80.9% in 2011 Census. The difference in male and female literacy rate was 16.3 % which slightly improved and in 2020 literacy difference reduced to 14.4%. There is still more to do in this direction to bring the women at par with men. Situation in Rural area was even worse. Only 57.9% rural women were literate as compared to 77.1 rural males in 2011. This data is not available as the census for 2021 is still in progress.

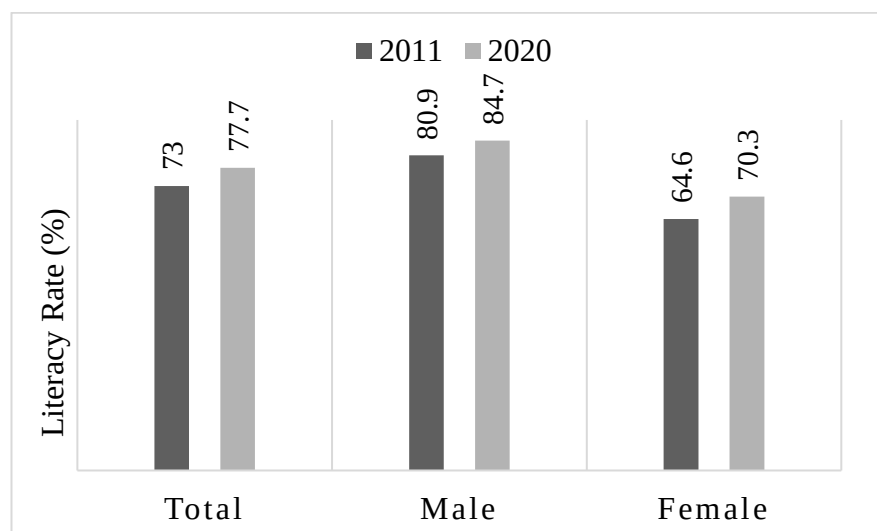


Figure 2: Literacy rate of India

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Although women may be victims of any of the general crimes however, only the crimes which are directed specifically against women are characterised as ‘Crimes against women’. These crimes are broadly classified under two categories i.e. crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which includes rape, dowry deaths, molestation, sexual harassment, domestic violence, kidnapping & abduction, acid attack, importation of girls etc. and the crimes under the Special & Local Laws (SLL) which includes Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, and Sati Prevention Act, 1987. Some of the major crimes against women as mentioned above have been extensively examined for a period from year 2011 to 2022.

Comparison of Crimes against women in Year 2011 and 2022

The IPC crime rate per lac women population increased from 38.1 in year 2011 to 54.6 in 2022. There were 24,206 victims of Rape in India. 30% (16978) of the total victims of rape were women above 18 years of age, while 29.9 % (7228) were the girls of age 18 years or below 18 years. A total of 8618 incidents of dowry deaths, 42968 cases of molestation, 8570 cases of sexual harassment, 99135 cases of cruelty by the husband and relatives and 35565 cases of kidnapping and abduction were reported across the country in 2011. On the other hand, in 2022, there were 30,512 victims of rape in India. The rosy side is that only 3.2% (1001) of the total victims of rape were the girls of age 18 years or below 18 years. A total of 6450 incidents of dowry deaths, 83344 cases of molestation, 8972 cases of sexual harassment, 140019 cases of cruelty by the husband and relatives and 85310 cases of kidnapping and abduction were reported across the country. On comparing the data of year 2011 and 2022, the crime rate of rape, dowry deaths, sexual harassment and cruelty by husband and relatives decreased from 11%, 3.9%, 3.9% and 45.3% in 2011 to 8.9%, 1.8%, 2.5% and 39.4% in year 2022 respectively. On the other hand, crime rate of molestation and kidnapping & abduction increased from 19.6% and 16.2% in year 2011 to 23.4% and 24% in year 2022 respectively. These figures are evidently presented in pi diagrams in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4.

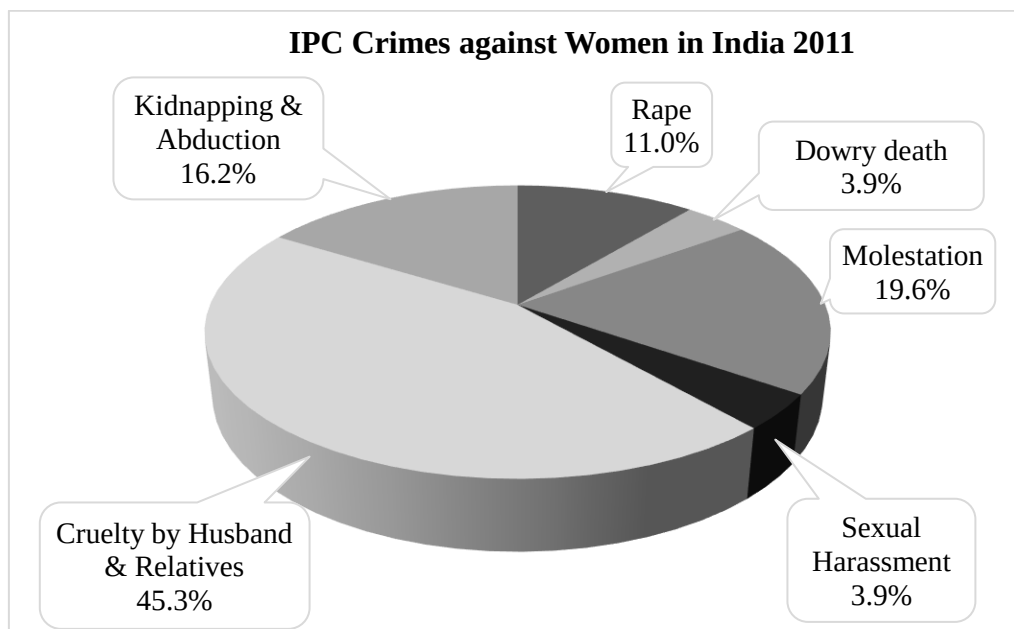


Figure 3. Crime against women (IPC) in India in 2011.

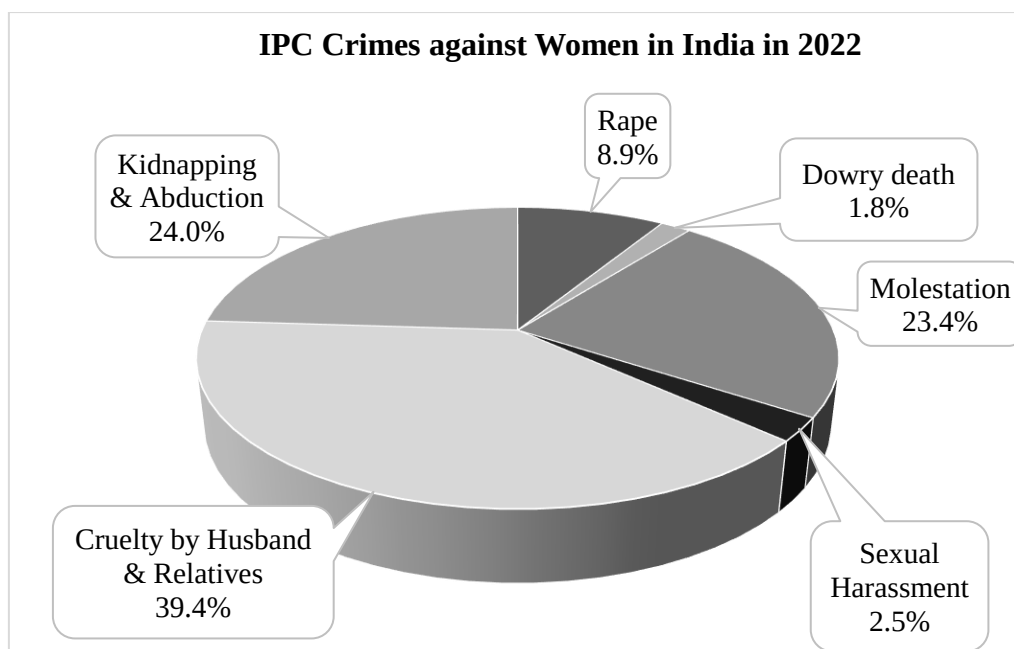


Figure 4. Crime against women (IPC) in India in 2022.

Crime Rate against Women from year 2011 to 2022

The crime against women was further examined by analyzing the cases of rape, dowry death, molestation, sexual harassment, cruelty by husband & relatives, and kidnapping & Abduction from year 2011 to 2022. Table 1 presents the data on total IPC crimes against women along with crime rate per lac population in the Haryana state as well as in India.

Table 1. Total IPC Crimes Rate against Women in India from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Crime against Women in India
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	Women Mid-Year Population (lacs)*	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	5751.91	219142	38.1
2012	5851.89	244270	41.7
2013	5925.68	295896	49.9
2014	5998.7	325327	54.2
2015	6070.8	314575	51.8
2016	6142	338954	55.2
2017	6211.5	359849	57.9
2018	6434.4	323345	50.3
2019	6505.4	343177	52.8
2020	6576.3	311354	47.3
2021	6623.84	357671	54.0
2022	6686.73	365300	54.6

* The crime rate refers to total crime per lac of the women population.

There has been an increase in the crime rate against women from 38.1 to 54.6 at the national level and is presented in Figure 5. Due to COVID-19 lockdowns, there is a sharp dip in the crime rate due to restricted mobility in 2020 but a sharp rebound again.

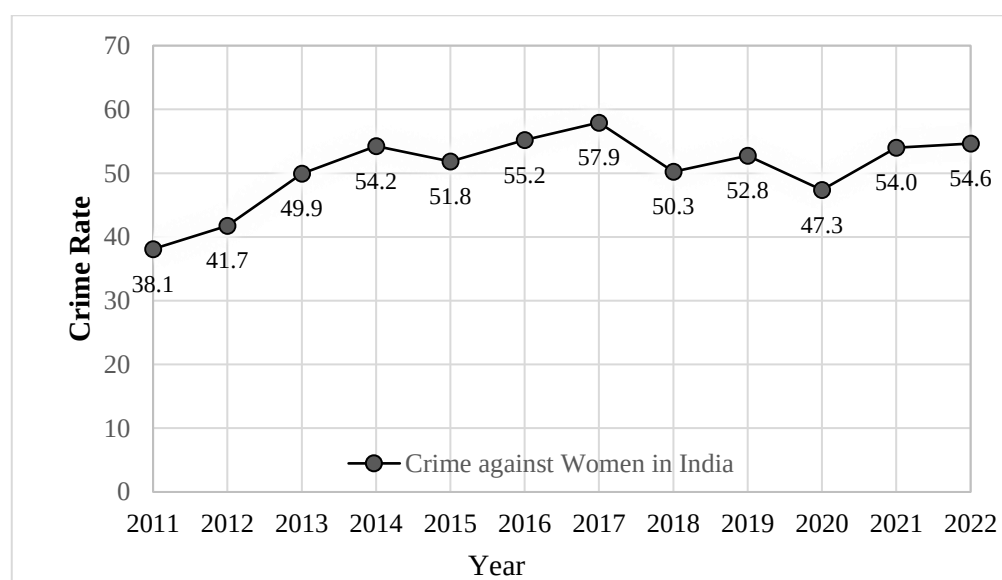


Figure 5. Total IPC Crimes Rate against Women from year 2011 to 2022

Rape Cases from year 2011 to 2022

Rape remains one of the most severe and widely reported crimes against women in India. Table 2 elucidates the variation of rape cases in the past 12 years. The crime rate of rape cases fluctuated from 4.1 to 6.3 at the national level. The percent of girls (Age 18 or below 18 years) victims of rape varies from 28 to 43 per lakh population, however, there has a sharp decrease in this number in 2022. Figure 6 clearly shows that in the last 3 years; the crime rate of rape was found almost double as compared to national data. The percent of girls (Age 18 or below 18 years) victims of rape was quite high from 2012 to 2016, thereafter, it declined to 3.2 % in the year 2022.

Table 2. The Rape cases in India from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Total Rapes in India			
	Total Rapes	Crime rate	Total Rapes of Girls (Age below 18 years)	% of Total Rapes
2011	24206	4.21	7228	29.9
2012	24923	4.26	9082	36.4
2013	33707	5.69	13304	39.5
2014	37681	6.28	14535	38.6
2015	34651	5.71	11393	32.9
2016	38947	6.34	16863	43.3
2017	32559	5.24	10059	30.9
2018	33356	5.18	9312	27.9
2019	32033	4.92	4940	15.4
2020	28153	4.28	2640	9.4
2021	31677	4.78	3033	9.6
2022	31516	4.71	1001	3.2

* The crime rate refers to total crime per lac of the population.

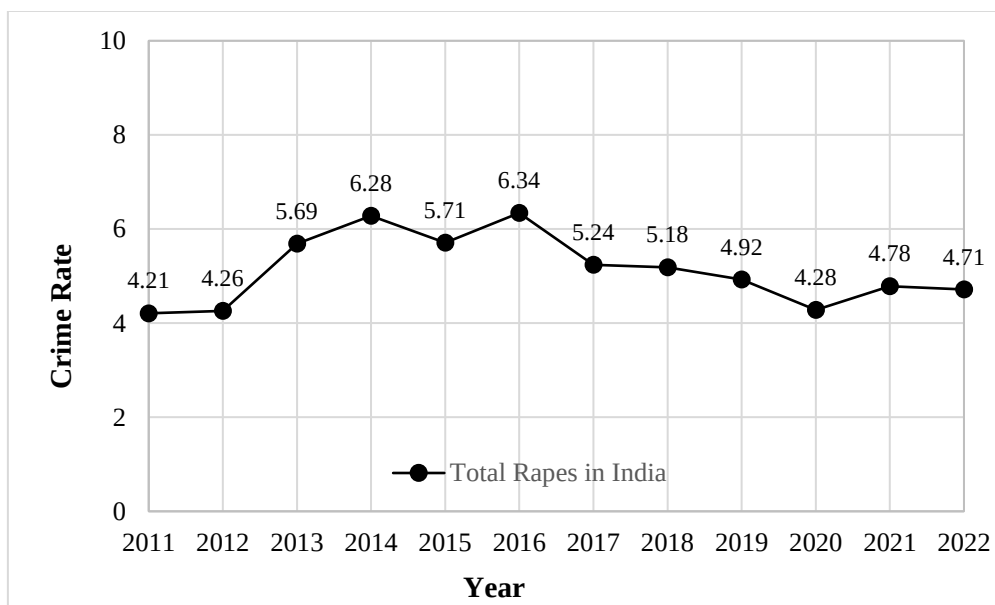


Figure 6. Total Crime Rate of Rapes in India from year 2011 to 2022.

Dowry Deaths & Acid Attacks against women from year 2011 to 2022

Dowry-related deaths remain a grave issue in India despite legal prohibitions. Table 3 elucidates the variation of cases of dowry deaths. The crime rate of dowry deaths marginally decreased from 1.5 in year 2011 to 0.96 in 2022. While reported dowry deaths have declined from 8,618 in year 2011 to 6,450 in year 2022, the numbers remain horrific. The pictorial presentation of rapes is given in Fig. 7 Further, acid attacks are among the most brutal forms of gender-based violence in India, causing lifelong physical and

psychological trauma. NCRB data reflects declining trend in acid attack after 2017. Total case reported in 2014 were 203 and this has significantly decreased to 124 in 2022.

Table 3. Dowry Deaths and Acid Attacks in India from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Total Dowry Deaths in India		Acid Attacks on Women in India	
	Crime Incidence	Crime rate		
2011	8618	1.50		
2012	8233	1.41		
2013	8083	1.36		
2014	8455	1.41	203	0.04
2015	7634	1.26	222	0.04
2016	7621	1.24	223	0.04
2017	7466	1.20	244	0.04
2018	7167	1.11	228	0.04
2019	7115	1.09	240	0.04
2020	6966	1.06	182	0.03
2021	6753	1.02	102	0.02
2022	6450	0.96	124	0.02

* The crime rate refers to total crime per lac of the population.

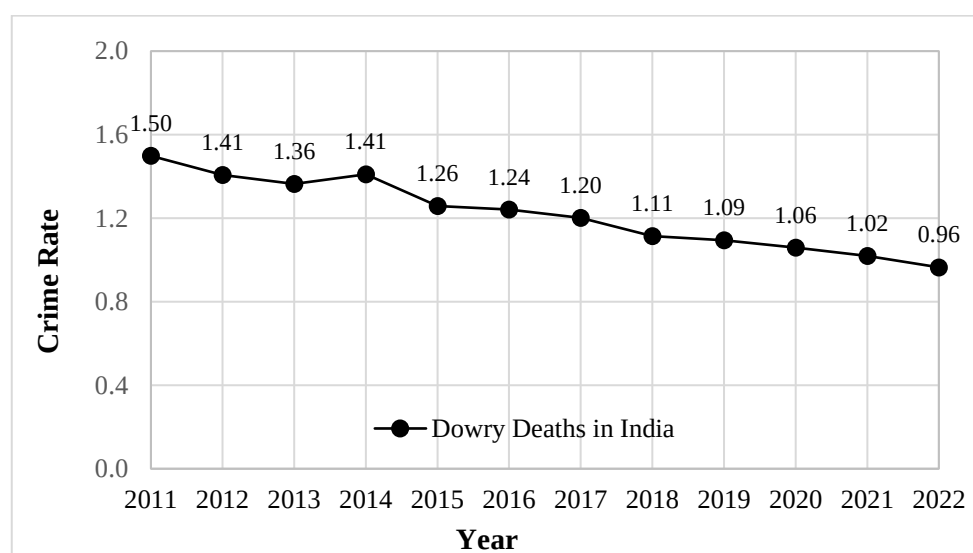


Figure 7. Total Crime Rate of Dowry Deaths from year 2011 to 2022.

Assault on Women to outrage the modesty & Sexual Harassment from 2011 to 2022

Assault on women to outrage her modesty and sexual harassment are punishable offences under Section 354 and 354A of the Indian Penal Code. Both are gender-based violence that violates a woman's right to equality, dignity, and freedom. Table 4 elucidates the variation of cases of Assault on Women to outrage the modesty i.e., molestation as well as case of sexual harassment from 2011 to 2022. Total cases of molestation almost doubled from 42968 in year 2011 to 82235 in year 2014 and then virtually a steady crime rate is noticed till 2022 as evident from Fig. 8. Likewise, cases of sexual harassment nearly tripled

from 8570 in year 2011 to 27344 in year 2016 and thereafter cases declined continually. Figure 9 reveals that the crime rate of sexual harassment almost tripled from 1.49 in 2011 to 4.45 in 2016 and then gradually declined to 1.34 in 2022.

Table 4. Assault on Women to outrage the modesty (Molestation) from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Cases of Molestation in India		Sexual Harassment in India	
	Crime Incidence	Crime rate	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	42968	7.47	8570	1.49
2012	45351	7.75	9173	1.57
2013	70739	11.94	12589	2.12
2014	82235	13.71	21938	3.66
2015	82422	13.58	24041	3.96
2016	84746	13.80	27344	4.45
2017	86001	13.85	20948	3.37
2018	89097	13.85	20962	3.26
2019	88367	13.58	18334	2.82
2020	85392	12.98	17003	2.59
2021	89200	13.47	7788	1.18
2022	83344	12.46	8972	1.34

* The crime rate refers to total crime per lakh of the population.

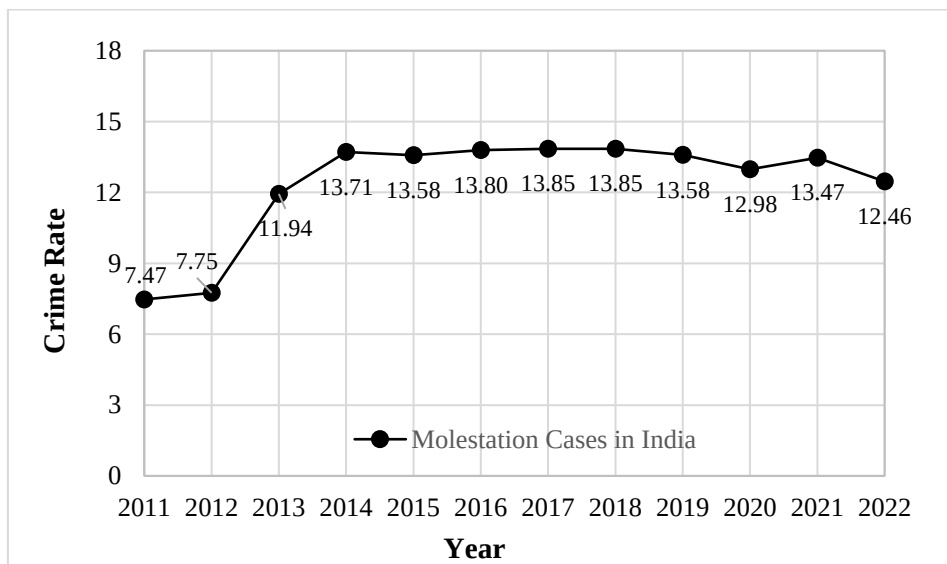


Figure 8. The Variation in Crime Rate of Molestation from year 2011 to 2022.

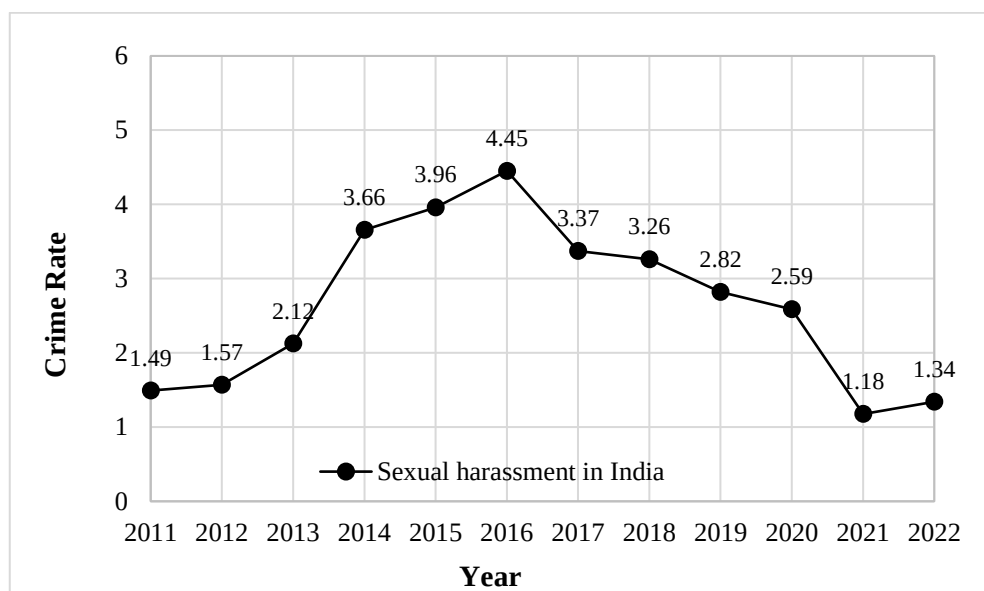


Figure 9. The Variation in Crime Rate of Sexual Harassment from year 2011 to 2022.

Cruelty by the Husband and Relatives from year 2011 to 2022

Cruelty by husband or his relatives is one of the most reported forms of domestic violence in India. It falls under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code. Table 5 presents the picture of the variation of cases of cruelty on women by the husband and relatives from year 2011 to 2022. The crime rate fluctuated from 16.05 to 20.48 at national level as can be seen in Fig. 10.

Table 5. Cruelty by Husband and Relatives from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Cruelty by Husband and Relatives in India		Kidnapping & Abduction of Women & Girls in India	
	Crime Incidence	Crime rate	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	99135	17.24	35565	6.18
2012	106527	18.20	38262	6.54
2013	118866	20.06	51881	8.76
2014	122877	20.48	57311	9.55
2015	113403	18.68	59277	9.76
2016	110378	17.97	64519	10.50
2017	104551	16.83	66333	10.68
2018	103272	16.05	72751	11.31
2019	125298	19.26	72780	11.19
2020	111549	16.96	62300	9.47
2021	136234	20.57	75369	11.38
2022	140019	20.94	85310	12.76

* The crime rate refers to total crime per lakh of the population.

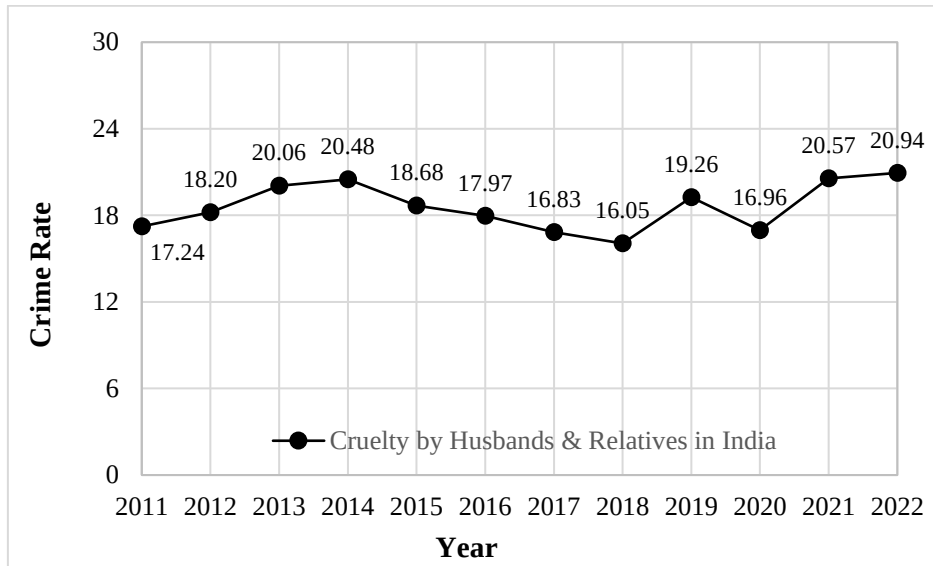


Figure 10. Crime Rate of Cruelty by Husband and Relatives from year 2011 to 2022.

Kidnapping & abduction of women & girls in past 10 years (2011-20)

The kidnapping and abduction of women and girls in India is not just a law-and-order issue but a societal failure. It stems from gender inequality, poor policing, and patriarchal practices like child marriage and trafficking. Table 5 depicts the variation of cases of kidnapping and abduction of women and Girls from year 2011 to 2022. It is clearly visible from Fig. 11 that the crime rate almost doubled 6.18 in year 2011 to 12.76 in 2022.

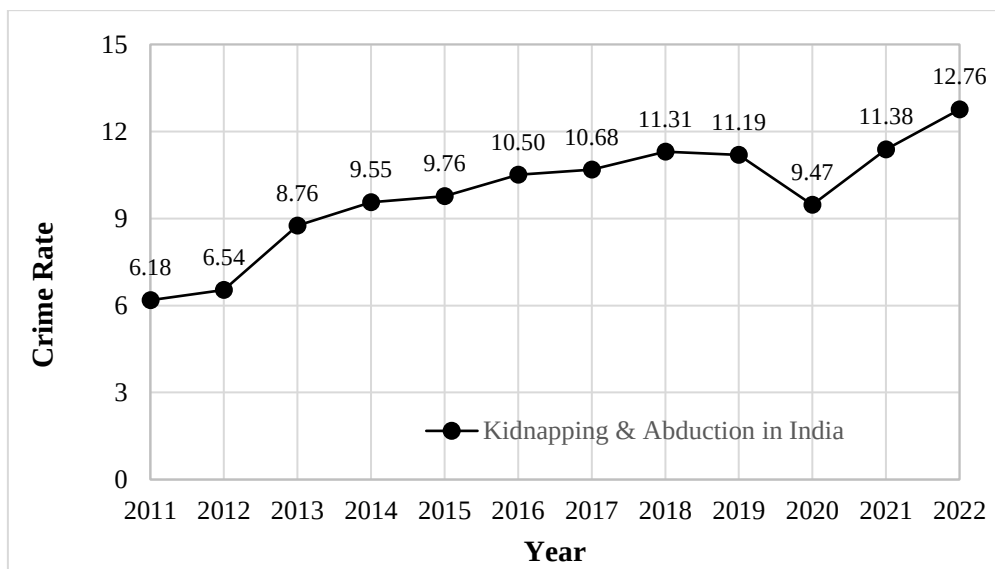


Figure 11. Crime Rate of Kidnapping and Abduction of Women and Girls from year 2011 to 2022

Major causes of gender-based crimes

From the above analysis, it is observed that poverty is a major source of human right violations. Since women has always been dependent on men for their food, shelter, clothing, education, healthcare etc. therefore, they are sufferer in all the corners. Illiteracy is one another factor of her exploitation and abuse. Though Articles 41 and 45 of Indian Constitution enshrines that every child has a right to free education until he or she completes fourteen years of age. The reality however is tongue-in-cheek. Further, in

patriarchal society, man holds all sorts powers and privileges and controls the family. On account of it, women are subjugated, treated as inferior and became victim of several social evils. Their condition is even more miserable in rural India due to socio-economic conditions.

CHALLENGES

Women even today are ignorant of laws and policies framed by Governments to uplift them. They have no idea about welfare policies launched for women. There is poor coordination between women and administration. Government should pay special emphasis to educate and aware the women about their rights and legal provisions in their protection. Administration must to design a mechanism to reach to grass root level so that the benefits of welfare schemes can reach to the needy women.

India is vast country with a complex social structure. There is no easy solution to the issues related to women. There is no easy solution to eradicate deep-rooted traditional approach of society towards women. The dominant attitude of men and their mentality towards women will take a long time to change. Nevertheless, raising awareness on the issue of violence against women, and educating men to accept that women are not only a valuable partner in life but also a vital part of a vibrant social structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the recommendations to reduce crimes against women on the basis of above study are as follows:

- 1) Police and administration must have to be more vigil, sensitive and accountable while dealing with the crimes against women.
- 2) Judiciary must consider it as the primary concern to enforce fundamental rights, resolve the issues related to crimes against women promptly and punish the culprit so that a message spread among society.
- 3) There is dire need of social awakening and changing the gender biased attitude of common man, so that due respect and equal status is guaranteed to women. This awakening can be brought by education campaigns.
- 4) Mass media can play instrumental role in reforming the society by launching awareness programs and discouraging the social evils.
- 5) Various NGOs can play responsible role in highlighting socio-economic causes leading to such crimes and by spreading awareness in the society.
- 6) The adult education should be made an integral part of the school curriculum.
- 7) The reforms in the rigid and orthodox trends and traditions of society must be initiated by religious institutions to make atmosphere more responsive and respectful for women.

CONCLUSIONS

The principle of equality is inherent in the traditional Indian Hindu philosophy. In ancient India, though patriarchal system was highly prevalent yet women enjoyed a position of respect and reverence. With the passage of time, many social evils encrypted in society and status of women degraded gradually. Though status of women in Modern India has changed considerably, her sufferings from social evils like Sati, Pardah System, Dowry System and Child Marriage has been addressed yet the traditional mentality assumes that women are mainly confined to the household activities like “kitchen and kids”. They are considered as the sex object and inferior to men in different spheres of life. Even today, women are now one of the most powerless and marginalized sections of Indian Society. Women are denied human rights from the cradle to the grave.

Indian government has taken various initiatives and constituted various commission like national as well as State Commission for Women, Reservation of Women in local self-government, policy for empowerment of women, initiative to promote girl education, setting up of new schools and girl's colleges.

There is much more to do to bring women at par with their male counterpart. Government has to frame more stringent regulations, so that people think twice before committing such crimes.

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