



# Challenges of Being a Woman in India: The Quintessential Question of Existence with Increasing Crime Rate

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## **Abstract:**

The aim of this paper is to study about the status of women and highlights the issues and challenges of being a woman in India. Women empowerment has always been paradoxical in a traditional society like India, where on the one hand society treats them as goddess in the form of Durga, Saraswati, Parwati and Kali and on the other hand abuse her in the form of child marriage, infanticide, dowry, sexual abuse, her objectification as a sex object in media and other forms of exploitation. Status of women has undergone changes in over the past centuries. From a largely unknown status in ancient times to the low point in medieval era to the period where equal rights for women are demanded by some modern social reformer. The situations have changed a lot but the overall condition of women is still pathetic given the subordinate status of women much of gender violence is considered normal and enjoys social sanction. Due to orthodox benefits women in India faced all type of violence like physical, mental public and domestic. Gender based violence against women is worldwide phenomenon. There are various forms of violence against women. Some time it is before birth and sometimes in the adulthood and other phases of life. This study is based on secondary sources. It attempts to discover the main causes of crime and to analyse the present crime trend against women in India. The paper also clearly discusses the legal classification of women crime in India in order to give a clear understanding on the existing law in the country pertaining to combat such crime and also tries to identify various factors that act as a cause of for happening of such crime. The study conclude that all efforts of women empowerment is useless until and unless we provide them safe environment to feel the pleasure of being a woman.

**Key Words:** Crime against women, Sexual abuse, Women empowerment

Women occupy half of the globe. However, their survival has been a question; their existence with honor and dignity has been a problem especially in countries like India where female sex is considered as a second citizen.

The status of women in Indian Society has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia from equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful.

Indian women tend to be valued by society in relation to their role in the family, namely as a daughter, sister, wife, daughter-in-law and mother. Women who fall outside these roles such as widows and single women face discrimination and in many cases loss of property. Since a woman is considered to be incomplete without being married, a strong social stigma exists for unmarried adult women, widows and divorcees.<sup>1</sup>

The Empowerment of women has become one of the most important concerns of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century not only at national level but also at the international level. Efforts by the government are on to ensure gender equality but government initiatives alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Society must take initiative to create a climate in which there is no gender discrimination. There have been many developmental programmes, governmental and non-governmental, implemented to uplift the status of women. All these programmes were aimed at improving the psychological social, mental and economic status of women. The ultimate aim was eradication of poverty and empowerment of women in the society. “Nothing arguably is as important today in the political economy of development as an adequate recognition of political, economic and social participation and leadership of women”<sup>2</sup>.

Women are integral to all aspects of the society. However, the multiple roles that they fulfill in society render them at greater risk of experiencing mental problems than others in the community. Women bear the burden of responsibility associated with being daughters, wives, mother and general caretakers of others. In addition to the many pressures faced by women, they must adjust with significant gender discrimination and with the factors associated with poverty, hunger, malnutrition and over work. A common and extreme expression of gender inequality is sexual and domestic violence perpetrated against women. The meaning of crime against women is “direct or indirect physical or mental cruelty to women. Crimes which are directed specifically against women and in which only women are victims, are characterized as crime against women”<sup>3</sup>.

Violence against women occurs in all societies and at any stage of a women’s life cycle. It can even occur before a girl is born in the form of sex selective abortion and other menaces that a women faces throughout her old age. Some types of violence against women such as sexual violence and domestic violence occur in all cultures, although they are more common in some than others.

Indian women through the centuries continue to linger subjugated and oppressed for the reason that society believed in the orthodox beliefs and she had to face the brunt of violence which could be domestic, public, physical, emotional and mental. Gender based violence against women is a worldwide phenomenon. There are

various forms of violence against women, sometimes it is before birth and sometime in the adulthood and other phases of life<sup>4</sup>.

Crimes against women are growing worryingly at local, regional, national and worldwide levels. Regardless of current crime shadowing machineries and access to information and networking assuring the safety and security of women has become a stern challenges for all. The UN Declaration on the Exclusion of crime against women (1993) states that “Crime against women is an expression of traditionally imbalanced power relations between men and women, which have led to command over and discrimination against women by men and to the anticipation of the full development of women”. It goes on to state that “Crime against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into an outranked position associated with men”. On one side, India is taking steps to bring all women into the mainstream of social and political life but on the other its women are subjected to inhuman treatment and the threat of violence thus marring the progress of both women and the country. It is an eminent fact that the occurrence of crimes against women is a destructive indicator of growth and India now faces a serious problem on this front. It is hence essential to analyse the nature, roots and forms of crime against women and discover solution to the problem.

Women who have experienced violence reported a range of symptoms and problems more frequently than women with no experience of violence. Problems included psychological issues (fear, tension, depression and suicidal ideation with) reproductive health problems symptoms associated with sexually transmitted infections and other physical ailments<sup>5</sup>.

A large percentage of women who had experienced violence had not shared or discussed their experiences with anyone. Women who faced economic violence were more likely to share their experiences with someone than those who faced sexual, emotional or physical violence. Family and friends were the most commonly mentioned persons with whom women sought help when they faced violence. Very few sought help from institutions such as the police, the health system and NGO. This pattern was repeated in the qualitative surveys, with most women stating that they had sought help from members of their own family, while police, lawyers or health providers were consulted only infrequently. Women who had experienced violence but did not seek care most commonly cited ‘laaj’ (embarrassment); belief that helps would not be forthcoming; fear of rejection and fear of further violence.

Quantitative and in-depth studies revealed not only the widespread experience of violence permeating women’s lives, but also the range of perpetrators of this violence. Intimate partners, family members, neighbors and occasionally unknown strangers directed violent behavior towards women. However, women have often reported being most at risk from those who are closest to them, particularly intimate partners. Violence exacts a heavy toll

on, women emotional, physical and sexual well-being. The consequences and sequel of violence range from the psychological to the physical.

The Centre for Diseases Control in the US has defined four different types of violence:-

- i. Physical Violence
- ii. Sexual Violence
- iii. Psychological or emotional abuse
- iv. Economic violence<sup>6</sup>

Economic violence is another category of violence identified by the UN Special Report on violence against women. This is perpetrated usually by an intimate partner or family member and includes economic blackmail, control over money a women earns, health assistance or remunerated employment and denial of property rights. Gender – based violence against women takes many forms and occurs throughout a women’s life cycle.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in its research on violence against women categorized the forms of violence experienced by women throughout their lifespan:-

**Table - 1**

Phase	Type of Violence
Pre – Birth	Sex – selective abortion, battering during coerced pregnancy.
Infancy	Female infanticide, emotional and physical abuse, differential access to food and medical care and education.
Adolescence	Violence during courtship, economically coerced sex (e.g. for school fees), sexual abuse in the workplace, rape, sexual harassment, arranged marriage trafficking.
Reproductive age	Physical, psychological and sexual abuse by intimate male partners and relatives, forced pregnancies by partners, sexual abuse in the work place, sexual

	harassment, rape abuse of widow, including property grabbing and sexual cleansing practices.
Elderly	Abuse of widow, including property grabbing, accusation of witchcraft, physical and psychological violence by younger family members, differential access to food and medical care <sup>7</sup> .

The growth of a society might get hampered due to many obstacles and one of the major obstacles is crime against women. This social obstacle against women is the reason why empowerment of women is being so sought after. The empowerment of women gets jeopardized due to various crimes against them. Not only is this, at present violence against women as old as is the history of family life. The attitude of indifference and negligence that is primarily the result of general acceptance of men's superiority over women because of which violent acts against women have not been viewed as violent by women themselves due to their religious values and social attitudes. It is only recently that the issue of crime against women has been transformed from a private issue into a public problem.

### **Concept of Crime against Women (The Legal):**

Although women may be victims of all kinds of crime be it cheating murder, robbery etc. yet the crimes in which 'Only Women' are victims and which are directed specifically against them are characterized as crime against women.

Broadly, crimes against women are classified under two categories:-

#### **I. Crime heads under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).**

1. Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)
2. Attempt to commit rape (Sec 376/511 IPC).
3. Kidnapping and abduction of women (Section 363, 364, 364A, 365, 366 to 369 IPC).
  - 3.1 K & A under section 363 IPC.
  - 3.2 K & A in order to Murder.
  - 3.3 K&A for Ransom.
  - 3.4 K&A of women to compel her for marriage.
  - 3.5 K&A for other purposes.
4. Dowry deaths (Section 304B IPC).

5. Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC).
  - 5.1 Sexual Harassment (Sec 354A IPC).
  - 5.2 Assault on woman with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec 354 IPC).
  - 5.3 Voyeurism (Sec 354D IPC).
  - 5.4 Others
6. Insult to the modesty of women (Sec 509 IPC)
  - 6.1 At office premises.
  - 6.2 At places related to work
  - 6.3 in public Transport
  - 6.4 in other places
7. Cruelty by husband or his relatives (Sec 498A IPC).
8. Importation of girl from foreign country (upto 21 years of age) (Sec. 366B IPC).
9. Abetment of suicide of women (Sec. 306 IPC).

## II. Crime heads under the special and local laws (SLL)

Special Acts enacted for protection and safety of women have been clubbed under SLL. These gender specific laws in which criminal cases are recorded by the police throughout the country are as follows :-

1. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
2. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.
3. The Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1987.
4. The protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
5. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

etc.

6. The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948
7. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951
8. The Family Courts Act, 1954

9. The Special Marriage Act, 1954

10. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

11. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956

12. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

13. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971

14. The Contract Labour Act, 1976

15. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

16. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

17. The Criminal Law Act, 1983

18. The Factories Act, 1986<sup>8</sup>

#### Nature and extent of crime against women in India:-

The nature and the extent of crimes that are committed against women can be analysed from the table that is given below<sup>9</sup>:-

**Table 2: Crime against Women - 2019-2021**

SL	State/UT	2019	2020	2021	Rate of Total Crime against Women (2021)	Chargesheeting Rate (2021)
1	Andhra Pradesh	17746	17089	17752	67.2	93.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	317	281	366	49.1	77.6
3	Assam	30025	26352	29046	168.3	52.9
4	Bihar	18587	15359	17950	30.2	69.4
5	Chhattisgarh	7689	7385	7344	49.8	88.5
6	Goa	329	219	224	28.9	77.4

7	Gujarat	8799	8028	7348	22.1	93.3
8	Haryana	14683	13000	16658	119.7	57.1
9	Himachal Pradesh	1636	1614	1599	43.8	76.5
10	Jharkhand	8760	7630	8110	43.0	79.7
11	Karnataka	13828	12680	14468	43.8	87.2
12	Kerala	11462	10139	13539	73.3	94.6
13	Madhya Pradesh	27560	25640	30673	74.7	83.7
14	Maharashtra	37144	31954	39526	66.0	82.4
15	Manipur	266	247	302	19.1	48.4
16	Meghalaya	558	568	685	41.7	76.1
17	Mizoram	170	172	176	29.1	94.9
18	Nagaland	43	39	54	5.1	80.4
19	Odisha	23183	25489	31352	137.8	80.1
20	Punjab	5886	4838	5662	39.2	75.3
21	Rajasthan	41550	34535	40738	105.4	54.5
22	Sikkim	125	140	130	40.6	98.3
23	Tamil Nadu	5934	6630	8501	22.2	87.5
24	Telangana	18394	17791	20865	111.2	87.8
25	Tripura	1070	874	807	40.2	84.7
26	Uttar Pradesh	59853	49385	56083	50.5	76.5

27	Uttarakhand	2541	2846	3431	61.5	81.5
28	West Bengal	29859	36439	35884	74.6	93.7
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>387997</b>	<b>357363</b>	<b>409273</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>77.3</b>

As per the data released by NCRB, crime against women rose by 15.3 per cent in 2021 from the previous year, with 4,28,278 cases registered last year following 3,71,503 cases in 2020. The NCRB report also shows that the rate of crime against women (number of incidents per 1 lakh population) increased from 56.5 per cent in 2020 to 64.5 per cent in 2021. A majority of these cases (31.8 per cent) fall in the category of “Cruelty by husband or his relatives”, followed by “Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty”, kidnapping and abduction, and rape. According to the report, the highest rate of crime against women in 2021 was registered in Assam, despite a marginal dip over the last three years. The state recorded over 29,000 such cases in 2021. The report places UP on top (56,083) in terms of actual number of cases registered in 2021, although the rate is lesser at 50.5percent.

According to National Crime Record Bureau, 2016, India continues to be a terrifying place for women and a girl child. Crimes against women have gone up including cases of rape (NCB, 2016). Crime has registered a sharp increase of 6.3% from 11,592 in 2015 to 12,317 in 2016. Cases under “Crime against women” category reported an increase of 2.9% in 2016 over 2015<sup>10</sup>.

It has to be taken into account that these figures are derived from the cases that have been registered and are recorded. There are hundreds and thousands of instances of rape, assault, sexual abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking and other types of crime against women that goes unregistered and hence remains unaccounted.

**Table: 3 Crimes Against Women (IPC+SLL) 2009-2021 and Percentage Difference in 2021 over 2020.**

<b>Crime Against Women</b>	<b>IPC Crime</b>	<b>SLL Crime</b>	<b>Total Crime (IPC+SLL)</b>
<b>2009</b>	194832	8969	<b>203804</b>
<b>2010</b>	205009	8576	<b>213585</b>
<b>2011</b>	219142	9508	<b>228650</b>
<b>2012</b>	232528	11742	<b>244270</b>
<b>2013</b>	295896	13650	<b>309546</b>
<b>2014</b>	325329	12593	<b>337922</b>
<b>2015</b>	314575	12819	<b>327394</b>
<b>2016</b>	325652	13302	<b>338954</b>
<b>2017</b>	314585	44364	<b>359849</b>
<b>2018</b>	323345	54932	<b>378277</b>
<b>2019</b>	341177	62684	<b>405861</b>
<b>2020</b>	311354	60149	<b>371503</b>
<b>2021</b>	357671	70607	<b>428278</b>
<b>Percentage variation of cases in 2016 over 2015</b>	3.52%	3.77%	<b>3.53%</b>
<b>Percentage variation of cases in 2017 over 2016</b>	-3.4%	233.5%	<b>6.16%</b>
<b>Percentage variation of cases in 2018 over 2017</b>	14.39%	23.82%	<b>5.12%</b>
<b>Percentage variation of cases in 2019 over 2018</b>	5.5%	14.1%	<b>7.29%</b>
<b>Percentage variation of cases in 2020 over 2019</b>	-8.74%	-4.04%	<b>-8.34%</b>
<b>Percentage variation of cases in 2021 over 2020</b>	14.87%	17.38%	<b>15.28%</b>

**Source: National Crime Record Bureau, Government of India, New Delhi.**

NCRB report 2021, has been reporting a high increase in the digits of the cases of Crime Against Women at 15.3% in comparison to year 2020. It reported 428278 total Crimes Against Women where 341177 were cases of IPC and 70607 were of SLL crimes. Not only total number of cases registered but the rate of crimes against women also increased.

In 2019 the report revealed a high upsurge in cases as compared to previous years. It reported 405861 total Crimes Against Women where 357671 were cases of IPC and 62684 were of SLL crimes. While, in 2018, there were 378277 reported cases under Crime Against Women (where only women were victims), which were quite high as compared to 359849 cases in 2017, and 338954 cases in 2016. In 2016, 13302 cases were related to SLL,

and 325652 cases were related to IPC crime cases. The percentage of increased rate in 2016 over 2015 is 3.53%.

Likewise, the percentages of total increased cases in 2017 and 2018 are 6.16% and 5.12% respectively. While the table clearly shows the highest mark of percentage variation during 2021 by an increase of 15.3%.

It is also worth mentioning now that during the year 2017 over 2016, as shown in table 4, a notable downfall in percentage variation of IPC crimes can be seen by - 3.4% as compared to 3.52% of previous year variation. Conversely, a massive upsurge in SLL crimes by 233.5% as compared to 3.77% of the previous year variation is a matter of today's concern for the women's security in India. Again, during the year 2018, over 2017, a rapid upsurge in IPC crimes by 14.39% and a downfall in SLL crimes by 23.82% are also notable. However, the downfall in SLL crimes during 2018 was quite high as compared to 3.77% of the year 2016. Also, a negligible reduction of -3.1% can be seen undeniably in 2015 as compared to 2014 in the registered cases<sup>11</sup>.

**Table 4: Special Local Laws (SLL) Crime Against Women 2014-2021.**

Special Local Laws Crimes (Act)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Domestic Violence Act, 2005	426	461	437	616	579	553	446	507
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	10050	9894	9683	10189	12826	13297	10366	13568
Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956	2070	2424	2214	1536	1459	1185	868	1071

Source: National Crime Record Bureau, Government of India, 2014-2021.

As far as the Crime Against Women related to SLL is concerned, Table 5 displays the frightening statistics of the crime heads. Though there are several other SLL crimes which are also quite important to be discussed and they affect women severely, but the table has taken only the cases having the highest increasing trend. So, the highest increasing rate has been seen under the Domestic Violence Act 2005. There were 426 cases registered under it during 2014. While in the year 2015, the total number of these cases reaching at 461 by an increase of 8.22% as compared to 2014 is also a subject of apprehension. However, the numbers had gone down in the year 2016. They noticeably declined by -5.21% in comparison to its previous year. The years 2017 and 2018 considerably marked a hike in the total number of the cases with 616 and 579 respectively. It showcased a high spike in cases by 41% during 2017 whereas a negligible decrease by 6% during the year 2018 can also be seen. Further, in 2019 the cases were again decreased and reported 553 cases under the Act. In year 2020 cases declined

to 446 and further in year 2021 it rises to 507. Further, Table 5 elucidates the total number of incidence registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. There were 10050, 9894, and 9683 cases in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. A continuous decline from the year 2014 to 2016 in these cases is noticeable. However, it was also worthwhile to mention here that an insignificant percentage of declines in the cases by 2.1% in 2016, and by 1.6% in 2015 do not seem good to womankind. On the contrary, during the years 2017 to 2019, the cases spiked up by a massive rate. It recorded 10189 cases in 2017, 12826 cases in 2018 and 13297 cases in 2019, which meant an increase of 5.23%, 25.88%, and 3.67% over the preceding years. In year 2020 it reduced to 10366 and in year 2021 it increased to 13568 which is sharp increase in comparison to year 2020. The table evidently shows how the custom of dowry is still dominant in India. Almost it is more than five decades have passed since the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was enacted, and the 1986 Amendment Act had also brought significant changes to make it stringent, but still, these cases are increasing day by day. It shows that the custom of dowry is nothing but more curse than a boon for Indian women even today. This custom of dowry is a prodigious factor responsible for the degrading the status of women in India.

Lastly, Table 4 exemplifies that there were 1185 cases in 2019, 1459 cases in 2018, 1536 in 2017, 2214 in 2016, 2424 in 2015 and 2070 in 2014 under the Immoral Trafficking Act 1956. The figures are indicating a declining trend every year, which is commendable. However, even the lowest number of reported cases during 2019 cannot be ignored. It further reduced to 868 and in year 2021 it rose to 1071, which is a very steep rise<sup>12</sup>.



## Casual Factors of Violence Against Women

The factors contributing to violence against women can be intrinsic within the individual, in the victim or in the perpetrator or extrinsic in the environment<sup>13</sup>. The later could be in the immediate environment or in the community. The important cases of violence are listed below —

### 1. **Socio-demographic :**

Early and young age, illiteracy or low level of literacy, poverty, urban domicile and women with no income of their own, unmarried, separated or divorced status or being in a live – in – relationship have been cited as risk factors for domestic violence.

### 2. **Family Factors :**

Exposure to harsh physical discipline during childhood and witnessing the father beating the mother during childhood is a predictor of violence against his wife in adulthood. Women, who reported experiencing harsh physical punishment during childhood and head witnessed their father beat their mothers, were at increased risk of spousal physical violence.

### 3. **Psychiatric morbidity :**

There is robust evidence to suggest that alcohol has been the factor associated with perpetration of several from of violence against women.

### 4. **Socio-cultural traditions (Deep rooted) :**

Patriarchy, traditions like dowry, family honor, witnessing family violence etc. have continued through the ages and have put women in disadvantaged positions.

### 5. **Media and Pornography :**

Repeated exposure to violence in the media has been associated with increased incidence of aggression, especially in children. Television and cinemas are portraying women as sexual materials for making fast money. Pornographic material is easily available to many on the internet and through other ways, <sup>14</sup>which is a major factor that perpetrates crime and criminal activities against women.

### 6. **Addiction :**

Easy availability of addicting substances (especially alcohol, bhang and ganja) is also responsible.

## 7. **Law enforcement machinery :**

An insensitive, inefficient, unaccountable and corrupt law enforcement machinery (including administrators, police and judiciary) loses its role as a mechanism for redress of complaints and deterrent for commission of crimes.

## 8. **Religious and ethical values :**

Deterioration of religious and ethical values are also important. Indian women suffer a lot due to religious beliefs and practices. They are brought up with a belief that they are inferior to men and this is a natural phenomenon. Religion adds up to the fear factor that keeps them enslaved to archaic rituals and customs. The burden and onus of preserving the cultural values lies only on the women folk thus, relieving men from their moral duties<sup>15</sup>.

## **Prevention of Violence Against Women**

### 1. **Gender Sensitization :**

Gender sensitization should focus on the sensitivities and boundaries of man – woman relationships. Code of conduct with respect to the opposite gender in different setting and strategies should be made to prevent violence at unusual places and times. Awareness and education can be done by parents at home, teachers in school and colleges, employers at work place and nongovernmental organizations in the community. Relationship handling, violence prevention and communication skills should be instilled in youth through training workshops at school colleges and at community level.

### 2. **Restriction on the use of Addicting Substances :**

Concerted efforts must be made to restrict the use of alcohol, drugs especially in the young people. There should be decrease in the number of alcohol outlets and prohibition on alcohol use in mass gathering in institutions and in public places like trains and buses.

### 3. **Media :**

Media campaigns can be of help to reverse social attitudes that tolerate violence against women. Collaboration with the media needs messages and new responses to prevent domestic violence and other types of crime.

**4. Fast Track Courts are Strongly Recommended :**

Special cells in police stations with the help of women police officers should be empowered with manpower, latest gadgets like CCTV footage and phone help line etc. Fast track courts should be setup to deal with the crimes that are committed against women.

**5. Legislation :**

The patriarchal mindset of the judiciary must change towards gender neutrality. Indira Jaising, Additional Solicitor General of India, aptly stated that its time for India's courts to gaze inward and throw out deeply embedded patriarchal notions that stops them from being fair to women. Sexism within the system has to go before it does more damage in the country”

**6. Improving The Socioeconomic Status of Women :**

Empowerment of women through improving their education, job opportunities, representation in different sectors and awareness about their rights and legal provisions would be a step in the right direction<sup>16</sup>.

**7. Life Style :**

Promotion of healthy lifestyle including management of stresses of daily living is recommended.

**8. Change of Attitude of Religious Leaders and Scholars :**

Religious leaders and scholars need to re-examine interpretations of religious texts and doctrines from the perspective of promoting equality and dignity of women.

**9. Social Organizations :**

NGO/Social activists/Communities/resident welfare organization, village panchayats need to be actively involved and sensitized to promptly act if the incidents come to their notice. Their services can be utilized in minimizing violence by putting social pressures on the perpetrators of crime (Kishor, 2019).

**10. Quality Education :**

Education can be a major tool in tackling the problem of crime against women. Quality education can break the barriers of patriarchy and bring in changes in the attitude of the society. The need is to instill gender equality values in both men and women from an early age<sup>17</sup>.

## CONCLUSION:

Violence and crimes against women is not new or recent phenomenon. Women have been victims of public and private forms of violence through ages and this is common in all societies. This trend can only change when there is a fundamental transformation in the attitudes, beliefs, customs, rituals and the basic patriarchal format of the society. The need of the hour is its create a safe and friendly environment for women where they can avail their rights without any fear and can live in the world as free human beings with due respect. Unified effort from the government and the civil society can certainly create a public opinion that can go a long way in creating a better future for women in India.

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