



# WOMEN'S RIGHT IS HUMAN RIGHT: STUDY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

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## ABSTRACT

*This research paper aims to discuss current crimes against women and their rights. The main purpose of this research is to highlight the crimes committed against women in India with special emphasis on international crime rates. Women in India find themselves facing many problems because their rights are neglected and are not considered as human rights in certain cases.*

*Crime in India is not limited to any group, class, culture, or race. Not only in modern times, Indian women have been suffering from a very long time. Even after the government has implemented many laws and other measures to ease their pain. The rate of violence against women is not seems to be constant and not decreasing.*

*Indian women are often subjected to rape, dowry death, domestic violence, kidnapping, rape, torture, sexual harassment, and various other crimes. Crime affects women physically and psychologically and prevents them from living a good life. Male-dominated Indian society is one of the biggest causes of crimes against women. Violence against women harms families and societies for generations and increases the number of evils in society.*

Keywords: domestic violence, violent crimes, CEDAW, crime in India, women rights

## 1. INTRODUCTION

India is the world's largest administrative, religious, political, and cultural society, human rights issues in India are increasingly complex given the country's size, population, and culture. The Constitution of India provides for fundamental rights, including freedom of religion. The pillar also provides for freedom of expression, separation of the executive and judiciary, and freedom of movement at home and abroad. Clauses also provide for freedom of speech, as well as separation of executive and judiciary and freedom of movement within the country and abroad. The country also has an independent judiciary<sup>1</sup> as well as bodies to investigate issues of human rights.<sup>[3]</sup>

The 2016 report of Human Rights Watch accepts the above-mentioned facilities but goes to state that India has "serious human rights concerns like: Civil society groups face harassment and government critics face intimidation and lawsuits. Free speech has come under attack both from the state and by interest groups. Muslim and Christian minorities accuse authorities of not doing enough to protect their rights. The government is yet to repeal laws that grant public officials and security forces impunity from prosecution for abuses."<sup>2</sup>

The basic human rights of women have been acknowledged and supported in all corners of the world for almost seventy years, with the United Nations taking the lion's share in making these rights part of a charter. The female gender should also have their own fundamental rights, including but not limited to the right to education, the right to own property, the right to lead a life free from violence, slavery, and discrimination, as well as the right to earn a fair wage and the right to vote. While these rights are

<sup>1</sup> "Hands off, supreme court tells govt, reaffirming its primacy in judicial appointments"

"No Worry till Judiciary's Independence is Maintained: Chief Justice of India"

<sup>2</sup> "Act in Block Grant teachers' issue: NHRC to OHRC".

universally acknowledged, women and girls encounter frequent denials and restrictions simply because of their sex, which serves as a reminder of the stubborn obstacles to gender equality and justice.

Conventions such as CEDAW and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights are international human rights laws and instruments that create a framework to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, guaranteeing their equality, protection, and dignity. Moreover, it is important to acknowledge that leadership should be a right for every woman where she can lead as well as take part in peace-making efforts, use her political voice equally for driving the changes in societies and economies towards transformation. Full access to rights, including equal pay, land ownership rights, sexual rights, freedom from violence, access to education, maternal health rights, and the right to self-determination, is crucial for all women and girls to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society<sup>3</sup>.

Feminism, as a movement, advocates for the realization of women's rights on an equal footing with men, aiming to achieve political, economic, and social equality for women<sup>4</sup>. While this progress was necessary and important, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and intersex women still experience violence, exclusion, harassment, and discrimination on account of their sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics highlighting the importance of gender-specific and intersectional approaches to human rights for women going forward.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

**Various Crimes targeting Women cover a wide range of Offenses, such as:**<sup>5</sup>

- **Physical Violence:** This includes domestic abuse, sexual assault, rape, honour killings, female genital mutilation (FGM), and human trafficking.
- **Psychological and Emotional Abuse:** This includes harassment, intimidation, coercion, and manipulation.
- **Systemic Inequalities:** Refers to the unfair structures and injustices that disproportionately affect women, like unequal access to education, healthcare, jobs, and political representation.

**The background statistics are as follows:**

- Reported crimes against women increased by 15.3% in 2021 compared to 2020, according to the Crime Bureau of India
- According to the National Crime Bureau, more than 228,650 crimes against women were reported in 2011. 428,278 crimes were reported in 2021 and there was an 87 % increase in crimes against women.
- 12.7% crime occur in West Bengal, India and out of total population of women 7.5% live in West Bengal.
- Andhra Pradesh is home to 7.3% of India's female population and is responsible for 1.5% of all crimes against women.
- In January 2011, the International Men and Gender Equality Survey Questionnaire reported that 24% of Indian men had committed sexual violence at some point during their lives.<sup>6</sup>
- Out of 146 countries India was placed 135th in 2022 with 0.629 as the Gender Gap Index rating.

## 1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- The research done focuses on the nuanced dynamics and manifestations of crimes done to women. This includes domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination.
- Through this paper I would dive deep and understand how these crimes violate women's basic human rights. These rights are in papers like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on Ending Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) but are they implemented that well is the main question in this paper.
- This paper explores the social, cultural, and systemic reasons why crimes against women happen. Things like patriarchal norms, gender inequality, economic gaps, and weak laws allow these crimes.
- To see if current laws and policies work to stop crimes against women and if they help promote gender equality as a key human right.
- The goal is to give recommendations that strengthen actions against crimes hurting women's rights. These crimes oppose basic human values. Improving prevention steps is key.
- Better tools for prosecution are crucial. Providing proper justice is essential. Women's rights must be wholly upheld and equal dignity for all people is mandatory.

## 1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- This research paper covers many crimes against women and their rights relating to those crimes
- The research considers cases from India and all over the world. This gives an understanding of the global issues. Different regions will provide examples and insights.
- Laws and policies are important for fighting crimes against women. The study will look at international, regional, and national legal instruments. It will examine frameworks promoting gender equality.
- Cultural factors play a role in crimes against women. The research explores socio-cultural reasons for these crimes. Gender stereotypes, cultural norms, and economic conditions contribute.
- Women who are crime victims' their encounters and viewpoints are vital elements. This research paper aims to uncover women's access to justice systems, support services, and avenues for seeking redress after enduring criminal acts.
- Examining women's basic human rights' realization is integral, like rights to life, security, dignity, equality, and non-discrimination. The study will gauge crimes against women's impact on these fundamental freedoms.
- Intersectional lenses shed light on how race, ethnicity, class, age, sexual orientation, disability intersect with gender. These intersections influence women's violence, discrimination experiences, shaping distinct narratives.

## 1.4 KEY LEGAL FRAMEWORK

<sup>3</sup> [www.globalfundforwomen.org/womens-human-rights/](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/womens-human-rights/)

<sup>4</sup> [www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination/womens-rights/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination/womens-rights/)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence\\_against\\_women\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence_against_women_in_India)

## International Instruments

- The Convention on the Nationality of Women<sup>7</sup>: This was the first legal instrument to address women's rights, the governments that participated in the Seventh International Conference of American States (December 1933) agreed to make no difference based on gender with respect to nationality, either in legislation or in practice.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. It asserts the principle of non-discrimination (Article 2). The UDHR emphasizes the equal rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of sex.
- In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This important treaty requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women. CEDAW covers legal, political, economic, and social spheres of life.
- The UN General Assembly proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 1993. This declaration recognizes violence against women as a violation of human rights. It calls for efforts to prevent and eliminate such violence.

## Regional Instruments

- The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) was formed in 1950 by the Council of Europe. Its purpose was to shield various human rights, including women's rights, and forbid discrimination based on gender (Article 14).
- Adopted in 1994, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) is a treaty from the Organization of American States. Its goal is to stop, punish, and eliminate violence towards women in the Americas.

## National Instruments<sup>8</sup>

- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961: This act focused on removing the social evil of dowry, which often led to harassment and violence against brides.
- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961: This act was made for the relief of pregnant women and new mothers so that they receive paid leave and other benefits during and after childbirth.
- The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976: This legislation prevents wage discrimination solely based on gender.
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005: This landmark act addresses the important issue of domestic violence against women.
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013: To establish the internal committees in workplaces to address complaints of sexual harassment is the main motive of this act.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006: This act mainly focuses on child marriage but it also supports women's rights by protecting young girls from forced marriages.
- The Right to Education Act, 2009: This act makes elementary education compulsory for all children and thus ensuring girls have quality education.
- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 (Triple Talaq Bill): This act criminalizes the instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat)
- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013: This act not specifically focuses on women but it focuses on marginalized communities.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Feminist scholars** use legal theory ideas to study how women's rights intersect with human rights. They show ways laws keep gender discrimination and violence towards females going. Multiple oppressions together impact women's rights violations, crimes faced. Feminist Legal Theory looks at intersecting women's and human rights. It highlights legal systems perpetuating, reinforcing gender discrimination, violence against women.
- **Empirical studies** looked at how often women face violence at home. They explored causes like unfair rules for men and women, money problems, and judgment from others. These studies show how badly unequal treatment affects women's safety. Experts analysed laws and programs made to protect women from crimes. They figured out what is working well and any shortcomings. They further identified issues with enforcing laws meant to keep women safe, and challenges women face getting justice.
- **International perspective:** By comparing laws and reactions to crimes against women in different nations and regions, learn how legal values, systems, and cultural settings differ. Comparing rules and responses for crimes against women from nation to nation and region to region illuminates variations in legal cultures, institutional frameworks, and societal norms.
- **Inspecting individual cases or contexts of violence toward women** gives detailed understandings of convoluted realities. Such examinations highlight invaluable policy and practice takeaways for combating these crimes.

### 2.1 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In ancient Indian culture, women were equal to men and there was no discrimination against women and they were respected by the society at that time. Even in Hindu texts, women were considered Janani, meaning mother.

Women had all the important rights and could get free education and at that time the women of the saints could willingly participate in spiritual activities along with their fathers and they were also called Ardhangini (better half). At that time, women lived equally with men.

In Indian history, women have experienced two things in their lives; one was permission and freedom. Their status may have changed over time, but in the Vedic period they were merely symbols of death and the best guardians and guardians.

The most important phase in the advancement of women empowerment in India. After many reforms, bills and laws, women were finally given the opportunity to represent themselves politically

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.oas.org/en/cim/legal.asp>

<sup>8</sup> <http://sifisheressciences.com/index.php/journal/article/download/1719/1043/2056>



But now in modern times, the way women exercise their empowerment in India has changed the scenario a lot that the previous one, women have initiated their self-help groups, work in factories, and had their own business. One good example of the Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad.<sup>9</sup>

## 2.2 INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The protection of women's rights at an international level involves a multifaceted approach that encompasses various strategies and collaborations. One significant player in this arena is UN Women, which actively advocates for the creation and implementation of laws and policies to safeguard women against different forms of violence<sup>10</sup>. Furthermore, UN Women works together with other UN agencies to train law and justice officials to better protect women's rights. UN Women also offers technical assistance and partners with civil society organisations to advocate for the enforcement of women's rights internationally. Additionally, governments are urged to take a stand in advocating for the rights and protection of women and girls on an international platform<sup>11</sup>. Treaties like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) help to reduce gender-based discrimination and provide special protection against specific harm towards women through international law on the global scale. Furthermore, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action solidify the notion that women's rights are human rights, emphasizing the importance of women's full participation in decision-making processes and the elimination of violence to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls internationally<sup>12</sup>. It is a step that recognises that protecting and promoting women's rights strengthens women – but that it can also result in these positive benefits to society, which we know from evidence to be the case. The UN highlights the critical importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to sustainable development, economic growth and poverty eradication while recognising that gender equality is a human rights issue; promoting and protecting the rights of women is therefore fundamental to advancing effective development policies and programmes worldwide. Highlighting the need to engage and ensure commitment from individuals and stakeholders across sectors, including business, and by organisations such as Amnesty International who draw our attention to and advocate for the protection of women's rights again through research and campaigning, the protection of women's rights is an ongoing collaborative process that requires continuous dedication and action at the international level.

## 2.3 CHALLENGES FACED IN ENSURING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

Advocacy for women's rights as human rights faces numerous challenges that can slow down the march towards gender equality. Women activists who fight for their rights are met with strong opposition, even in life threatening situations. Securing and empowering these advocates is critical if attempts to maintain women's rights are to become sustainable in the long run. In the present era of internet technology, new movements like #MeToo have emerged as powerful ways of airing this issue of gender-based violence and any other unwanted sexual overtures globally. Women's rights movements have always been involved in tireless advocacy against gender inequality through legal changes or direct-action campaigns aimed at protecting women's basic rights. However, such struggles indicate persistence of problems related to ensuring women's right as human right thereby making reinforcement, security, and promotion necessary for all females in different domains.

## 2.4 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS ON CRIME AGAINST WOMEN<sup>13</sup>

- **Feminist Theories:**

Feminist perspectives provide a valuable perspective to explore crimes committed against women within the larger framework of patriarchal systems and deep-rooted gender inequalities. These theoretical frameworks emphasize the significant impact of power imbalances, societal perceptions of gender, and institutionalized sexism in perpetuating violence against women. By examining how gender intersects with other social aspects like race, class, and sexuality, feminist theories shed light on the complex nature of women's encounters with violence and call for comprehensive reforms to tackle the root causes of inequality.

- **Social Learning Theory:**

Individuals learn behaviours through observation and reinforcement in their social environments. When applied to crimes against women, this theory highlights the impact of cultural norms and gender attitudes on shaping perceptions and actions related to violence. By recognizing the role of socialization in perpetuating harmful stereotypes, interventions can be developed to challenge and disrupt learned behaviours.

- **Ecological Systems Theory:**

Based on Urie Bronfenbrenner's work, ecological systems theory views individuals as part of interconnected systems across different levels of social ecology. In the context of crimes against women, this theory emphasizes the dynamic interactions between individual traits, relationships, community dynamics, and broader socio-cultural contexts. By taking a multi-level approach, interventions can address risk factors at various levels of the social environment to create comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies.

- **Trauma theory**

Trauma Theory focuses on the impact of violence on individuals, highlighting the long-lasting effects on survivors' well-being. It recognizes that crime against women not only causes physical harm but also psychological trauma. Interventions based on trauma theory prioritize the safety, empowerment, and healing of survivors.

- **Critical race Theory**

Critical race theory offers a framework to understand how various forms of oppression, such as racism, sexism, and classism, contribute to violence and marginalization among women from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. By centring the experiences of marginalized women, critical race theory exposes the structural inequalities and systemic injustices that make them more

<sup>9</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/scatteredthoughts/womens-empowerment-in-india-from-ancient-period-to-modern-time-period-46689/>

<sup>10</sup> [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

<sup>11</sup> [medicamondiale.org](http://medicamondiale.org)

<sup>12</sup> [www.un.org/en/global-issues/gender-equality](http://www.un.org/en/global-issues/gender-equality)

<sup>13</sup> [https://ijaem.net/issue\\_dcp/Theories%20of%20Female%20Criminality%20in%20India.pdf](https://ijaem.net/issue_dcp/Theories%20of%20Female%20Criminality%20in%20India.pdf)

vulnerable to violence. Efforts to address crime against women should adopt anti-racist and intersectional approaches to dismantle oppressive systems and promote equity and justice for all women.

These theoretical frameworks are crucial for effectively addressing crime against women. They inform evidence-based interventions, policies, and practices that aim to promote gender equality, social justice, and the protection of women's human rights.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 CRIME AGAINST WOMEN – A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Ladies possess half of the globe. Be that as it may, their survival has been addressed; their existence with honour and respect has been an issue. Lady is the subject of exploitation in and exterior the domestic; she has no secure put in this universe to live in. Especially in countries like India where the female sex is considered a moment citizen indeed even after the sanctioning of so numerous laws and codes. The savagery against ladies is a universal phenomenon for which finding the arrangement is a huge address in this modernized, technically advanced time.

This research study uses **qualitative methods** to thoroughly investigate the issue of crimes against women. By focusing solely on qualitative approaches, the study aims to understand the detailed experiences, perspectives, and ways of dealing with the situation from survivors and important individuals involved. Through in-depth interviews and group discussions, the study aims to reveal the intricate nature of gender-based violence and the socio-cultural factors that contribute to it.

##### **In depth analysis on qualitative method used by Awaj organization**

The Aawaj organization in Gulariya Municipality-8 of Bardiya district, Nepal, conducted the study. It took place from December 1-30, 2010. Aawaj is a local organization that focuses on helping victims of violence against women. They offer counselling, legal support, community advocacy, and rehabilitation services in the district. The organization attended to a total of 43 cases, providing care and support. Out of these cases, 20 victims were interviewed as they reached the intended information limit.

##### **In depth analysis on sampling techniques method used by Awaj organization**

Violence against women is a delicate matter. A pre-tested interview guide was utilized to gather data. Trained female counsellors interviewed victims at Aawaj Office. Consent was obtained beforehand. Privacy was upheld during the interviews, assuring victims that the information gathered would be strictly for research purposes. The dignity of individuals was honoured. The study's limitations include low external validity and potential information biases due to the sensitive nature of collecting data on violence against women.

##### **Results:**

I. Socio-economic background of victims

II. Help care practices

##### **Conclusion of the Analysis**

Violence against women has evolved as a part of a system of gender relations which points out that men are superior to women. Root causes of the violence against women were low status of women in the community and women were considered as a commodity. Illiteracy and economic dependence over male were main factors of violence. Poor access in decision making power of women, early marriage, traditional beliefs, values, norms which were deeply rooted to violence against women. Violence is a continue of beliefs that grant men right to control women's behaviour, violence, among other things that results in injury of the victim and must bear the cost of seeking the medical treatment. Mental torture, neglect and physical beating were the most common forms of violence. Marital rape and sexual harassment were also found in some cases. The perpetrators were husbands followed by in-laws. Violence against women occurred mostly at night during dinner. Use of alcohol, supremacy feeling of men, husbands' habit of listening to other family members, gambling, sexual dissatisfaction were the contributors for the violence against women. Unemployment status of the respondent's husband, extramarital affairs and son preference in family were also seen as the contributors to violence against women.<sup>14</sup>

#### 3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

- This study adopts a qualitative research design to comprehensively explore the phenomenon of crime against women.
- By employing qualitative methodologies exclusively, the research aims to capture the nuanced experiences, perceptions, and coping mechanisms of survivors and key stakeholders.
- Through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, the study seeks to uncover the complexities of gender-based violence and the underlying socio-cultural factors shaping it.

### 4 FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

- India needs more such laws that make violence against females a crime. Laws ensuring survivors get justice, protecting their rights. This is so important.
- Promoting women's equality by investing in education and jobs for women empowers them. This reduces their chances of being victims.
- Raising community awareness about gender equality creates support systems. People learn violence is wrong and victims feel safe speaking up.
- Training police to handle cases involving violence toward women professionally and with care is vital. Officers need special skills here.

#### 4.1 OVERVIEW OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Examination of Crimes Committed Against Women: The research methodology employed in this study allowed for a comprehensive exploration of crimes committed against women, revealing its complex nature. By conducting in-depth interviews with survivors, advocates, service providers, and key stakeholders, a nuanced understanding of the prevalence, types, and consequences of various forms of violence against women was obtained. The participants shared their personal experiences, shedding light on the various ways violence manifests, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse. These narratives highlighted the widespread

<sup>14</sup>[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271834809\\_Causes\\_of\\_Violence\\_against\\_Women\\_A\\_Qualitative\\_Study\\_at\\_Bardiya\\_District/citation/download](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271834809_Causes_of_Violence_against_Women_A_Qualitative_Study_at_Bardiya_District/citation/download)

occurrence of gender-based violence across different socio-cultural contexts, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted interventions and support systems.

Upon analysing the qualitative data, it was found that there is an intricate combination of socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors that contribute to crimes against women. The participants highlighted how entrenched patriarchal norms, gender inequalities, and power dynamics play a role in perpetuating violence and discrimination against women. Additionally, structural challenges like poverty, lack of educational and resource access, and deficiencies in legal protections were identified as factors that increase the risks for women. These results emphasize the importance of comprehensive strategies that tackle the root causes and structural inequalities to combat crimes against women effectively.

The qualitative results emphasized the significant influence of crimes committed against women on individuals, families, and communities. These effects go beyond the immediate physical harm and extend to long-term psychological, social, and economic consequences. Survivors expressed their difficulties in dealing with trauma, societal judgment, and isolation stemming from their encounters with violence. Furthermore, the repercussions of violence were evident in disrupted family relationships, weakened community unity, and hindered socio-economic progress. The analysis emphasized the critical need for comprehensive support services, such as counselling, legal assistance, and initiatives promoting socio-economic empowerment, in order to address the wide-ranging impact of crimes against women on society.

The study employed a combination of qualitative narratives, case studies, and statistical analysis to enhance the understanding of crime against women.<sup>15</sup> The case studies provided specific examples of violence, shedding light on victimization, survivor resilience, and institutional responses. Meanwhile, the statistical analysis identified patterns and correlations within the dataset, enriching the comprehension of this issue. By integrating these different approaches, the study was able to conduct a comprehensive and nuanced analysis, which in turn contributed to evidence-based interventions and policy recommendations. The meticulous examination of the findings and analysis in this section aims to shed light on the complexities of crime against women, inform interventions based on evidence, and advocate for policy changes to address this critical human rights issue.

#### 4.2 FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

- **Patriarchal Paradigms and Gender Disparities:** Participants underscored the enduring influence of patriarchal ideologies and entrenched gender disparities in shaping societal attitudes and behaviours towards women. These deeply ingrained norms propagate notions of male dominance and female subordination, fostering an environment conducive to various forms of violence and discrimination against women.
- **Power Dynamics and Dominance:** The unequal distribution of power between genders emerged as a significant driver of violence against women. Perpetrators often exploit power differentials to assert control and dominance, utilizing violence as a tool to enforce authority and reinforce social hierarchies.
- **Structural Inequities:** Structural inequities, including disparities in access to resources, educational opportunities, and economic empowerment, were identified as underlying factors contributing to the vulnerability of women. Participants highlighted how marginalized women, particularly those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds or marginalized communities, face compounded forms of discrimination and oppression, increasing their susceptibility to violence.
- **Cultural Norms and Practices:** Cultural norms and traditional practices were recognized as both enablers and perpetrators of violence against women. Practices such as child marriage, dowry-related violence, and honour crimes reflect deeply ingrained cultural attitudes that prioritize male authority and control over women's lives and bodies.
- **Legal and Institutional Challenges:** Participants highlighted gaps in legal frameworks and institutional responses as facilitating factors in the perpetuation of crimes against women. Weak enforcement of existing laws, impunity for perpetrators, and inadequate access to justice and support services further exacerbate the vulnerability of women to violence.
- **Normalization of Violence:** The normalization of violence against women within communities and families emerged as a significant impediment to effective intervention. Societal attitudes often trivialize or justify acts of violence, perpetuating a culture of silence and impunity surrounding gender-based violence.
- The qualitative analysis underscored the intricate web of factors contributing to crimes against women, emphasizing the imperative for comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of gender-based violence. Efforts to combat this pervasive issue must encompass interventions aimed at challenging patriarchal norms, addressing structural inequalities, strengthening legal protections, and fostering gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours.

#### 4.3 IMPACT OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN ON SOCIETY

- The qualitative findings emphasized the important impact of crime against women on individuals, families, and communities, that extends beyond immediate physical harm to encompass long-term psychological, social, and economic repercussions.
- Survivors of such crimes shared their struggles with trauma, stigma, and social isolation resulting from their experiences of violence.
- Further, the ripple effects of violence were very evident in disrupted family dynamics, compromised community cohesion, and inhibited socio-economic development.
- This analysis uncovered the urgency of comprehensive support services, including counselling, legal aid, and socio-economic empowerment initiatives, to address the far-reaching consequences of crime against women on society.

#### 4.4 CASE STUDY

- In addition to qualitative narratives, the study incorporated case studies and statistical analysis to complement and contextualize the qualitative findings.
- **Case studies** provided illustrative examples of specific incidents of violence, offering insights into the dynamics of victimization, survivor resilience, and institutional responses.

<sup>15</sup> A STUDY ON VIOLATION OF WOMEN RIGHTS IN INDIA - [page 202 onw, journal number 64636, ISSN No- 23945605]



- **Statistical analysis** of qualitative data facilitated the identification of patterns, trends, and correlations within the dataset, enriching the understanding of crime against women. The integration of qualitative narratives, case studies, and statistical analysis facilitated a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the phenomenon, contributing to evidence-based interventions and policy recommendations.

- Through the meticulous examination of findings and analysis presented in this section, the study aims to illuminate the complexities of crime against women, inform evidence-based interventions, and advocate for policy changes aimed at addressing this critical human rights issue.

**One of the case studies is:**

- i. On January 12th, 2016 at 5 pm, a 28-year-old woman, who was 9 months pregnant and had a history of 2 previous caesarean sections, was brought to MGMH Petlaburz (Modern Government Maternity Hospital) in Hyderabad. She arrived in severe abdominal pain and was experiencing bleeding. The patient, a resident of Hyderabad, was illiterate and worked as a homemaker. Her husband, who was also illiterate, worked as a mechanic.
- ii. Throughout her pregnancy, she had received irregular antenatal care, with only 2 visits to a nearby urban health centre. During these visits, she had received Tetanus toxoid prophylaxis and Iron folic acid Prophylaxis. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the woman had been found in front of a hotel, in a collapsed state and in severe pain. She had been abandoned by her husband while in labour. Bystanders called for an emergency ambulance (108), which transported her to the hospital. Along the way, she was taken to a nearby private hospital and CHC, but was not accepted due to her lack of attendants and resources.
- iii. During the examination, the patient showed paleness. The heart rate was 110 beats per minute and the blood pressure was 100/60 mm Hg. The abdomen revealed a term gestation uterus with moderate to severe contractions and fatal bradycardia, with a fatal heart rate of 108 beats per minute. Suprapubic tenderness was also present. A vaginal examination showed an effaced and dilated cervix of 3 centimetres.
- iv. The presenting part was the vertex at -1 station, with a bulging bag of membranes. Based on the findings, a provisional diagnosis of G3P2L2 term gestation with 2 previous lower segment caesarean sections in labour with impending scar rupture was made.
- v. The patient was urgently taken for an emergency caesarean section after necessary investigations and blood reservation. The patient's consent for the procedure and tubectomy, along with the signature of the hospital's resident medical officer, was obtained and the surgery was immediately performed. During the surgery, complete scar dehiscence was observed. A live male baby weighing 3 kilograms was delivered, and tubectomy was performed as per the patient's request and with her consent.
- vi. In the post-operative period, old fractures of the arm and leg were discovered, and further history was obtained. Two years ago, the patient had suffered serious injuries and a fracture of the right femur and left forearm after being pushed from the second floor. She required major surgical intervention and the implantation of a rod. A police case was registered, but she reconciled with her husband only to be abandoned again during labour.
- vii. Any further delay in the surgery could have resulted in a ruptured uterus and severe complications. The patient made a full recovery in the postoperative period and was discharged after 7 days.

**5. CONCLUSION**

This study emphasizes the importance of recognizing women's rights as human rights. It shows that women's rights are protected by international laws. The research also highlights different types of violence against women, such as domestic abuse and sexual assault. It stresses that every woman has the right to live without fear of violence or discrimination.

Moreover, the study explores the reasons behind crimes against women. It points out that gender norms, patriarchy, and social inequalities contribute to violence against women. Addressing these issues requires not only legal changes but also societal shifts to promote gender equality and empower women.

Furthermore, this study has highlighted the significance of adopting a holistic and interconnected approach to tackling offenses committed against women. Recognizing that women face various forms of discrimination that intersect with one another, such as race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and disability, is crucial for developing successful strategies to combat violence based on gender. It is essential to ensure that responses to crimes against women are all-encompassing, culturally aware, and responsive to the diverse needs and experiences of all women.

Moreover, this research has emphasized the pivotal role of accountability, justice, and access to remedies in addressing crimes against women. It has brought attention to the necessity of strong legal frameworks, effective law enforcement, and accessible mechanisms for seeking justice to hold perpetrators responsible and provide compensation to survivors. Additionally, it has stressed the importance of offering comprehensive support services, including legal assistance, healthcare, psychosocial support, and initiatives for empowering survivors economically.

In summary, despite the progress made in protecting women's rights and fighting crimes against women, there is still much to do. This study urges all parties to increase their efforts in defending women's rights as human rights and building a world where every woman can live without violence, discrimination, and fear. Achieving a fair, equal, and inclusive society for everyone requires united action and strong dedication.