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RAPE: A DEEPROOTED SOCIAL SCAR

ABSTRACT

"To eliminate the social evil, political will and administrative expertise are necessary, not just a bill. Women must be given the opportunity to feel free. New legislation alone will not prevent acts of violence against women, but a shift in men's attitudes is required to put a stop to such atrocities." Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu said. The increased usage of social media is scaring everyone to the point that a family does not want to take their child to a large city like Delhi because it is becoming increasingly dangerous. The laws, their authority, privileges, and the reality that women are not second-class citizens must all be conveyed to women.

KEYWORDS

Social Evil, Men's attitude, Atrocities

INTRODUCTION

"A decent girl won't roam around at nine o'clock at night. A girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy". This is the ground reality of how people think in the National Capital of India. Experts say that a woman is raped in India every 16 minutes. In Delhi, every 1 out of 3 women faces some kind of harassment. "95 percent of women and girls feel insecure in public areas," according to a UN Women-sponsored survey¹. "For brutality against women, the (world's)

¹ UN Women supported survey in Delhi, 2013

fastest expanding economy and leader in space and technology is embarrassed." As a result, several human rights campaigners have named India "the most hazardous country for women."

HEARTBREAKING STORIES

The case of a 20-year-old Delhi woman who was reportedly abducted, gang-raped, had her face blackened, her head shaved, and forced to parade with a garland of shoes has also made news in a particularly big way. The catalyst for all of this essentially is a 16-year-old adolescent boy who was attracted to her and committed suicide when she didn't reciprocate his feelings, or so they essentially thought. Furthermore, the boy's relatives began to blame her for everything and eventually harassed her. So far, twelve people have been detained in this case, including eight women and two juveniles.

A week after her father reported her missing, an 8-year-old girl's corpse was recovered in Kathua on January 17, 2018. The eight-year-old girl was kidnapped and transported to Devasthan, a Kathua temple, where she was repeatedly drugged and gang-raped². The girl's trauma was part of a plot to push away the Bakarwal group, a nomadic Muslim clan from the area. The Bakarwals and Hindus in Kathua were fighting for land, and the Bakarwals were accused of drug trafficking and cow slaughter

On December 1, 2021, Mohammad Mejar was accused of abducting a 6-year-old Dalit girl. When he saw her playing outside her house, he abducted her and subsequently raped her in a remote location. On January 27, he was sentenced to death by a special Posco court.

As "Bulli Bai"³ of the day, photographs of more than 100 Muslim women, including important figures, were exhibited on the app for auction. "Bulli Bai" was the second such effort in less than a year, following the "Sulli Deals" in July, in which almost 80 Muslim women were "for sale." In local slang, the phrases 'Bulli' and 'Sulli' are both disparaging terms for Muslim women.

Such news breaks hearts and gives Women the chills as they essentially prepare to confront the terrible world every other day.

EMINENT PERSONALITIES

² Mohd. Akhtar Vs The state of Jammu and Kashmir

³ Al Jazeera, 2022, Bulli Bai

According to Ann McFadyen, an assistant professor of strategic management at the University of Texas at Arlington, bouts of sadness, anxiety, and stress are the least of the psychological difficulties produced by sexual harassment. Victims of post-traumatic stress disorder may have flashbacks and panic attacks in more severe situations, according to McFadyen. They may also be at a higher risk of developing a drug addiction issue or attempting suicide. A person experiencing or dealing with the consequences of sexual harassment may experience PTSD symptoms, particularly if the harassment results in violence and/or assault.

According to Dr. Helen Wilson, a certified clinical psychologist who specializes in the impacts of trauma, "90 percent of women who encounter sexual violence in the immediate aftermath display symptoms of acute stress." "These symptoms decrease over time for many individuals with the help of social support and coping skills, and many people completely heal and move on; others will be so unhappy that it interferes with their job and life." It takes a specific number of symptoms to identify PTSD, but once diagnosed, it can be life-threatening."

Many laws, acts, surveys, and activities are in progress, yet the situation continues to deteriorate since just passing laws and putting them into effect will not fix the problems. As such Rape has long been regarded as a criminal offense in Indian law, as defined by the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ("IPC"). The Nirbhaya rape case⁴, which occurred in Delhi in 2012, rocked the entire country's conscience and resulted in the establishment of stronger regulations in the shape of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013. The mandatory minimum penalty was increased from seven to 10 years. The minimum penalty has been extended to twenty years in situations where the victim has died or been left in a vegetative condition. ⁵Women must be taught about these laws, their authority, entitlements, and the fact that women are not second-class citizens. They should be educated and encouraged to stand up for themselves by fighting, challenging, and speaking out. Women will benefit from these rules only if they are given a sense of freedom. If a woman has come forward and asked for assistance, she should be guided through the entire process of making a complaint so that she can rebuild her faith in the system.

"New legislation alone will not stem instances of violence against women, but a change in the mindset of men is necessary to end such crimes." Said, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu. "Merely bringing a bill is not enough. What is required is not a bill alone, but political will, administrative skill to kill the social evil...There is a need for a change of mindset of men, The

⁴ Mukesh & Anr vs State For Nct Of Delhi & Ors

⁵ Available at <https://thelogicalindian.com/story-feed/awareness/sexual-assault-laws>

state and the central governments should implement the laws strictly to prevent such "heinous crimes", People say they have every right in a democracy. For 2-4 days, TV channels will highlight the incidents. What happens after that?" he added.

FACTS AND REALITIES

Even if they have learned to manage with existential fear, India denies that a majority of its women do not feel secure alone on the streets, at work, at marketplaces, or at home. Making videos viral generally is nothing for all intents and purposes more than tormenting the victims and their families, and general social media for the most part is a game participant in this, contrary to popular belief. The rising overuse of social media is frightening everyone to the point that a family does not want to send their child to a fairly major city like Delhi because it actually is getting increasingly hazardous, causing concern among parents in a fairly major way.

As a result, social media has quickly become a hotbed for sexual harassment. Many people have turned to social media to spread false information in order to extort money. Another facet of this scenario is that many female workers have been threatened by sexual predators at work that if they don't offer sexual favors, false rumors about their character would be posted on social media.⁶

According to cases registered and POCSO in 2019⁷, the cases have decreased but every 5 hours a rape, snatching every hour, theft every 12 mins is experienced and the disappointing part is that according to the Delhi Police commissioner, less than 20% of accused were strangers to victims. But that doesn't really make a difference.

Some individuals take pride in committing these crimes; they hold their heads high when they should be ashamed, but they aren't because they've been taught that women are nothing. As a result of multiple rape incidents, many Indians have become furious. Rapists should be increasingly facing the death penalty. There have also been calls for the offenders to be hung in public. The flaws of the country's legal system and low conviction rate, according to observers, are giving rise to vigilante justice. This underscores how important it is for us to have quick courts that can handle cases quickly.⁸

⁶ Dinah Brin, 2017, *social media is a major consideration in a wave of sexual harassment allegations*

⁷ Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

⁸ Smriti Mishra, 2021, *Women Safety in India*

CONCLUSION

It's been over a decade since Nirbhaya, and little appears to have changed for the women and girls of this country. Every morning, a piece of news about harassment, violence, rape, and women's suffering appears in many newspapers and news channels. Everywhere we go, we see diverse ways in which girls are treated and seen. You can't wear this, can't walk like that, can't talk like that, can't sit like a female, and you can't be blamed for anything. Unfortunately, even in the twenty-first century, females are still the victims of patriarchal beliefs held by prejudiced people. And no one, but a woman can be a meaningful support system for another woman in these times. Education will be useless unless women are empowered, enabled, and given a feeling of independence, as well as educated to trust themselves. And that day will not be far away when girls and women will be able to walk down the street without fear in the daylight or at night, they will be able to speak out for what they want, they will live without fear, they will be strong and independent, and the world will be a better place to live.



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