



RAPE VICTIMS AND MAJOR OFFENDERS IN INDIA: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

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Introduction: Human right is essential and inspirable for human beings for their economic, social and political development, and also for the formation of a sans exploitation society. But the need, nature and implementation of human rights depend on social, political, cultural and economic factors which vary from place to place. Hence, the women seem to be at receiving end due to the domination of male in the society in general and in India in particular. The Indian women used to enjoy a very high status and importance during 'Vedic Period' where it was assumed that 'Yatra Naariustu pujayante, Ramante Tattar Devta' i.e., God lives over there where the women are worshiped. But as the time changed, India was invaded and ruled over by various foreign rulers for a long time, due to which the position of women got worse and various ill systems like 'Sati Pratha', 'Parda Partha', 'Marriage in Childhood', etc. were created which grabbed women tightly and made them miserable. Beside, the universal acceptance of human rights by the UNO in 1948 and the Constitutional Rights under article 14 to 21 to every citizen of India, the Indian government has also passed several laws for the protection of rights of women such as 'Prevention of Immoral Trafficking Act, 1956', 'Anti Dowry Act, 1961/84', 'Prevention of Sati Act, 1934', 'Special Marriage Act, 1956', 'Hindu Succession Act, 1956', 'the Medical Treatment of Pregnancy Act, 1972', etc. in spite of such a big number of laws and legislations, the crime on women seems to be uncontrolled and due to the unfavorable sex ratio and male domination, the no. of rape cases against the women are at surge.

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RAPE INCIDENTS IN INDIA: A BIRD EYE VIEW

Rape is the fastest growing crime against women in the country. A rape case is being reported in every 30 minutes. In India, the rape incidents have increased nearly by 700 per cent since 1971. According to the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB: 2006) 19,365 incidents of rape were registered in the country in 2006. An 8.2 per cent (1,593) of the total rape victims were the girls under 15 years of age, while 17.4 per cent (3,364) were teenage girls (15-18 years). Nearly two-third (11,312 or 58.4 per cent) was Women in the age-group of 18-30 years. 3,002 victims (15.5 per cent) were in the age-group of 30-50 years while only 0.5 per cent (111) was over 50 years of age. In case of child rape, a total of 4,721 cases were reported in the country during 2006 as compared to 4,026 in 2005 accounting for a significant increase of 17.3 per cent during the year. Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of cases (829) followed by Maharashtra (655). These two States taken together accounted for 31.4 per cent of the total child rape cases reported in the country. Further, offenders were known to the victims in as many as 14,536 (75.1 per cent) cases. Parents/close family members were involved in 3.0 per cent (431 out of 14,536) of these cases, neighbors were involved in 36.8 per cent cases (5,351 out of 14,536) and relatives were involved in 7.6 per cent (1,106 out of 14,536) cases (NCRB: 2006). It is clear from the above discussion that the rape incidents have emerged as a major issue in front of our society, police and policy makers in the country. The present study is made to attempt to answer of following question.

‘Major Offenders of Rape are same in all States, UTs, Major Cities or Geographical Regions or Not?’

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To examine the trends in growth of women rape incidence in India.
- ❖ To find out the major offenders of rape in Indian States, UTs, Major Cities and in different Geographical Regions of India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present Study is based on secondary data which were collected from the Annual Report of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), 2006. To achieving the above said objective, Step-wise Regression Approach of Regression Analysis has been used with the help of SPSS (Computer Software) and further, the Cross-Section Data has also been used.



Data Analysis Tool and Techniques

Average Compound Growth Rate (ACGR)

The average compound growth rate was compounded by the following formula:

$$Y = ab$$

By using logarithm, it may be written as:

$$\log y = \log a + t \log b$$

$$Y^* = a^* + t.b^* \text{ (where } \log y = y^*, \log a = a^* \text{ and } \log b = b^*)$$

The value of b^* is computed by using OLS Method. Further, the value of ACGR can be calculated by followed method:

$$ACGR = (\text{Antilog } b^* - 1) \times 100$$

Regression Analysis

Multiple regressions represent a logical extension of more than two variables regression analysis. Instead of more than one independent variable and one dependent variable is used to estimate the values of a dependent variable. The multiple regression equation describes the average relationship among more than two variables and this relationship is used to predict or control the dependent variables. The formula for calculating multiple regressions as follow:

The general form of the regression equation is

$$Y = a_0 + a_1X_1 + a_2X_2 + \dots + a_nX_n \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

Where

X_1, X_2 etc. are regresses variables, a_1, a_2 and so on are the parameters to be estimated from the data.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1. The study is very useful for commencing the initial inquiry of rape incidents at various places.
2. The study is useful to cut the cost and to increase the work efficiency of police department in general, and in rape cases in particular.



Table 1
Trends in Growth of Rape Incidents in India

Year	Total Crime Against Women	Total Incidents of Rape	Rape Incidents Per cent to Total Crime Against Women
2002	143034	16373	11.44
2003	146001	15847	11.27
2004	154333	18233	11.81
2005	155553	18359	11.80
2006	164765	19348	11.74
Average	164765	17632	11.61
ACGR	2.87	3.40	-

Source: Report of National Crime Record Bureau, 2006

Table 2
Children Rapes in India: Trends

Year	Total Crime Against Children	Total Incidents of Rape Against Children	Rape Incidents Per cent to Total Crime Against Children
2004	14423	3542	24.55
2005	14975	4026	26.88
2006	18967	4721	24.89
Average	16122	4096	25.44
ACGR	1.26	10.05	-

Source: Report of National Crime Record Bureau, 2006

It is evident from table 1 that the total crime and rape incidents against women increased steadily over the period under study. The ACGR of total crimes and rape incidents has been 2.87 and 3.40 per cent respectively from 2002 to 2006. Through the percentage of rape incidents remain almost constant at around 12 per cent of the total crime against women but yet it was minimum in 2003 and maximum in 2004. Hence, it can be said that the incidents of rape cases are not controlled efficiently and the women fall prey to the miscreants as and when.

Table 2 expresses clearly that the crime and the incidents of rape against children is also at surge. While the total crime against the children increased at ACGR of 1.26 per cent over the years under study, the rape incidents increased at an alarming rate of 10.05 per cent. The percentage of rape incidents to total crimes against the children had been very high throughout the period under study which was minimum (24.55 per cent) in 2004 and maximum (26.88 per cent) in 2005. The analysis also indicates that the incidents of rape



cases against the children are almost double the same incidents against women, out of the total cases of crime reported against them. It should be considered as a national shame as we are unable to control such serious crime against the weak section of the society.

Table 1
Major Offender of Rape in India

Particular	States Data	UTs Data	Cities Data	Pooled Data
Constant	7.689***	-6.726***	13.591*	11.234
Parents/Close Family Members	-	-	-	-
Relatives	-	-	-	-
Neighbors	-	-	1.599*	-
Other Know Persons	1.838*	3.360*	-	1.864*
R-Square	.942/94.20 %	.999/99.90%	.968/96.80%	.946/94.60%
Adj. R-Square	.940/94.00%	.999/99.90%	.967/96.70%	.946/94.60%
F-Statistics	421.902*	6927.456*	992.046*	1220.357*
Std. Err.	114.489	6.500	15.41	87.410
No. of Obser.	28	7	35	70

Source: Authors Calculations

Note:

1. State Data Included: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal Pradesh and West Bengal.
2. UTs Data Included: A&N Islands, Chandigarh, D& N Haveli, Daman& Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.
3. Cities Data Included: Agra, Ahmadabad, Allahabad, Amritsar, Asansol, Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi (City), Dhanbad, Faridabad, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jamshedpur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Madurai, Meerut, Nagpur, Nasik, Patna, Pune, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara, Varanasi, Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam; Pooled Data Included: All States, UTs and Cities.
4. *, ** and *** Significant at 1%, 5% and 10 % Respectively.



Table 2
Major Offender of Rape in Indian Regions

Particular	Northern-Region	Northern-Eastern Region	Eastern-Region
Constant	15.336*	14.524	12.741
Parents/Close Family Members	-	-	-
Relatives	-	-	-
Neighbors	-	11.092*	-
Other Know Persons	1.769*	-	1.661*
R-Square	.918/91.80%	.999/99.90	.926/92.60
Adj. R-Square	.910/91.10%	.999/99.90	.911/91.10
F-Statistics	112.105*	6067.349*	62.181*
Std. Err.	97.11	13.81	147.13
No. of Obser.	12	7	7

Source: Authors Calculations

Note:

1. Northern-Region Included: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Delhi (City), Amritsar, Faridabad, Jaipur, Ludhiana and Rajkot.
2. Northern-Eastern Included: Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.
3. Eastern-Region Included: Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar, Jamshedpur, Kolkata and Patina.
4. *, ** and *** Significant at 1%, 5% and 10 % Respectively.



Table 3

Major Offender of Rape in Indian Regions

Particular	Western-Region	Southern-Region	Central-Region
Constant	33.916***	22.205	8.858**
Parents/Close Family Members	-	-	-
Relatives	14.813*	-	-
Neighbors	-	2.482*	3.057*
Other Know Persons	-	-	-
R-Square	.995/99.50	.984/98.40	.999/99.90
Adj. R-Square	.994/99.40	.981/98.10	.999/99.10
F-Statistics	1838.506*	418.391*	13686.711*
Std. Err.	32.257	49.275	10.175
No. of Obser.	12	9	9

Source: Authors Calculations

Note:

1. Western-Region Included: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu, D & N Haveli, Ahmadabad, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nasik, Pune, Surat and Vadodara.
2. Southern-Region Included: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad.
3. Central-Region Included: Madhya Pradesh, Utter Pradesh, Agra, Allahabad, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Lucknow, Meerut and Varanasi.
4. *, ** and *** Significant at 1%, 5% and 10 % Respectively.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

To find out the major 'Offenders' of Rape in Indian States, Union Territories (UTs), Major Indian Cities and in different Geographical Regions (Northern-Region, Northern-Eastern Region, Eastern-Region, Western-Region, Southern-Region and Central-region of India), Step-Wise Regression has been used (See detailed Table 1, 2 and 3). Table 1 shows that in Indian States and Union Territories (UTs), 'Other Known Persons' is the major 'Offenders' of Rape, while in Major Cities of India, 'Neighbors' is the major 'Offenders' in 2006. Table 2 and 3 reveals that the 'Others Known Persons' is the major 'Offenders' of Rape in 'North-Region, Eastern-Region, while 'Neighbors' is the major 'offenders' of Rape in 'Northern-Eastern Region', 'Southern-Region' and 'Central-Region'. Table 3 further reveals that 'Relative' is the



major 'offenders' of Rape in 'Western-Region' of India during the period under consideration.

CONCLUSION

Through this study we have analyzed the major offenders behind the rape incidences among different geographical regions in India with the help of appropriate statistical tool and techniques such as-average, ACGR, step-wise regression analysis, etc. and found that 'Other Known Persons' were the major 'Offenders' of Rape in Indian States and Union Territories (UTs), while in Major Cities, 'Neighbors' were the major 'Offenders'. Further, 'Others Known Persons' were major 'Offenders' of Rape in 'North-Region, Eastern-Region, while 'Neighbors' were the major 'offenders' of Rape in 'Northern-Eastern Region', 'Southern-Region' and 'Central-Region'. Moreover, 'Relative' is the major 'offenders' of Rape in 'Western-Region'. On the base of foregoing analysis we concluded that the reason or motive behind the rape incidents is not similar in different geographical regions of India. So, we suggest that the government of India should use psychological and sociological studies as tools to resolve the problem of rape crime in India.

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