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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA: TREND AND REGIONAL VARIATION

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## Abstract

In Indian society, woman occupies a vital position and vulnerable place. The Vedas glorified women as the mother, the creator, and one who gives life and worshipped her as a Goddess. But in practically their glorification is just a myth. A numbers of researches are beginning to offer a global overview of the extent of violence against women. In this paper we try to investigate the trend and regional variation of crime against women in India since 1995. The study is based on secondary data collected from "Crime in India" published by "National Crime Records Bureau Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India". The study uses tolls like regression and analysis of variance to find the concerned objective. The study shows that the violence of crime against women highest in Northern Region and lowest in Western Region. The study also shows a wide variation in the trend of such crime across states.

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## INTRODUCTION

Violence against women first came to be viewed as a serious social problem in the early 1970s, in part because of the re-emergence of the Women's Movement Johnson, H. (1996). The family structure, where man is the undisputed ruler of the household, and activities within the family are seen as private, allows violence to occur at home Niaz (2003). In India, women are always been considered as the weak section. Gender discrimination and the sufferings of women were once not discussed much and women had to suffer silently. But now a day's violence against women is considered as the most serious issue all over the world. In India also from the last decade the issue of violence against women has been taken seriously. The Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles gave stress on the issue of gender equality. The most common types of crime from which women are vulnerable are rape, domestic violence, kidnapping, dowry etc. various studies have been undertaken by researchers from time to time in different regions all over the world. In a study of Gupta (2014) it is found that most of the incidences of violence against women are not reported as actual number of incidence are found to be much higher than the reported crimes. In the same study it is also found that most incidence of sexual violence is committed by husbands. Violence can be visible or invisible or camouflaged in moral terms and it is always a coercive instrument to uphold or enforce cultural codes of honor Krishnaraj (2007). To come over from the situation Fried (2003), in his study, gave stress on the importance of women organizations.

Given this background this study seeks to investigate the trend and regional variation of crime against women in India. In addition to this we have also undertaken the average incidence of different types of crime against women in 25 states and 1 union territory (Delhi) in India from 2009 to 2013.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The trend in the rate of crime against women has been discussed by estimating the following simple regression equation:

$$Crime = \alpha + \beta T + u \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where, Crime represents the violation of crime against women, T stands for time trend,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the coefficients of the model, and  $u$  is the error term. A significant positive value of coefficient of time,  $\beta$ , indicates a positive trend in violation of crime against women, while a significant negative value of the coefficient indicates negative trend. In order to find variation of violation of crime against women across different region of India we have use Analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Null hypothesis is  $H_0: \mu_1 = \mu_2 = \dots = \mu_k$

Alternative hypothesis  $H_1: \mu_1 \neq \mu_2 \neq \dots \neq \mu_k$

If calculated value of F is statistically significant we reject null hypothesis of no variation and accept alternative hypothesis which means that there is significant variation in suicide across region.

This study is based on secondary data and which are collected from *Crimes in India* Published by *National Crime Records Bureau Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India*. All data are annual figures covering the period of 1995 to 2014. Data used in the study actually represents the data on the total rate of crime against women. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttaranchal have been excluded from the study due to lack of database for the relevant variable.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Crime against women in India

To see the different types of violence that takes place in India, we have included four major types of committed crimes against women which include rape, kidnapping and abduction, dowry deaths and torture (cruelty by husband or his relatives). Table 1 depicts average rate of crime against women. The northeastern region shows highest rate of rape, consequently it is seen that northern region seems to have second highest rate of kidnapping and abduction. East shows the highest rate of dowry deaths and south seems to have highest rate of torture although all the regions of India shows a very high rate of such crime. Thus we have observed a wide variation in the different types of violence committed against women in India.

**Table1: Average rate of Crimes Committed against Women by region (2009-2013)**

Region	Rape	Kidnapping&Abduction	Dowry Deaths	Cruelty By Husband or his Relatives
North	4.55	6.02	0.63	9.81
Central	4.96	2.39	1.07	5.21
East	3.35	3.45	1.20	9.59
North east	6.91	3.55	0.22	6.96
West	2.83	1.77	0.17	7.33
South	2.35	1.74	0.40	11.24

Source: author's calculation

#### 3.2 Trend of crime against women in India

Crime against woman is one of the most important problem in India. The large number of such crime in various parts of the country is perhaps the most distressing phenomenon observed in India over the last decade. The trends in the rate of crime against women are shown in the following table2:

**Table2: Regression results of trend in the rate of crime against women in India**

States	coeff.	t statistic	states	coeff.	t statistic
ANDHRA PRADESH	1.77	2.15**	MANIPUR	1.91	2.95***
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	11.23	2.21**	MEGHALAYA	4.79	3.08***
ASSAM	18.34	3.10***	MIZORAM	2.84	2.50**
BIHAR	2.85	1.98*	NAGALAND	0.5	1.81*
GOA	9.63	2.69**	ORISSA	7.44	2.47**
GUJARAT	2.17	2.16**	PUNJAB	5.88	2.41**
HARYANA	7.83	2.38**	RAJASTHAN	33.59	2.75**
HIMACHAL PRADESH	5.78	2.64**	SIKKIM	8.09	2.78**
JAMMU & KASHMIR	3.02	2.23**	TAMIL NADU	0.01	0.02
KARNATAKA	8.29	3.02***	TRIPURA	5.17	4.67***

KERALA	4.37	2.72**	UTTAR PRADESH	11.47	2.69**
MADHYA PRADESH	12.96	3.14***	WEST BENGAL	10.63	3.08***
MAHARASHTRA	11.8	2.96***	DELHI	2402.1	2.70**

Note: \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicates 1%, 5%, and 10% respectively

Source: author's calculation

In table2 we observed that there is a wide variation in the trend of crime in India. The coefficient of time trend is estimated to be positive and statistically significant for all the states except Tamil Nadu. This implies the crime in this particular states increase over time. On the contrary the t value of time coefficient is not statistically significant for Tamil Nadu which implies there is no systematic trend in crime against women and it is not possible to comment whether the trend is increasing or decreasing.

### 3.3 Regional variation of crime against women

The incidence violation is different for different region. The regional variation of crime is shown in table3.

**Table3: variation of crime against women**

Region	mean	Variance	F
North	24.66	563.60	3.32***
Central	20.66	217.00	
East	19.16	344.70	
North east	16.47	395.78	
West	16.08	128.88	
South	22.63	293.12	

Source: author's calculation

Table3 shows that the null hypothesis of no variation of crime across region is rejected. This is true from the fact that the F statistic ( $F=3.32$ ) is highly significant which implies that there is significant variation of crime across region in India. It is found that Average numbers of violation of crime is highest in Northern region followed by South, Central, East and North east whereas lowest in Western region. On the other hand the value of variance is highest in case of North which indicates high variation such crime in these states. North East shows second highest variation of crime which implies that even if crime is not highest but variation is highest in these states. Whereas the variance is lowest for Western Region which indicates that variation in crime is low in these states.

## 4. DISCUSSION

In developing countries like India, women are vulnerable to many forms of violence. The most common violence against women occurs such as wife-battering and sexual assault, dowry crimes such as bride burning, kidnapping for the purposes of prostitution etc. The study by Hoffman, K. L., Demo, D. H., & Edwards, J. N. (1994) shows that higher socioeconomic status and education among women have generally been found to be protective factors against women's risk of domestic violence. Demographic factors such as age, number of living male children, and extended family residence are inversely associated with risk of domestic violence. Our study shows that there is considerable variation in the trend of crime against women in India. Over the time the rate is increases in almost all the states of India. The incidence of crime is highest in Northern region and lowest in Western region. Thus from the above discussion it is clear that violence against women is the most serious issue in India. This haphazard situation can be reduces by reducing gender discrimination, increasing opportunities of education and empowerment of women.

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