

## CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN HARYANA: AN ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:** This paper deals with the issues of crime against women in Indian society. Haryana has contributed heavily to the Green Revolution and has been the biggest contributor of food wealth and agricultural consumptions in India. It has third highest per capita income in the country after Goa and Delhi. Haryana is a progressing state economically but on the social front it is still backward and patriarchal. It comprises of 21 Districts at present out of which 19 districts have sex ratio lower than 880. According to Census 2011 it has the worst sex ratio (877) and lowest child sex ratio (830). In the state of Haryana since status of women is low, crimes against women are likely to be higher. The Reflection of patriarchy and its effect on society at large are very evident in our statistics. Moreover, the reported cases are much smaller than the actual number, because bringing certain crimes into the notice of authorities will tarnish the image of women who are themselves victims. Thus theme of the present research paper is based on different types of gender crime/violence perpetrated against women in Haryana.

The introductory part of the paper throws light on NCRB data on crime against women in Haryana in comparison to India. Second part of the paper will discuss the two types of crimes, one leading to death of a woman and not leading to death of a woman. Third part will deal with reasons for increase in crime against women and its consequences. Finally the last section will focus on conclusion part of the paper.

**Key words:** Crime against women, Gender, Honour, Patriarchy. Words: 196

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic development and integration of women in to the mainstream of national life has been pursued as a national policy objective since independence. The constitution of India has granted equal rights to both men and women but still women face extreme discrimination and violence and thus occupies low status in Society. Discriminatory mind-set towards women has existed since many centuries and has affected the lives of women. Condition of women is worst in Haryana where in each of the 7000-odd villages' 150-200 youths above 25 years are unmarried. Preference for son is very strong compelling parents to go for unwanted sex determination test and aborting their foetus. Haryana's declining sex ratio, child sex ratio and sex ratio at birth portrays the discrimination towards women at the stage of birth or before birth. If a girl child is born then she is subjected to other forms of violence like lack of education, she is not given food at home and she denied of her freedom, not allowed to play or speak freely. A brother is given pocket money but she is not given. After this stage she is victims of crime directed specifically at them, rape, kidnapping and abduction, dowry-related crimes, molestation, sexual harassment, eve-teasing, honour killings etc. Women are being trafficked for sex, harassment at workplaces and tortured in family and society. The statistics presented in the National Crime Records Bureau report 2012, re-affirm the rising trend of crimes against women. Women have been the victims of exploitations since long time in different fields in their life both physically, socially, mentally and economically. Manusmriti, a basic brahminical text defines the social organisation, says;

*A girl, a young woman or even an old woman should not do anything independently. In childhood, a woman should be under her father's control, in youth her husband's, and when her husband is dead, under her son. She shouldn't have independence.*

Unfortunately women in India and especially in Haryana have been helpless, in vulnerable and victimized in the name of Honour. It was observed that women has to keep silent, submissiveness is accepted by the community. If she becomes vocal and goes to sarpanch or police station then is believed that she has brought dishonour to the families/communities. Woman is responsible of the family honour as a daughter, wife and mother while man control it. The greatest threat to this honour lies in the woman, in her body, conduct due to her reproducing and procreating capacity (Chowdhry, 2006, pp. 16-17). Culturally honour is always attached with the female member of the family. If a girls is raped or gang raped in Haryana, it is believed that she has brought shame and dishonour to the family/community. Thus women's freedom is oppressed by patriarchal orthodox ideologies.

**II. WOMEN AND VIOLENCE DURING LIFE CYCLE**

Women continue to be subjected to crimes/violence over the entire life cycle. Before birth they are condemned to sex selection and female foeticide; during infant and childhood stage they are subject to infanticide or undernourishment; if they do manage to pass the age of five, they are neglected in medical care and education as well as subjected to sexual or physical violence; in adolescence and adulthood, they are faced with situations of early marriage, early pregnancy, sexual violence, domestic violence, harassment for dowry, desertion, dying during deliveries and as older women and widows condemned to a life of desertion and neglect etc. Table 1 shows that gender violence in different stages of women’s life.

**Table 1  
GENDER VIOLENCE ACROSS LIFE CYCLE**

Pre-birth Stage	Female Foeticide
Infancy Stage	Female Infanticide and Gender Discrimination (health care, nutrition).
Childhood Stage	Gender Discrimination (Health, Nutrition, Food, Education and other social benefits)
The adolescent Stage	At the stage of adolescence (early marriage, rape, discrimination in health care, dress code, use of information technology like mobile phones, their movements are restricted, prostitution, trafficking, eve-teasing etc).
Reproductive stage of women	At reproductive age (Domestic Violence in the form of sexual (marital rape), psychological, emotionally and physically tortured by intimate partner and his family members).
Old Age	In old age women generally faces elderly abuse. (Abused in terms of physical, emotional, psychological and financial abuse).

It can be analysed that although women’s life cycle she has to face different form of gender violence and exploitation. Thus the research paper is also based on the different forms of crimes which a women face during her entire life cycle which is elaborated in the paper. It was observed during the fieldwork in both the state Punjab and Haryana that preference for son and low child sex ratio results to these crimes. The concept of masculinity is also very important. Men since centuries wanted to control women and considered women as repository to a man (Chowdhry 2006). The concept of honour is always attached to a girl’s child or women of family. A girl talking to a boy on a phone is thought to have brought shame to the family. Sometimes she is even killed for bringing shame to the family. International Research Network on Violence against Women (IRNVAW) has been studying worldwide pattern of such violence. The reported instances of violence are merely a tip of the iceberg, because for every one reported case there are many which go unreported. Trafficking of women is strongly associated with economic disparity which brings massive development of women into prostitution (Barry, 1995).

Thus the present paper is based on gender violence perpetrated against women in Haryana. Crimes against women have been categorised into two parts: Crimes not leading to death of a woman and crimes leading to death of a woman shall be elaborated in the paper. These two types of the crimes will be discussed in the present research paper.

**Table2  
Different types of Gender Violence reported in Haryana**

Crimes leading to death of a woman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Abetment to Suicide</li> <li>▶ Murder</li> <li>▶ Culpable Homicide</li> <li>▶ Dowry Deaths</li> </ul>	Crimes not leading to death of a woman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Rape</li> <li>▶ Molestation</li> <li>▶ Cruelty against women</li> <li>▶ Eve-teasing</li> <li>▶ Dowry Prohibition Act</li> <li>▶ Immoral trafficking</li> <li>▶ Female foeticide</li> </ul>
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Source: Ahlawat and Kumar, 2012

**STATUS OF WOMEN**

Indian Constitution guarantees equal rights to for both the gender (men and women), but still women continues to face gender violence. Indian women face some of the world’s worst inequality in access to healthcare, education and work despite rapid economic growth. This puts India below other fast developing countries

including South Africa, China and Brazil. India has performed poorly in removing gender-based disparities. India's ranking is 114 out of 142 countries as per World Economic Forum's 2014 Gender Gap Index. It has scored below average on parameters like economic participation, educational attainment and health and survival according to gender (Gender Gap Report, 2014). India's ranking was 101 out of 136 countries in 2013. In 2014 India's ranking has further gone down. India is part of the 20 worst-performing countries on the labour force participation, estimated earned income, literacy rate and sex ratio at birth indicators (Gender Gap Report, 2014). The situation is much worsening in Punjab and Haryana. World Development Report 2012 revealed that "the ratio of female to male child mortality in Haryana is worse than any country in the world" (Filmer, King and Pritchett, 1988: 22). It revealed the status of women in Haryana on a selected set of GDI (Gender Development Indicators) i.e. sex ratio, education, women health and violence against women in Haryana. The most striking feature about Haryana has been a strengthening of male biased (patriarchal) norms and values across all castes, class and religion. Economic Development has led to arousal of strong emotional feelings of 'son preference' and sexual mores that lead parents to kill unborn daughters has also been discussed by Patel (2007). Sangwan and Sanghwan (2008) has discussed declining CSR (Child Sex Ratio) and after affects of it on the socio-cultural milieu of society.

**The Crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**

1. Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)
2. Kidnapping and abduction for specified purposes (Sec. 362-373 IPC)
3. Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Death or their Attempts (Sec. 302/304-B IPC)
4. Torture-Both mental and Physical (Sec. 498-A IPC)
5. Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)
6. Sexual Harassment (Eve teasing) (Sec. 509 IPC)
7. Importation of Girls (Sec. 366-B IPC)

**The Crimes under the Special and Local Laws (SLL)**

The gender specific laws for which crime statistics are recorded throughout the country are;

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

**Objective of Study:**

The main objective of present research paper is to analyse the crime against women data in Haryana. Further the trends of dowry death, Rape, Molestation, Cruelty against women, and Sexual Harassment at work place will be discussed in the paper. The paper will also try to find out causes of increase in crime against women in Haryana since last few years.

**Research Methodology**

The present paper is mainly based on secondary data, which has been taken from District Census Handbook, Census of Haryana, Statistical Abstract of Haryana and National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). For the present paper census and crime data have been analysed. The systematic approach has been adopted for analysis. Both qualitative and quantitative methods have been applied for the data analysis. Perception of local community members including both men and women of different age group from Haryana has been taken on these crime head.

**ANALYSIS OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN**

Crimes against women have been categorised into two parts: crimes leading to death of a woman and crimes not leading to death of a woman. Thus the theme of the research paper is based on crime against women in Haryana. Dowry Deaths, Rape, Molestation, Cruelty by husband and relatives and Sexual Harassment at work place will be dealt in this paper. Table 3 shows the incidence of Crimes committed Against Women in the state of Punjab and Haryana in comparison to national average.

**Table 3**

**Incidence of Crimes Committed Against Women in India, Punjab and Haryana (NCRB, 2011)**

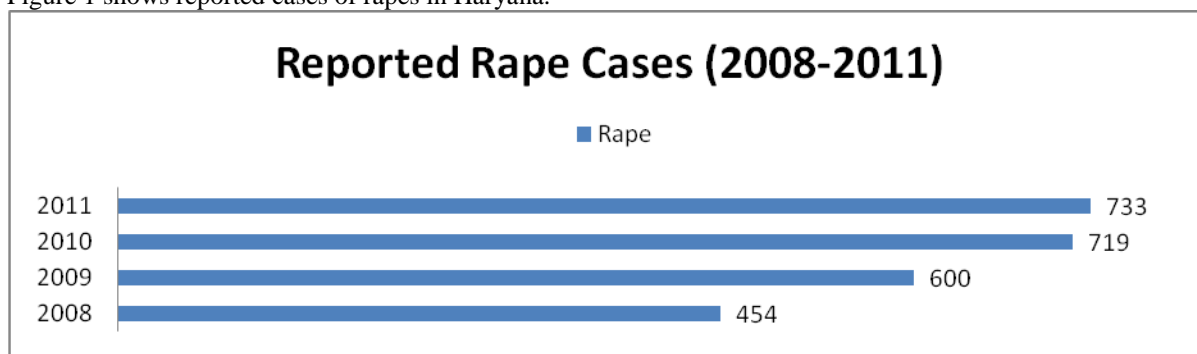
Crime Head	Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)			Dowry Death			Cruelty by Husband and Relatives			Molestation			Sexual Harassment		
	I	R	P	I	R	P	I	R	P	I	R	P	I	R	P

<b>India</b>	2420 6	2	10 0	861 8	0. 7	10 0	9913 5	8.2	10 0	4296 8	3. 6	10 0	857 0	0. 7	10 0
<b>Haryana</b>	733	2. 9	3	255	1	3	2740	10.8	2.8	474	1. 9	1.1	490	1. 9	5.7
<b>Punjab</b>	479	1. 7	2	143	0. 5	1.7	1136	4.1	1.1	282	1	0.7	31	0. 1	0.4

1. R= Rate of Crime
2. P= Percentage Share
3. I= Incidents of Crime

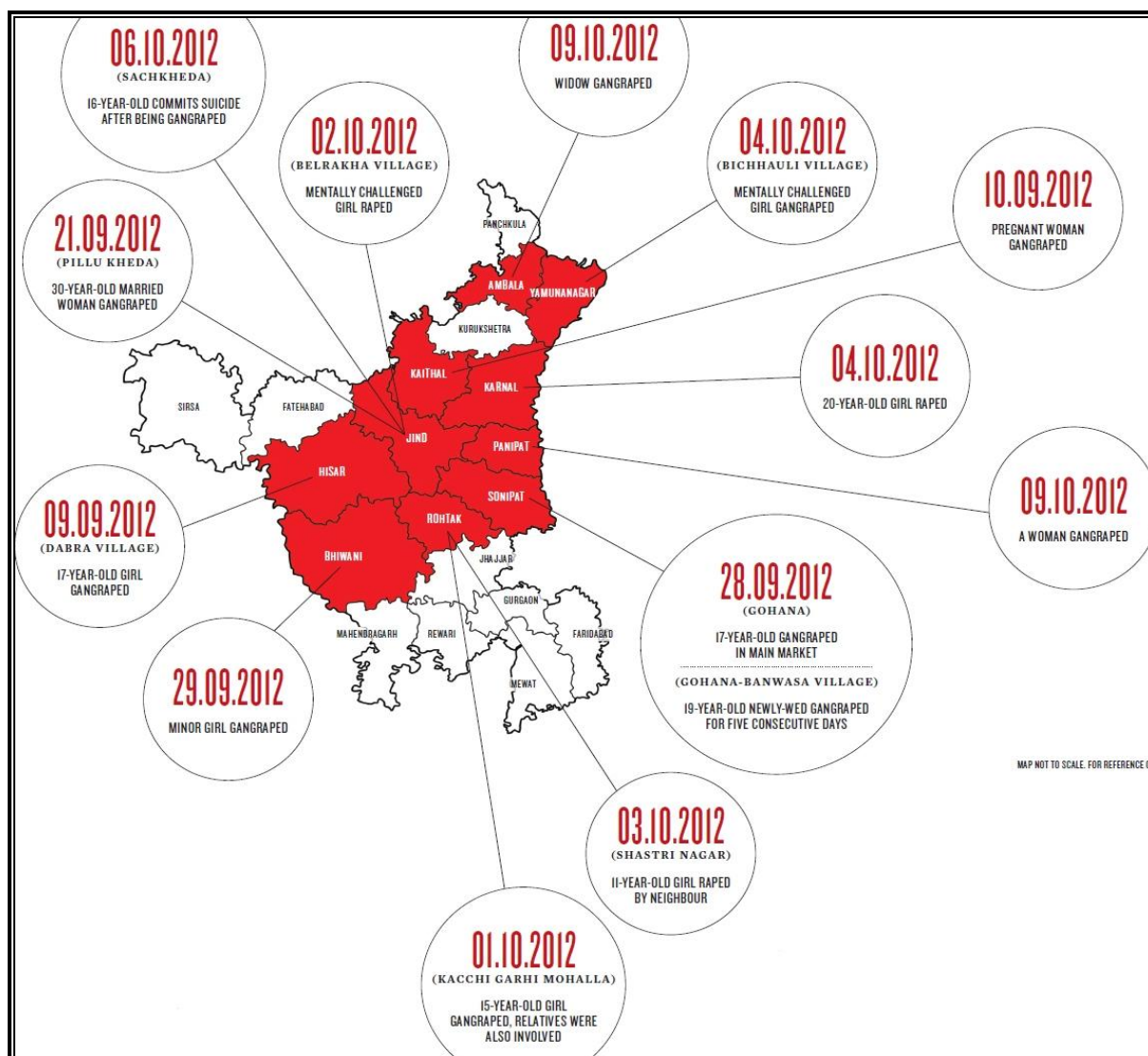
Rape, the most common form of violence against women has been a part of human culture. It is gender violent behaviour and is a form of torture and majority perpetrators are men and victims were women. Rape remains highly unreported crime due to fear of retribution from the abusers and societal stigmatization (Smith 2004). It also believed that sexual violence and rape men try to exercise their patriarchal power over women to show their domination (Ray 2005: 85). Table 3 elaborates that in comparison to State of Punjab, Haryana contributes more in crime against women as per NCRB data. Society at large is deeply patriarchal with strong preference for son which contributes to increase gender violence i.e. Female Foeticide. Increase in incident of rapes by 254 point, Dowry death by 112 points, Cruelty by Husband and Relatives by 1604 points, molestation by 192 points and Sexual Harassment at workplace by 459 points as per NCRB Data. Marriage age of boys has gone up (30-40 years) due to unavailability of girls in their area and few men never got married. During fieldwork villagers told that 20-30 years back boys used to get married at an early age. Boys in the marriageable age are unable to find brides for them and lead to phenomenon of bride buying in Haryana. It was observed that such type of crimes was prevalent in the past but people were not much aware about the reporting. Women Cell in-charge, Jhajjar told that women never used to come out in open in the past for such kind of crimes. Women never used come out and assert their rights; one they were not aware about their rights. Women coming out to police station were not accepted by the community and her family members and are considered she has brought disgrace to her husband's family. If a girl was raped, her family members used to get her married to a man from distant village. But now a day there is a change in the mindset of people due to easily accessibility to print and electronic media. Women have become more aware about such things and which results in enhancement of reporting of such crimes. Although the researchers argument is this that these figures are only reported one but in rural Haryana still many cases go unreported. What about those unreported cases? Caste hierarchies are so strong in Haryana that if a girl of a Dalit caste is raped by Jat boys then it becomes very difficult to register FIR against a Jat boy. The rate of crime of state of Haryana (2.9) is higher than its neighbouring state Punjab (1.7) and national average i.e. 2. The state has observed increase in incidents of rape (2008-2011). The highest numbers of rape cases were reported from the districts Karnal i.e. 62 and lowest numbers of rape cases were found in district Fatehabad i.e. 15 in 2011. Total numbers of reported cases of rape in Haryana are 2506 as per NCRB data (2008-2011).

Figure 1 shows reported cases of rapes in Haryana.



Source: National Crime Record Bureau

The graph below depicts incidence of rape as per newspaper reporting. Question which arises in the mind that these are few reported cases and what about those which remain unreported.



**Source:** <http://www.tehelka.com/haryanas-bestial-rape-chronicles-or-where-a-rapist-is-considered-a-real-man>

**Table 4**  
**Crime head wise incidents of Crime against Women in Haryana (2008-2011)**

S.No	Crime Head	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
1.	Dowry	302	281	284	255	1122
2.	Domestic Violence	2435	2617	2680	2740	10471
3.	Rape	454	600	719	733	2506
4.	Sexual Harassment	447	389	436	360	1632
5.	Molestation	477	469	468	472	1886
	Total cases of crime against women Haryana	4115	4364	4587	4560	17617

**Source:** National Crime Record Bureau

In the state of Haryana since status of women is low crimes against women are likely to be higher. The reflection of patriarchy and its effect on society at large are very evident in our statistics. Women have to undergo tremendous forms of violence in various stages of their lives for instance rape, bride burning, domestic violence, harassment, violence due to demand for dowry, etc. Table 4 represents the trends of crime against women in Haryana since 2008-2011 as per NCRB Data. Total number of registered cases of domestic violence in Haryana is high among all the types of crime against women. It is analysed that from (2008-2011) there is a

positive variation of 12.5% in the registration of domestic violence cases in Haryana. It reflects the orthodox and patriarchal mindset of people of Haryana. The economic dependence of the women on her family to fulfil their needs is also one of the main reasons behind such kind of crimes. The social and economic status of women can be both a cause and consequence of violence against women.

#### **DOWRY DEATHS (SECTION 304-B IPC)**

Dowry Death means where the death of a woman is caused by any burns or bodily injury or occurs otherwise than under normal circumstances within seven years of her marriage. It is shown that soon before her death she was subjected to cruelty or harassment by her husband or any relative of her husband for, or in connection with, any demand for dowry, such death shall be called “dowry death”, and such husband or relative shall be deemed to have caused her death (<http://indiankanoon.org/doc/653797/>). State of Haryana has higher percentage of dowry death in comparison to national average in 2011. Table 3 highlights fall of 29 points during the period 2010-2011.

#### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT (SECTION.509 IPC)**

The rate of crime in the state of Haryana (1.9) was higher than its neighbouring state Punjab (0.1) and national average i.e. 0.7. Highest reported cases of sexual harassment were reported in the district of Faridabad (59) and Rohtak (52). Lowest reported cases were from district Mewat (3) and second lowest from district Yamunanagar (6) as per 2011 NCRB data. Faridabad is an industrial town and is also in close approximation to India’s Capital New Delhi. It can be one of the reasons for highest number of sexual harassment cases reported from this district. District Mewat has been dominated by Meo-muslims community. They value traditional and patriarchal framework. Women are generally perceived as inferior being in comparison to men in almost every sphere of life. The female literacy level was lowest in Haryana as per census 2011 i.e. 35.1 percent which further has contributed to low status of women. Women have to be within four walls of the house. Men go out to work. There is restrictions in women’s movements, mobility, their access to resources and services such employment. Women are not allowed to go out for work. Hence these areas contributed to low crime rate against women.

### **CAUSES OF INCREASE IN CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN HARYANA**

#### **LOW SEX RATIO**

There are multiple reasons for increase in crime against women in Haryana. First and foremost is the declining sex ratio, child sex ratio and sex ratio at birth (0-1 years) in Haryana which is at the bottom position as per census 2011. Sangwan and Sangwan (2008) have focused their attention on declining child sex ratio and after affects of it on the socio-cultural milieu of society. Since status of women is low and preference for son is very strong in rural Haryana which in turn leads to low sex ratio resulting in rise in crimes against women in Haryana and purchased of brides for boys of marriageable age from neighbouring states like Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

#### **PREFERENCE FOR SON/FEMALE FOETICIDE**

Preference for son is so strong that parents kill their daughters in the womb (female foeticide). The society itself is so patriarchal and male dominated that women has no place and are neglected at each phase of their life. During group discussions with women in khap belt of Haryana they said,

*“ladka budhape ka sahara hota hai, ladki to apne ghar chali jaawe, ghar ka deeva jalta rehta hai, ladke se hi vansh aage badhta hai”*

(Informal Group discussion with Middle age group women, **Jaat Caste**, Meham Khedi district Rohtak)

A male respondent on the birth of a girl child said,

*“ladki hone se mooh ko tala lag jata hai”*

(Male 40 years, **Jaat Caste**, Meham Khedi district Rohtak)

#### **EARLY MARRIAGE OF GIRLS**

In India and especially in Haryana the practice of early marriage still holds its place in various states. The Girls are seen as an object and still Girl’s birth is mourned. When a girl is made to marry at very initial stage, she has to bear various forms of crime. Young girls with low levels of education are more likely to experience violence by an intimate partner. A young girl who is forced to get married at a very early age is forced to make marital relations against her wish and thus suffered signs of depressions and stress. Their innocence has not gone and neither their bodies are prepared to bear such atrocities.

#### **ENFORCEMENT AND EXECUTION IS A MAJOR PROBLEM**

In ancient times the women in India occupied a high status. However with the passage of time and beginning of political establishment the status of women had fall considerably. Women in present times are ahead from boys in every sphere. The women in more and more numbers are coming out from the houses to attain employment.

But the security of the women is one such question that holds the parents to restrict themselves inside the premises of the houses. Women now days are contributing equally for developing our economy. With respect to it they are working in both government and private institutions. The woman who are working in various reputed private agencies had to work till late hours and hence it becomes difficult to manage the affairs like transportation, private vehicle and hence there security question always remained doubtful. No doubt in this present scientific and modern generation there are various social networking applications which are designed for the safety of the women but still the incidences of street harassment, kidnapping, the cases of sexual exploitation are not stopping. Hence there is an emergent need that our government and agencies that are responsible for maintaining law and order had to frame strict laws and penalties on those who violate the social environment. It is not that there is absence of policies and programmes but whether these policies are being implemented is a big question? Hence government needs to strict the laws so that women in our society can lead a fearless and prosperous life.

**EDUCATION OF A WOMAN IS DISPLEASED**

It is very heartening to see that In spite of becoming a prosperous developing economy and attaining higher results and successes in every sphere and field still a vast majority of girls and women are being deprived of attaining education. They are the sufferers of rigid and orthodox network of rules and regulation that had been framed by the society. There is an absence of rich and quality curriculum in the schools. In schools emphasis is given to only theoretical education and only criteria whether a student is bright or dull may be reflected in term of grades and marks he got in the examination. There is no provision of adult education in the schools and it is seen as a taboo if one talks about it. There is a very urgent need that sex education or adult education should be made an integral part of the school curriculum. The teachers as well as parents should teach their student or daughters as to differentiate between what is a good or bad touch? Also the vocational and technical courses should be added into the curriculum so that women should defend themselves in case of emergencies.

**KHAP PANCHAYATS STAND ON CRIME AGAINST WOMEN**

Khap Panchayat is a male dominated institution and has been there since 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. In Haryana’s history role of Khap Panchayat cannot be ignored. Recently Khap panchayat has been notoriously in news for wrong reasons in media. For example members of Khap Pachayat suggested reducing age at marriage to 16 years in order to avoid gang rapes in the state. Other Khap members on this problem suggested to curb the problem of rape in Haryana, the age of marriage of girls should be reduced from 18 to 15 years in October 2012. During fieldwork in interiors of Haryana (Rohtak, Sonapat and Rewari Khap Belt) majority of respondent said,

*“ladki ki shaadi 14 saal mien kar deni chahiye, 18 saal jo ki kanooni umar hai wo galat hai, Ladki 14 saal mien jawan ho jaati hai, mahol bhi isiliye kharaab ho raha hai kyunki ladkiyon ki shaadi umar 18 saal ki hai”*

(Male 70 years, **Jat Caste**, 70 years district Rohtak Meham Chaubasi Khap)

Member of Khap said,

*“Ladkiyon ki shaadi 16 saal mien kar deni chahiye agar apradh (Gangrape) kam karna hai to”*

(Male respondents 45 years, Jat Caste 40 acres village Bibipur ditrict Jind)

In order to avoid gangrenes in Haryana many of the khap members told the researcher that we should get our daughter married early i.e. 16 years.

In the present era of medical science, we know the consequences of early age marriages of girls on their health. Is it not the failure of State to stop the menace of heinous crimes like rape against women? On the other hand, as per suggestion, the punishment of rape should also be given to parents of the girls by marrying them at an early age of 15? It seems to be the failure of democratic government.

As per National Commission for Women Data, Haryana ranks third in the country when it comes to atrocities against women. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has received 1,720 complaints, the third highest number of cases of crime against women from Haryana during the year 2014-15. The number of complaints registered with NCW has been showing an increasing trend lately. In 2013-14, a total of 1411 complaints were received from Haryana while a year before in 2012-13, the complaints were 1288. While the dowry complaints are reducing, the complaints against police harassment especially police apathy have been increasing rapidly over the years.

**Table 5  
Crime against Women**

Crime Head	No. Of cases
Rape	70
Attempt to Rape	39
Dowry Death	23

Sexual Harassment at Workplace	32
Kidnapping/Abduction	30
Outraging modesty of a Women	136
Sex selective abortions	4
Right to Exercise choice of Marriage	16
Dowry Harassment/Dowry Death	44
Domestic violence	199
Police Harassment/atrocities of police	29
complaints related to right to live with dignity	130
Service Matter	25
Property related	60
Complaints by in-laws	28
Deprivation of women right	19
Stalking	2
Violence against women	41
Sexual Harassment including cases at workplace	35

Source: National Commission for Women 2014-15

### III. CONCLUSION

The state of Haryana is economically prosperous. It ranked third in terms of GDP after Goa and New Delhi. On one front the girls from Haryana had brought success and glory to the state achieving medals and occupying higher positions at various levels. But on the other front still majority of women are victims of various forms of crimes which show the poor status of girls and women in the state. The data by National Crime Record Bureau and National Commission for women justifies the low status of women. Woman suffers violence of all forms and at all stages in their lives. Starting with the foetal stage where they are susceptible to death through sex selection; during childhood when they are often under-nourished, uneducated, generally neglected, and burdened with household responsibilities; during early married life when they are vulnerable to harassment, injury, and even to murder in their marital homes but find no shelter in their parental home; and throughout their lives when they are subjected to physical beating and assault as well as emotional humiliation and degradation. It is clear that violence against women is prevalent in the state of Haryana. The reason is women in the country are highly vulnerable because of poor quality of life indicated by rampant poverty.

Government had taken many positive incentives to improve the conditions of women. Initiatives like Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao, SABLA, LADLI schemes were introduced in the state. Mere formulation of the policies to raise the status of women will not work until mindset of the people will not change. We need to give more powers to women so that they can become empowered and can become more independent in term of taking decisions on their own. Govt. should impose strict punishment to the culprits who harasses women at any point of time and at any place.

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