



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA WITH A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT - A REALITY CHECK

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### ABSTRACT:

Violence against women is an international phenomenon. In India, rape, sexual assault, physical and verbal abuse become especially pervasive given their strongly roots in India's history and societal norms. The issue of violence against women grows increasingly urgent, statistics illustrating that violence against women is on the rise. Between the years of 2001 and 2011, the number of crimes against women has risen an alarming 59%, the number one crime being rape. Women in India have always been issues of concern. The folks and society at large consider women as second class citizens. Though we admire and preach them in the name of Durga, Saraswati, Parvati and Kali, we also abuse her in the form of Child-marriage, Female infanticide, Sati, Sexual harassment, Dowry and so on. The status of women in India has been subject to many great alterations over the past few millenniums. From a largely unknown status in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been lively. The status of women has varied in different time periods. Savagery against ladies is incompletely an aftereffect of sexual orientation relations that expect men to be better than ladies. Given the subordinate status of ladies, a lot of sexual orientation brutality is viewed as ordinary and appreciates social assent. Appearances of viciousness incorporate physical hostility, for example, blows of shifting power, consumes, endeavored hanging, sexual maltreatment and assault, mental savagery through put-down, mortification, pressure, extortion, monetary or passionate dangers, and command over discourse and activities. In extraordinary, yet not obscure cases, passing is the outcome. These outflows of savagery occur in a man-lady relationship inside the family, state and society. Generally, household animosity towards ladies and young ladies, because of different reasons stay covered up. Social and social variables are interlinked with the improvement and spread of savage conduct.

**KEYWORDS:** Sexual Harassment, Rape, Female Infanticide, Dowry, Eve-Teasing, Sexual Harassment, Acid Attack Kidnapping, and Molestation.

***"Freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipation from all form of oppression" - Nelson Mandela***

Brutality against ladies keeps on being a worldwide pandemic that slaughters, torments, and disfigures – physically, mentally, explicitly and financially. It is a standout amongst the most inescapable of human rights infringement, denying ladies' correspondence, security, respect, self-esteem, and their entitlement to appreciate major opportunities. Viciousness against ladies is available in each nation, cutting crosswise over limits of culture, class, instruction, pay, ethnicity and age. Additionally, when the infringement happens inside the home, as is all the time the case, the maltreatment is viably approved by the inferred quiet and the inactivity shown by the state and the law-authorizing hardware. The

worldwide components of this brutality are disturbing, as featured by concentrates on its occurrence and commonness. No general public can profess to be free of such savagery; the main variety is in the examples and patterns that exist in nations and districts. Explicit gatherings of ladies are increasingly helpless, including minority gatherings, indigenous and vagrant ladies, displaced person ladies and those in circumstances of furnished clash, ladies in organizations and detainment, ladies with incapacities, female youngsters, and old ladies.

The dramatic increase in violence against women in India in the past decades has been all too well reported in domestic and international newspapers. Although the statistics speak for themselves, it's nevertheless important to understand that the issue is more global than local. As well as the dramatic increase in India also. Violence affects the lives of millions of women worldwide, in all socio economic and educational classes. Violence against women includes physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse. It is often known as "gender based" violence because it evolves in part from women's subordinate status in society<sup>1</sup>.

There is nobody single factor to represent savagery executed against ladies. Progressively, look into has concentrated on the between relatedness of different elements that ought to improve our comprehension of the issue inside various social settings. A few intricate and interconnected systematized social and social factor shave kept ladies especially helpless against the brutality coordinated at them, every one of them signs of truly unequal power relations among people. Elements adding to these unequal power relations include: financial powers, the family foundation where control relations are implemented, dread of and command over female sexuality, confidence in the inborn prevalence of guys, and enactment and social endorses that have customarily denied ladies and youngsters a free lawful and societal position. Absence of financial assets supports ladies' weakness to brutality and their trouble in removal themselves.

Thousands of women and girls each year are victims of gender violence in India – and the most recent statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau show that crimes against women have increased 34% in the past four years.

<b>Table 1 - Examples of Violence against Women Throughout the Life Cycle</b>	
<b>Phase</b>	<b>Type of violence</b>
<b>Pre-birth</b>	Sex-selective abortion; effects of battering during pregnancy on birth outcomes.
<b>Infancy</b>	Female infanticide; physical, sexual and psychological abuse.
<b>Girlhood</b>	Child marriage; female genital mutilation; physical, sexual and psychological abuse; incest; child prostitution and pornography.
<b>Adolescence</b>	Dating and courtship violence (e.g. acid throwing and date rape) Adulthood economically coerced sex ; incest; sexual abuse in the workplace; rape; sexual harassment; forced prostitution and pornography; trafficking in women; partner violence; marital rape; dowry abuse and murders; partner homicide; psychological abuse; abuse of women with disabilities; forced pregnancy. <sup>1</sup>

*(Source: "Violence Against Women", WHO., FRH/WHO/97.8)*

Violence against women is a fundamental problem that affects all segments of society. Ironically, in the country where Violence against women has increased at the highest rate which announced or put India at the 4<sup>th</sup> position in the list of most dangerous country to be a women. Up to 45% of married men acknowledged physically abusing their wives in India according to National Commission for Women (NCW) study.

Violence against women both inside and outside of their home has been a crucial issue in the contemporary Indian society. Women in India constitute near about half of its population and most of them are grinding under the socio-cultural and religious structures. One gender has been controlling the space of the India's social economic, political and religious fabric since time immemorial.

Crime rate from (8.2%) in 2006 to (9.6 %) in 2010 , which is a serious matter from the safety and security point of Indian women.<sup>2</sup>The 2011 census found that there are 940 women for every 1000 men, and this national figure hides significant regional discrepancies. Rape has increased by 1255.3% (from 2,487 cases in 1971 to 33,707 cases in 2013)<sup>3</sup>

According to a Report, there are reported cases of one rape every 54 minutes, a molestation every 26 minutes; and an act of cruelty every 33 minutes. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistic says – every 20 minutes, a woman is raped somewhere in India, not to mention the countless number of cases of molestations or rapes going unreported. Child rape cases have increased by 33.6% in the last 10 years. Government data shows crimes by juveniles – especially rape and abduction of women – has seen exponential rise in the past decade – from 48.7% in 2002 to 66.5 in 2012. There is dire need to address the issue of rape in a more powerful manner. Number of dowry-deaths is quite alarming in the country – a dowry death every one hour forty two minutes.

Crimes rates are much higher in big cities than in either small cities or rural areas. A study conducted by NAVTEQ in 2011 (global provider of navigation enabled maps) regarding safety of women in Delhi reveals that, 51 percentages of the women surveyed in Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai felt unsafe while travelling on roads while 73 % said that they were scared of travelling at night.

Tamil Nadu is the first Indian state to set up "All Women Police Stations" to deal with crimes against women.

The National Family Health Survey conducted in 2005-06 and released in 2008 throws up some stark data – among women aged 15-49 in Tamil Nadu, 39% had experienced violence.

One of the worst ordeals which the women were forced to undergo was sati. It was confined mostly to Tanjore Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli districts alone, though a few cases occurred in other districts too.<sup>4</sup> During the medieval period this evil practice prevalent many places in Tamil Nadu. In the beginning of the nineteenth century public officers were authorized to allow the performance of the rite, if it was applied for. The widow was administered intoxicating drugs to get her consent when she was in a state of drunkenness. Such conditions provoked the sympathy of some of the officers who wanted to exterminate this abominable rite.<sup>5</sup> In Madras the proposal to abolish it was first brought forward by G.M. Lushington, who, as Magistrate of Tanjore in 1813 and of Tiruchirappalli in 1819 recommended its suppression.<sup>6</sup>

Pudukkottai district as one of the princely states of Tamilnadu holds rich cultural heritage with Fortresses, Palaces, Temples, Cave Paintings and many other historical monuments. The district was one of the homes of pre-historic man. Many of the villages are of ancient foundation and also referenced often in Tamil Sangam Literature. Pudukkottai was organised as a separate district, on 14th January 1974, comprising the former Pudukkottai Division of Tiruchirappalli district with some additions from Thanjavur district. According to the 2011 census places total population of this districts 16,18,345 females being numerically superior with 8,15,157 as against 8,03,188 males. The total literates number 11,10,545 with 6,08,776 males and 5,01,769 females.

The paper is made to focus on the present trends of Violence Against Women in Pudukkottai district during the period 2010 -2017.

<b>Total Incidents of Crimes against women of 2010-2017</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Crimes Against Women</b>
2010	156
2011	90
2012	110
2013	144
2014	161
2015	154
2016	142
2017	129

*(Source: District Superintendent Office, Pudukkottai)*

The findings of this study suggest that we need Legal reform, including the harmonisation of laws to ensure equality before the law for women and men and specific laws to criminalise violence against women is a critical first step for changing discriminatory social norms and practices. There is also a great need for gender sensitisation of the legal systems and practitioners, including judges, to promote greater gender justice, especially within the family courts system.

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