

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN A RESULT FOR UNFAIR SEX RATIO AND UNDEVELOPED SOCIAL MORALITY DUE TO ILLITERACY

GOURI ROY

**Abstract:** Men to be superior to women are partly a result of violence against women - it can be assume the deficiency of education. Violence includes physical aggression, sexual abuse, and psychological violence, sometime death is the result. These expressions of violence take place in a man-woman relationship within the family, state and society, this deep roots problem of violence against women imminent from few decades is a result of a long standing power imbalance between men and women. The government and voluntary organizations are making efforts towards ending violence against women which will be impossible if a common man is not supportive for improving social morality. In this paper made an attempt to analyze the statistical data on violence against women with respect to literateness and sex ratio.

**Keywords:** Literacy Rate, Sex ratio, Violence, Social morality.

**Introduction:** A part of the commentary on violence against women has been the concern that violence against women might be increasing in Indian society. Acceptance of patriarchal norms by men and women is, however, not the only reason why under-reporting in India violence against women is high. Feminist movements in India continue to struggle against violence and patriarchy in India. More research, legal changes (including the criminalization of marital rape) and action are urgently needed for improving social morality by improving literacy levels.

I have compared this violence with the reporting of 'Incidence of Crimes against Women – All India' for simultaneous three census year 2011, 2001 and 1991.

States with better literacy rates indicators have lower incidence of violence and higher reporting. Rates of violence and under-reporting are still unacceptably high in all states. This exercise is unable to comment on the extent and the role of the various factors responsible for under-reporting of violence against women. Though, improvement of social morality by literacy, with also progress the sex ratio which is significant factors responsible for violence against women, can be control.

**Violence against women in India:** Constitutionally, every crime should be reported, and every person whose rights have been violated should get justice but due to many obstacles in obtaining justices, a large proportion of such incidents are never reported to the police.

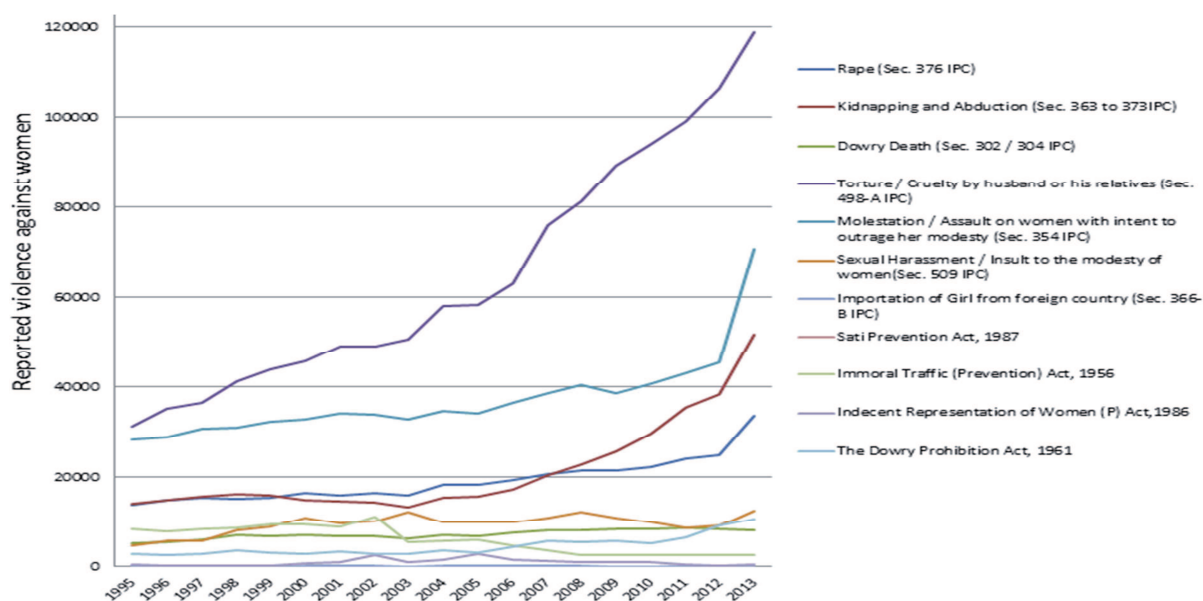
However, by different surveys of violence around the world it does suggest that violence against women is common in rich as well as poor countries. 35.1% of the sample women reported to surveyors of the third round of the NFHS in 2005-06 (on which the UN Women 2011 figures for India are based) that they have experienced physical violence by their intimate partners in their lifetime. 35.4% of the women had experienced sexual or physical violence, or both, during their lifetime by anyone [7].

A part of the commentary on violence against women has been the concern that violence against women might be increasing in Indian society. Seeing available data from the NCRB would certainly lead to this conclusion. Between 1971 and 2013, reported rapes grew at the rate of 5.6% per year. Between 1988 and 2013, cases of kidnapping and abduction of women grew by 3.8% per year. Between 1995 and 2013, cases of cruelty by husbands and relatives and dowry deaths increased at the rate of 6.8% per year. Cases of molestation and eve-teasing increased at the rate of 3.2% per year during the same period between 1995 and 2013. There an overview regarded on registered crimes against women in India shown in Fig. 1.

These rates of increase in reported violence against women are higher than the rate of growth of population in India, which was about 2 per cent per year between 1971 and 2011.

**Literacy rate in India:** Literacy level and educational attainment are vital developmental indicators in a developing nation like India as they are key variable of measure of development as they indicate quality of life, awareness level and also level of skill of people in the society. Better literacy and educational level definitely have a positive impact on the health parameters. Education parameters have an equal weightage in the Human Development Index as well.

As per 2011 census, literacy rate in India has been reported as 74.04% with a 14% increase to that in 2001, whereas the hike is maximum for rural women at 26% in the last decade, which may be attributed to literacy mission of Government of India. Overall female literacy rate in India much lower than that of male literacy rate. The female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% whereas the male literacy rate is over 80%. The adult literacy rate (15+) for male has increased from 73.4 to 78.8 whereas in-crease in adult literacy is more in case of females from 47.8 to 59.3 from 2001 to 2011.



Source: National Crime Records Bureau (Various years)

Fig. 1. Reported violence against women in India

In 2011, just half of the rural adult females are literate against 76.9% urban females. 88.3% urban adult males are literate against 74.1 rural adult males. Overall adult literacy is increasing over decades. The adult literacy rate (15+) for male has increased from 73.4 to 78.8 whereas increase in adult literacy is more in case of females from 47.8 to 59.3 from 2001 to 2011. In 2011, just half of the rural adult females are literate against 76.9% urban females. 88.3% urban adult males are literate against 74.1 rural adult males. Overall adult literacy is increasing over decades.

**Sex ratio in India:** A popular explanation for violence centers on male-biased sex ratios. Paradigmatic is the concern of heightened violence in both India and China in response to growing numbers of extra men (in China termed 'bare branches') that result from son preference and daughter biased abortion, infanticide, and neglect [1-4]. It is natural to believe that males and females in the population exactly balance each other but mostly due to a cultural preference for sons and the increasing availability of prenatal screening due to technology innovation to determine a baby's sex have helped contribute to a worsening in the ratio, which has been deteriorating rapidly even as the ratio for the population as a whole has improved. For this reason government of India thinks that when we literate female of urban areas they will become aware about

the problems and will help in finding solution but the situation is opposite to it, they are contributing more and more towards the selective abortion activities and are involved in decrement in sex ratio. Investigators differ with respect to the implied mechanisms, but typically emphasize male predispositions to violence as motivating this relation (due to elevated testosterone levels; [5]), arguing that the risk of violence is greatest when sex ratios are high because the pool of unmarried men (those most prone to violence) is larger in male-biased rather than female-biased populations [6].

**Analogical Analysis:** Proportion of crime against women (IPC) towards total IPC crimes, not only city overall India it is increasing yet literacy rates improvement (Table 1, Fig 2). There an analogical approach is applied in this paper, which alleged, societal and legal changes need to be pursued aggressively.

From the outline apropos IPS crime against women in India shown in Table 1. Fig 2, shows literacy make people more and more involved in decrement in sex ratio, arguing that the risk of violence. For this reason, compulsory education programs, voluntary participation from parents and teachers in implementing the educational system in such a way that improve the morality of society. This is also an outcome from Fig 3.

<b>Table 1.</b> Proportion of crime against women (IPC) towards total IPC crimes			
Year	Total IPC Crimes	Crime Against women	Percentage to total IPC crimes
1990	1604449	68317	4.3
1991	1678375	74093	4.4
1992	1689341	79037	4.7
1993	1629936	83954	5.2
1994	1635251	101657	6.2
1995	1695696	109259	6.4
1996	1709576	105274	6.2
1997	1719820	110183	6.4
1998	1778815	119012	6.7
1999	1764629	123122	7.0
2000	1771084	128320	7.2
2001	1769308	130725	7.4
2002	1780330	131112	7.4
2003	1716120	131364	7.6
2004	1832015	143615	7.8
2005	1822602	143523	7.9
2006	1878293	154158	8.2
2007	1989673	174921	8.8
2008	2093379	186617	8.9
2009	2121345	203804	9.2
2010	2224831	213585	9.6
2011	2325575	219142	9.4
2012	2387188	244270	10.2
2013	2647722	295896	11.2

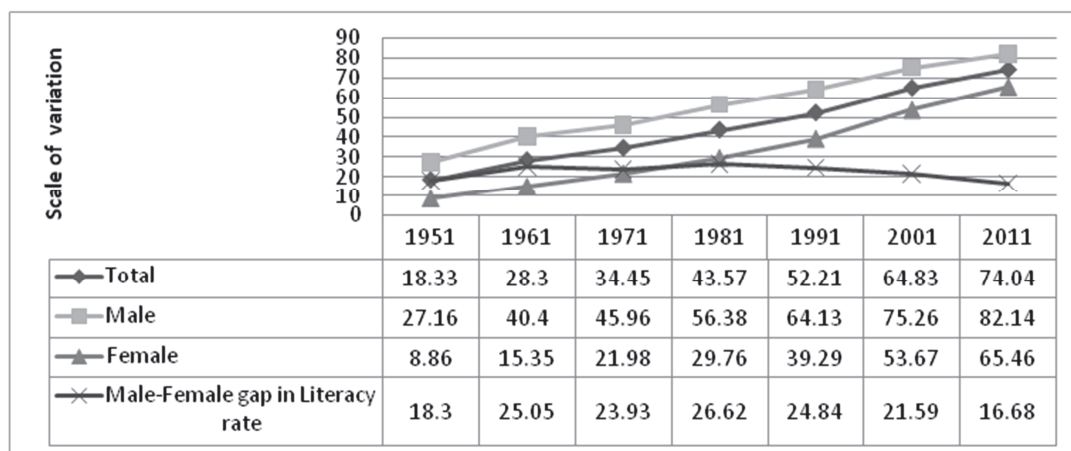


Fig. 2. Literacy rates by gender and male-female gap in literacy rates, India: 1951-2011

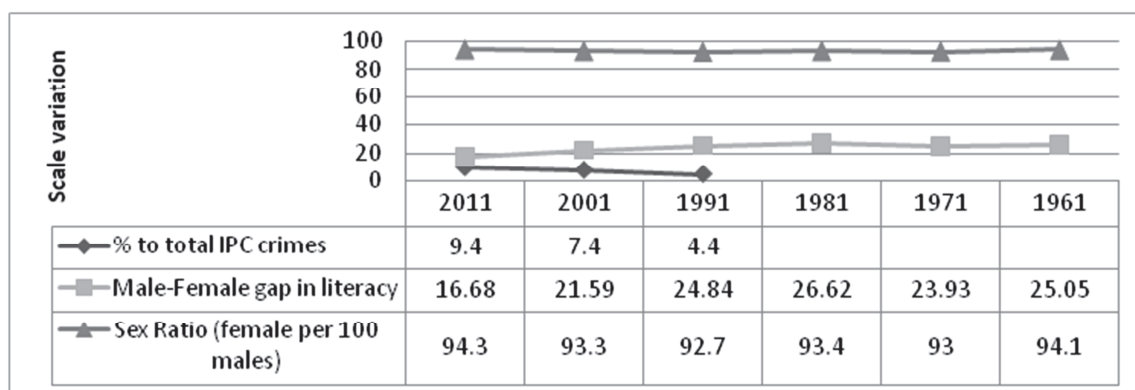


Fig. 3. Outline apropos IPC crime for different census years (1961-2011)

For developing country, educational attainment and literacy is an important correlate of experience of violence and the existence of barriers that prevent women from seeking help or accessing resources. Low educational attainment may result in a lack of awareness among women of their legal rights, and may limit their ability to access resources or other support systems, to escape a violent partner and to obtain paid employment and live independently. That said, some studies have suggested that the relationship between education and experience of violence is not straightforward.

While gender inequality make effect on sex ratio, in developing countries will likely diminish with economic growth, policymakers have several options to hasten the process.

**Conclusion :** This paper, which would come across as obvious to most feminists in India, pro-vides evidence to claims of under-reporting of violence against women, and points out that societal and legal changes need to be pursued aggressively. While under-reporting is a global phenomenon, it seems to be particularly high in India and which is not only but a reason for a higher percentage of unlitrary of total population be-cause literacy is the main foundation for social morality and economic growth. With also the simple message to take from this analysis is that the often-related claim that when men are more numerous than women, i.e. sex ratio

decreases, men create a potential social problem (e.g., [8]), rests on a specific set of assumptions about the nature of male-male competition.

The following measures can be considered for bringing phenomenal change in the status of women.

1. There should be co-ordinated efforts of police, administration and judiciary.
2. Efforts should be made for the proper and effective enforcement of existing laws related to women.
3. More counseling centers with professionally qualified counselors should be started at the rural/urban areas focusing more on improving sex ratio.
4. Pre-marital and post marital counseling can result in the minimization of the breaking down of families.
5. Male attitudes and society's attitudes need to undergo change. Since prevention of violence against female requires fundamental changes in attitudes and behavior, it confronts societal and individual resistance to change.
6. Compulsory education programs, voluntary participation from parents and teachers in implementing the educational system in rural areas, the poor and middle income group people will continue to avoid educating their children for increasing their morality.

## References:

1. Hudson, V.M. and den Boer, A. (2004) Bare Branches: The Security Implications of Asia's Surplus Male Population, MIT Press
2. Oldenburg, P. (1992) Sex-ratio, son preference and violence in India: a research note. *Econ. Polit. Wkly.* 27, 2657-2662
3. Dre'ze, J. and Khera, R. (2000) Crime, gender, and society in India: insights from homicide data. *Popul. Dev. Rev.* 26, 335-352
4. Trent, K. and South, S.J. (2012) Mate availability and women's sexual experiences in China. *J. Marriage Fam.* 74, 201-214
5. Benton, D. (1983) Do animal studies tell us anything about the relationships between testosterone and human aggression? In *The Extrapolation from Animals to Man in Psychology* (Davy, G., ed.), pp. 281-298, Wiley
6. Hudson, V.M. and Den Boer, A. (2002) A surplus of men, a deficit of peace: security and sex ratios in Asia's largest states. *Int. Secur.* 26, 5-38
7. For analysis on incidence of violence in India using NFHS data, see, Weitzman (2014).
8. Griskevicius, V. et al. (2012) The financial consequences of too many men: sex ratio effects on saving, borrowing, and spending. *J. Pers. Soc. Psychol.* 102, 69-80
9. For analysis on reported violence against women based on NCRB data, see Mukherjee, Rustagi and Krishnaji (2011).
10. Growth rates calculated using semi-log regression from NCRB data (NCRB Various years).

\*\*\*

Gouri Roy/Department of Sociology/ University of Kalyani/ Kalyani/ West Bengal/  
Indiau\_call\_arnab@yahoo.co.in