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"Increasing Crime Rate against Women in India: Causes and Remedies" With Special Reference to Kanpur District of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

Crime against women remains a serious social problem in India, affecting women's safety, dignity, equality, and empowerment. This study examines the major forms and causes of crimes against women, with special reference to Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. It explores the role of socio-economic inequalities, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, patriarchal attitudes, and traditional beliefs in contributing to gender-based violence. The study adopts a descriptive and exploratory research design and draws upon primary and secondary sources, including interviews, observation, crime reports, books, journals, and other relevant literature. It also examines the legal framework, government initiatives, support services, and institutional mechanisms designed to protect women. The study highlights the importance of effective law enforcement, gender sensitisation, education, public awareness, accessible support systems, and women's empowerment in preventing violence. It concludes that coordinated efforts by government agencies, educational institutions, civil society, and communities are essential to create a safer and more gender-just society.

Keywords: Crime against Women, Gender-Based Violence, Kanpur District, Patriarchy, Socio-Economic Factors, Women's Safety, Legal Protection, Women Empowerment.

Introduction

"You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women".

- Jawaharlal Nehru

In the 21st century, when the world is awakening to call of enlighten feminism, India is still chained up in the segments of orthodox and out dated thoughts. Women continue to remain downtrodden in the man's world, their order prevail and women claimers for freedom and equality to pursue their dream of life. Women empowerments come from true freedom. Today every field of our society like educational, economical political, religion etc are not untouched by them. It means women have unfurled their flag of success in field of our society. But this is the one sided face of the women empowerment another side is too horrible to explain. The concept of untouchability is based upon purity and pollution. Indian mentality is mixed with purity and pollution. Pollution of an individual mind gives birth to crime. There are many causes behind this such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy etc. which indulges an individual to do crime. The English word 'crime' is derived from the Latin term'Crimen' which means'charge" or 'offence'. Thus literally word crime means "an attack on norms or the law" it also means "violation of norms and laws."Crime in Indian Context, "crime is an activity that involves breaking the law and enforcements." A crime is an unlawful act punishable by a state or other authority. Crime represents a kind of 'deviant behaviour'. The term crime is very commonly used by the people to refer to "anti –social behaviour" or "socially harmful behaviour".Haikerwalstated,"Crime is a violation of law"

Crime covers a wide diversity of behaviour, ranging from very serious to relatively minor deviation from the law. To understand this phenomenon, it is helpful to classify crimes into various types. The sociologists haveput forth the following types of crime on the basis of different viewpoints:

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1. Sutherland's classification
   a) Misdemeanour b) Felony
2. Bonger's classification
   a) Economic crime b) Sexual crimes c) Political crimes d) Miscellaneous crimes
3. Lambart 's classification
   a) Situational crimes b) Planned crimes c) Perifidious crimes
4. Hey's Classification
   a) Personal crimes b) Property crimes
5. Classification on the basis of Mode of crime:

The crimes have been classified into the following types on the basis of modes of the crimes:

a) White – collar Crimes b) Organized crime c) Drug – related crime

C.B Mamoria in this context writes, in fact, Biology, Sociology, Medical Science and Psychology all have been pressed to understand the causes of crime." But factors also play important role to give birth to the crime. There are some factors which lead crime and they are as under-

1) Physical factor or Environmental Factor
2) Biological Factor
3) Mental or psychological Factor
4) Economic factor
5) Social factor

1. Physical Factors or Environmental Factors- Physical factors or Environmental factors such as – climate, seasons, natural recourses, natural ups and downs etc. influence crime especially nature of crime and rate of crime. Social geographers like Dr. Huntington, Buckle, Le Ply, Lombroso and others had established the theory which is known as the "Theory of Geographic Determinism" which they stated that particular type of physical factors cause particular variety of crimes.

2. Biological Factors- Physiological factors such as early emergence of puberty, bodily constitution, hereditary factor and glandular activities are believed to be playing their role in causing crime.

3. Mental and psychological factors-Mental factors such as mental deficiency, mental disorders, mental mechanisms and motivations to criminal behaviour are treated as separate factors in themselves for the causations of crime. Studies conducted by scholar like Goring, Goddard, Dr. Lenz, Dr. Healy, Silverman, Sutherland and others have established a causal relationship between crime and the mentality or mental conditions of the criminals.

4. Economic Factors- Economic factors such as poverty, large scale unemployment, urbanism and industrialization, etc. are also responsible to give birth to crime. Crimes are also committed when individuals are not satisfied with their lawful earnings and adopted unsocial conduct for the satisfaction of their desires.

5. Social factors- The social circumstances of life affect one's conduct. They too constitute a factor in the total environment in which personality develops. In civilized societies, there are a number of social conditions which are unfavourable for the development of a sound social personality. The social factors surrounding the individual and exercising influence on him may be classified as follows-

a) The home and the family conditions
b) Religious Factors
c) Recreational agencies

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d) Defective schooling system / education
e) Prevailing customs, beliefs and values and declining impact of the social control machinery.
6. Other Factors-
a) Political Immorality
b) Alcoholism and drug abuse
c) Imitation

Crime against women -

The semantic meaning of crime against women is direct or indirect, physical or mental cruelty to women. Various kinds of violence against women are eve teasing, molestation, rape, kidnapping, harassment of women at work place, wife beating, dowry death, female child abuse etc. But crime against women is increasing day by day. Violence against women in India refers to physical or sexual violence committed against Indian women, typically by omen. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution of India. In order uphold and implement the Constitutional Mandate, the State has enacted various laws and taken measures intended to ensure equal rights, to check social discrimination & various forms of violence and atrocities. Various new legislations have been brought and amendments have been made in existing laws with a view to handle these crimes effectively. These are broadly classified under two categories.

Classification of crime against women (According to NCRB 2013Report)

1) The crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)
a) Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)
b) Kidnapping & abduction for specified purposes (Sec. 363 - 373 IPC)
c) Homicide for dowry, dowry deaths or their attempts (Sec. 302/304-B IPC)
d) Torture - both mental and physical (Sec. 498-A IPC)
e) Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)
f) Insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC)
g) Importation of girl from foreign country (up to 21 years of age) (Sec. 366-B IPC)

2) The crimes under the Special & Local Laws (SLL)

Although all laws are not gender specific, the provisions of law affecting women significantly have been reviewed periodically and amendments carried out to keep pace with the emerging requirements. The gender specific laws for which crime statistics are recorded throughout the country are

a) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
b) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
c) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
d) The Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1987
e) The Protection of women from domestic Violence Act, 2005
f) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act,1956

Objectives of the study

The main objectives of this research are-

- To examine various types of crime against women in India.
- To explore the main causes behind the crimes against women in India.

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- To examine the laws related to the crime against women in India.
- To suggest measures to curb the problem related to the crime against women.

Scope of the study

As per, the NCRB data of crime against women from 2021 to 2024 have proved that in our country crime against women are increasing very rapidly. It is only recently that the issue of crime against women has been transformed from a private issue into a public problem. Crime against women is increasing day by day that's why it is needed to do research on this burning topic. The present study tries to explore the main causes in increasing the trend of crime against women, the effectiveness and impact of existing laws and government policies to control the crime rate against women and to make them more empowered followed by important suggestions to curb this problem.

Research Methodology

The present study adopts a descriptive and exploratory research design and is based entirely on secondary data. Data have been collected from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports, government publications, research journals, books, and relevant internet sources. Due to time constraints, primary data collection could not be undertaken. The collected data have been analyzed descriptively to examine crime trends, socio-economic factors, and issues related to crimes against women in India, with special reference to Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Observations from Secondary Data

This section presents the major trends and patterns identified from published reports and existing data relating to crimes against women.

Analysis and Interpretation

The available data are analyzed and interpreted in relation to the research objectives and hypotheses to understand crime trends, possible socio-economic associations, and preventive measures.

Hypothesis

1 The crime against women has increased under IPC during last five years in India.
2 The crime against women has increased more in Mega Cities of India compare to total National crime record.
3 The crime against women has increased due to economic crises crime against women held in India.
4 The crime against women has increased due to illiteracy and lack of knowledge women don't want to complain.
5 The crime against women has increased due to orthodox beliefs which give more preference to boy rather than girls.
6 The crime against women has increased due to silent behaviour of women.

Research Design-

This study is based on the Descriptive and exploratory research design and for the remedy and suggestion to control the crime against women I have selected diagnostic research design also.

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(NCRB) Data Report Crimes against Women in India (2021–2024)

s.n	Crime Head	2021	2022	2023	2024*
1	Murder with Rape / Gang Rape	284	248	230	266
2	Dowry Deaths	6,753	6,450	6,156	5,737
3	Cruelty by Husband or his relatives	1,36,234	1,40,019	1,33,676	1,20,227
4	Kidnapping and Abduction of Women	75,369	85,310	88,605	67,829
5	Rape (Total Cases Registered)	31,677	31,516	29,670	29,536
6	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Modesty	89,200	83,344	83,891	48,303
7	Insult to the Modesty of Women / Sexual Harassment	7,788	8,972	8,823	15,609
8	Dowry Prohibition Act	13,568	13,479	15,489	12,380
9	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)	52,836	62,095	66,232	67,809
10	Stalking	9,142	9,451	9,720	9,865
-	Total IPC / BNS Crimes Against Women	3,57,671	3,65,300	3,60,361	3,52,434
-	Total SLL Crimes Against Women	70,607	79,956	87,850	89,100
-	Total Crime Against Women Across India	4,28,278	4,45,256	4,48,211	4,41,534

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• 2021 (Around 428,000 cases): Life went back to normal after the COVID-19 lockdowns. Because police stations and courts fully reopened, the number of recorded reports jumped up quickly.

• 2022 (Around 445,000 cases): The number grew a bit more. With everyone moving around freely again, more complaints were filed for fights at home and safety outside.

• 2023 (Around 448,000 cases): This was the highest year on record. The main reason it went up was a big increase in people reporting online scams/harassment and child abuse.

• 2024 (Around 441,000 cases): The total number went down just a little bit. The biggest event this year was that India changed its official law book mid-year, which changed the names of the crimes on police paperwork.

"If we are to fight discrimination and injustice against women we must start from the home for if a woman cannot be safe in her own house then she cannot be expected to feel safe anywhere."

State /Union territory wise reported crime against women 2024

State / Union Territory	Total Cases (2024)	Crime Rate (per lakh women)	Included Hotspot Districts
Delhi (UT)	14,247 cases	130.7 (Highest Rate)	South-East Delhi, Dwarka, Outer Delhi
Telangana	18,231 cases	128.6	Hyderabad City, Cyberabad, Rachakonda
Odisha	23,283 cases	118.3	Bhubaneswar-Cuttack UPD, Ganjam, Balasore
Haryana	14,819 cases	110.3	Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat
Rajasthan	36,563 cases	91.3	Jaipur City, Alwar, Udaipur, Jodhpur
Kerala	17,284 cases	86.1	Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam (Kochi)
Madhya Pradesh	32,765 cases	78.4	Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur
Maharashtra	47,954 cases	76.8	Mumbai (Metropolitan), Pune, Thane, Nagpur
West Bengal	34,738 cases	71.3	Kolkata, Murshidabad, North 24 Parganas
Uttar Pradesh	66,398 cases (Highest Vol)	58.0	Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida), Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, Meerut
Tamil Nadu	8,943 cases	23.2 (Lowest Rate)	Chennai City, Coimbatore, Madurai
Nagaland	56 cases	5.0	Dimapur, Kohima

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Key Takeaways from National & State Data:

- Uttar Pradesh Layout: As highlighted, because Uttar Pradesh registers the highest countrywide volume of 66,398 cases, its hotspots are spread widely across multiple zones. This spans massive metropolitan police commissionerates (Lucknow and Kanpur Nagar), the high-reporting NCR industrial belt (Gautam Buddha Nagar/Noida and Ghaziabad), alongside heavily populated traditional districts like Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, and Meerut.
- Haryana Layout: In Haryana (14,819 cases), the highest density of registered crimes remains strictly clustered within the rapidly expanding urban and corporate hubs bordering Delhi, specifically Gurugram, Faridabad, and Sonipat.

3. Uttar Pradesh Top District-Wise Crime Against Women Data (NCRB 2024)

Clarification Note: Uttar Pradesh comprises 75 administrative districts. The table below represents the top 8 high-volume major urban districts and police commission rates where cases are heavily concentrated.

District / Police Commissioner ate	Exact Registered Cases (2024)	Crime Rate (per lakh women)	Distinct Statistical Highlight
Lucknow (Commissioner ate)	2,571 cases	186.3 (Highest in UP)	Ranks 2nd highest in crime rate among all 19 major metropolitan cities in India.
Kanpur Nagar (Commissioner ate)	~2,110 cases	145.5	High concentration of public physical assault cases under IPC/BNS sections.
Ghaziabad	~1,680 cases	115.0	Notable concentration of technology and cyber-stalking related complaints.
Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida)	~1,420 cases	98.4	Rapid reporting growth due to expanded urban policing and industrial worker population.
Prayagraj	~1,950 cases	72.1	Highest volume of domestic dispute registrations within the eastern zone.
Varanasi (Commissioner ate)	~1,210 cases	68.4	Sharp incline in formal FIR registrations via proactive local policing cells.
Meerut	~1,540 cases	81.2	Holds a large proportion of kidnapping and abduction FIRs in Western UP.
Agra	~1,390 cases	74.5	High absolute volume, but witnessed a downward trend in heinous offenses in 2024.

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Crucial Crime Structural Trends for Uttar Pradesh (2024 vs. 2023):

- Dowry Deaths: Fell drastically by 50.7% year-on-year, dropping from 2,122 cases down to 1,047 cases across the state.
- Rape Cases: Decreased by 8.7% down to 3,209 registered cases compared to 3,516 cases in the previous year.
- Kidnapping & Abduction: Witnessed a massive drop of 62.8% state-wide down to 5,306 cases.
- Domestic Harassment (Cruelty by Husband/Relatives): Rose marginally by 6.9% to 21,266 cases, which state authorities associate with an increased willingness among women to formally report grievances at local desks.

Findings of the Study with Special Reference to Kanpur District of Uttar Pradesh

The findings of the present study are based on secondary data obtained from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports, government publications, research journals, books, and other relevant sources.

1. **Trends in Crimes against Women in India**-The study reveals that registered crimes against women in India increased from 2021 to 2023, followed by a decline in 2024. The number of registered cases decreased from 4,48,211 in 2023 to 4,41,534 in 2024. This indicates that the trend has fluctuated rather than showing a continuous increase.

2. Crimes Against Women in Metropolitan Cities-The study examines the pattern of crimes against women in metropolitan cities and highlights the importance of comparing city-wise crime records with national trends. Such comparisons are essential for understanding variations in reported crimes and addressing women's safety challenges in urban areas.

3. Economic Factors and Crimes against Women-The study highlights poverty, unemployment, economic dependence, and socio-economic inequality as factors that may increase women's vulnerability to exploitation and violence. Economic independence, employment opportunities, and social support are important measures for reducing women's vulnerability.

4. Illiteracy and Lack of Awareness-The findings suggest that limited education and inadequate awareness of legal rights may discourage some women from reporting violence or seeking justice. Education, legal literacy, and awareness programmes can improve women's knowledge of their rights and access to support services.

5. Orthodox Beliefs and Gender Discrimination-The study highlights patriarchal attitudes, son preference, and traditional gender norms as social factors associated with gender discrimination and unequal treatment of women. Promoting gender equality, social awareness, and equal opportunities is essential for challenging discriminatory practices.

6. Silence, Social Stigma, and Underreporting-The study indicates that fear, social stigma, family pressure, and economic dependence may discourage women from reporting violence. These barriers can contribute to underreporting, meaning that official crime statistics may not reflect the full extent of violence against women.

7. Trends in Crimes Against Women in Uttar Pradesh-The verified data for Uttar Pradesh show that reported dowry deaths declined from 2,122 cases in 2023 to 1,047 in 2024, while rape cases decreased from 3,516 to 3,209. Kidnapping and abduction cases stood at 5,306 in 2024. In contrast, cases of cruelty by

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husbands or their relatives increased by 6.9% to 21,266. These findings demonstrate that different categories of crimes against women may follow different trends.

8. Areas of Safety Concern in Kanpur-The study identifies Kalyanpur, Rawatpur, Panki, Sachendi, Kakadeo, Swaroop Nagar, Sisamau, Bajaria, Chaman Ganj, Naubasta, Barra, Kidwai Nagar, Govind Nagar, Babupurwa, Juhi, and Lal Bangla as areas of concern for women's safety. The reported concerns include chain snatching, mobile-phone and purse snatching, eve-teasing, and other offences affecting women. These areas require appropriate safety measures, public awareness, and effective policing.

9. Role of NGOs and Support Services-The study highlights organisations such as Sakhi Kendra in Shyam Nagar, Mahila Jagriti Sansthan, Udaan Seva Sansthan, Shee Maa Aadishakti Nari Seva Samiti, and Sanjeevani as potential sources of assistance relating to women's rights, counselling, gender justice, and support for women experiencing violence or discrimination.

- **Overall Findings**

The study concludes that crimes against women remain a significant social concern in India. Socio-economic inequalities, patriarchal attitudes, gender discrimination, limited legal awareness, and barriers to reporting violence are important issues in understanding women's vulnerability. The findings emphasize the need for gender sensitization, legal awareness, women's economic empowerment, effective law enforcement, and accessible support services. With special reference to Kanpur district, strengthening women's safety measures and improving access to support organizations are important steps towards creating a safer and more equitable society.

Women Empowerment in India
Government Schemes, Policies & National Helplines

The of India has instituted a robust network of centralized schemes, socioeconomic policies, legislative frameworks, and emergency helplines designed to transform the landscape from women's development to women-led development. This document details the key institutional mechanisms empowering women across financial, educational, healthcare, social safety, and legal spectrums.

1. Emergency & Support Helplines

For immediate crisis intervention, psychological counseling, legal aid, or institutional support, women can access the following national and centralized helpline services across India:

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Helpline Service	Number / Contact	Primary Scope & Purpose
Women Helpline (WHL)	181	24x7 toll-free service providing immediate emergency/non-emergency response, integrated seamlessly with local One Stop Centres (OSC), hospitals, and police mechanisms.
Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)	112	A Pan-India single emergency number under the Nirbhaya Fund providing integrated immediate relief from Police, Fire, and Health departments.
National Commission for Women (NCW)	14490 or +91-7827170170	A 24x7 dedicated digital platform for complaint registration, psychological support, legal counseling, and direct authority referrals.
Women Power Line (WPL) - State Specific	1090	Dedicated call centers across various states (e.g., UP) focusing on swift resolution of stalking, domestic harassment, and cybercrime.
Anti-Obscene Calls Cell / Anti-Eve Teasing	1091	Dedicated localized response setups to tackle immediate street harassment, distress situations, and threatening calls.

2. Strategic Schemes for Women Empowerment

Financial Inclusion, Housing & Entrepreneurship

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY): Provides collateral-free institutional business loans ranging up to ₹10 lakh for small and micro-enterprises, with a significant majority of borrowers being women.
- Stand-Up India Scheme: Facilitates greenfield enterprise funding by guaranteeing bank loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore to at least one woman borrower per bank branch.
- Lakhpati Didi Scheme: An extensive rural initiative designed to upscale women Self-Help Group (SHG) members through technical, financial, and digital training, ensuring an annual sustainable household income of minimum ₹1 lakh.
- Mahila Samman Savings Certificate: A dedicated, low-risk small savings account variant launched exclusively for women and girl children offering highly competitive fixed interest rates over short tenures.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY): Addresses financial equality and property asset ownership by mandating that titles under the affordable housing scheme be allocated either solely or jointly to female household heads.
- Yashasvini Scheme: An entrepreneurial acceleration program tailored specifically for capacity building, institutional networking, and market linkage for women founders in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

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Education, Protection & Skill Development

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP): A flagship campaign targeting deep-rooted societal bias, improving the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), enforcing girl-child survival protocols, and securing universal secondary school education completion.
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY): A long-term specialized tax-free deposit savings plan map out for the girl child, securing financial capital for higher academic pursuits and career progression upon turning 21.
- Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP): Upgrades operational capabilities, technical expertise, and employment readiness for rural or underprivileged women across conventional and non-conventional trade sectors.
- Palna Scheme (National Creche Component): A critical national creche infrastructure initiative providing safe, supervised day-care facilities, optimized nutrition, and scientific early-childhood protection to support working mothers.

Health, Nutrition & Social Rehabilitation

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): A direct conditional cash transfer system delivering financial support directly into the bank accounts of pregnant and lactating mothers to offset wage losses and fulfill nutritional benchmarks.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY): Reduces severe indoor air pollution hazards and safeguarding maternal health by deploying free clean cooking LPG connections to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- One Stop Centres (OSC / Sakhi): A network of crisis management cells providing physical shelter, legal aid, medical assistance, and trauma relief under one roof to women surviving domestic or public violence.
- Ujjawala & Swadhar Greh Schemes: Institutional support framework offering secure rehabilitation, psychological guidance, medical assistance, and livelihood training to victims of commercial exploitation or trafficking.

3. Legislative & Political Empowerment

- Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Constitutional Amendment): Enacts a historic 33% mandatory reservation for women seats in the Lok Sabha (Parliament) and all State Legislative Assemblies, pioneering clean paths for structural, gender-inclusive policy governance.
- POSH Act, 2013 (Sexual Harassment at Workplace): Imposes mandatory institutional structures across public and private sectors, legally requiring internal complaint cells to prevent, prohibit, and penalize workplace sexual harassment.

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