

# An analysis of reported Crime against Women and Girls in Eastern India

## ABSTRACT:

Crimes against women and girls have been increasing in recent years as reported by the National Crime Records Bureau. It becomes a serious social evil worldwide. The study has been tried to find out the trend of crimes against women for the period of the last ten years (2010-2019) in the states of eastern India i.e. Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. The study has been based on secondary data from the National Crime Records Bureau, Govt of India. The data have been extracted and analyzed to get the status of crimes in particular categories. The crime records of Bihar show an increasing rate of women assault cases. Jharkhand data shows that indecent representation of women has increased in recent years. In West Bengal Cruelty by husband is the most reported crime in West Bengal and it is also observed that rape cases were decreased in West Bengal continuously in the last ten years. It has been found that Orissa and Bihar are significantly high in crimes like women assault on the internet, an insult to the modesty of women, kidnapping and rape comparing other states of study. Cruelty by husbands and cases under the immoral traffic act had significantly higher in West Bengal compared to other states under study. The Dowry death and kidnapping and abduction are significantly high in Bihar. **The different levels of crimes against women in different states not only indicates the status of women in the society and the law and order situations of that state but also it is a reflection of the socio-psychological aspects. Proper implementation of laws along with awareness of related issues, along with continuous monitoring can play a crucial role to minimize the overall crime scenario.**

Keywords: *Women, Crime in India, Crime rate, Women modesty, Violence*

## INTRODUCTION:

Violence against women and girls is a burning problem in the world that has no geographic and cultural boundaries. **It defines that any act of verbal or physical force, life treating deprivation at the women and girls that results in physical and psychological harm, humiliation towards female subordination (Heise,1999). It has been found that 30 per cent of women aged 15 years and older in their lifetime face violence 24 % of women aged 15 years and old were victims of violence perpetrated by husband or intimate partners(WHO,2021).** According to Joachim (2000), violence against women has been found major health and human rights issue. Globally every day 137 women are killed by their family members (UNDC,2019). **Evidence reveals that the problem of violence against women is more prominent in developing and underdeveloped countries where socio-economic status is low and education is limited (Abrahams,2006). Sexual assault cases against adolescent girls are very high in developing countries. one-third and two-thirds of victims are from age 15 years and younger, according to information from justice systems statistics and rape crisis centres in Chile, Peru, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Papua New Guinea and the United States (Heise,1994)**

In Indian society, women take a valuable as well as a vulnerable place. In the Vedic period, women were considered as 'goddesses', creators, who give life. But their glorification was mythical and when the Vedic period comes to an end the position of women in society declined and it reached that extent when the birth of a girl child was considered a misfortune. Society believed that violence against women is normal and they can do it without any approval. Niaz (2003) found that men are the head of the family and rule it. The activities within the family are considered personal and it also allows domestic violence. **In India, 29.3 per cent of women are ever-married women aged 18-49 years victims of physical spousal violence**

(NFHS-5,2021). Violent crimes not only harm women but also discourage education and social cohesion (Higginson et. al.,2015). Violence can take place in different forms like domestic violence, sexual assaults and harassment, rape, trafficking, early marriage, dowry deaths and many others. The main objective of this study is to know the crime rate against women in Different states of Eastern India over the period of 10 years (2010-2019).

## **METHODOLOGY:**

The study tries to compare different crimes against women in states of Eastern India. All four states of eastern India namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal have been selected for the study. The study is based on the secondary data of the National Crime Records Bureau, Govt. of India. The state-level data on the crime of the last ten years (2010-2019) has been extracted, compiled and analyzed for the study. The following eight variables have been identified for the study and by which the researchers tried to analyze the trend of selected crimes against women and also compare the crime rate against women among the states of Eastern India.

Assault on women with internet to outrage her modesty: In IPC Section 354 whoever assaults any woman intending to outrage her modesty shall be punished for one to five years.

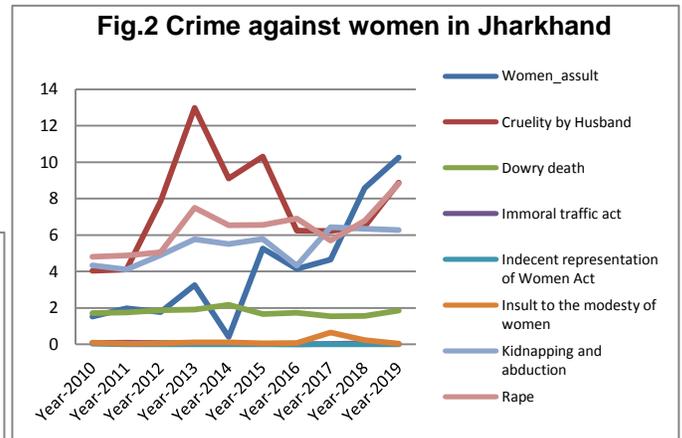
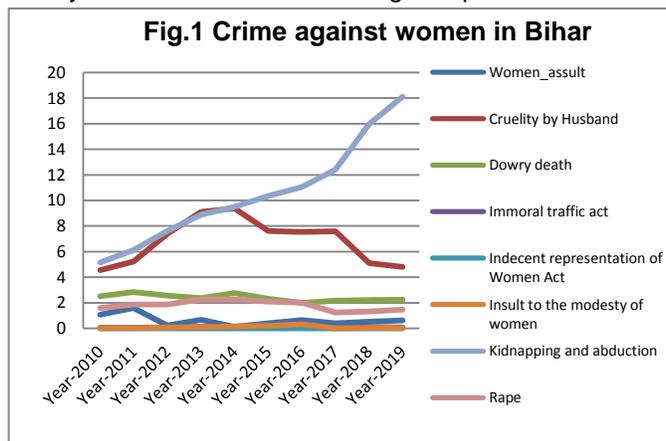
- i. Cruelty by husband or relatives: In IPC 498A husband or relatives of husband of women subjects those to cruelty shall be punished for imprisonment up to three years.
- ii. Dowry death: In IPC 304B where the death of a woman is caused by a burn or other injury or not a normal way within seven years of her marriage and if it is found that she is subjected to cruelty by her husband or relatives of husband for the demand of dowry, whoever is responsible for dowry death shall be punished for seven years to life imprisonment.
- iii. Immoral traffic act: Immoral Traffic Act aims to stop the trafficking and prostitution of women in India.
- iv. Indecent representation of women Act: An act that prohibits indecent representation of women through any advertisements or any publications, paintings, figures etc.
- v. Insult to the modesty of women: According to IPC Section 509, whoever intend to insult women with any words, sounds or gestures shall be punished with up to three years of imprisonment and fines.
- vi. Kidnapping and abduction of women: In IPC 366, whoever kidnaps any woman to marry any person against her will or is forced to do intercourse shall be punished for imprisonment up to ten years.
- vii. Rape: According to IPC section 375, rape as "sexual intercourse with a woman against her will, without her consent, by coercion, misrepresentation or fraud or at a time when she has been intoxicated or duped, or is of unsound mental health and in any case if she is under 18 years of age." and punishment for this crime is seven years to life imprisonment.

The data shows the trend of crime against women and girls for the last ten years. To maintain equivalence, all the criminal cases in that particular state converted to crime cases per lakh of the female population. The data of the study only based on a single source of National Crime Records Bureau state reports. That is the only limitation of the study.

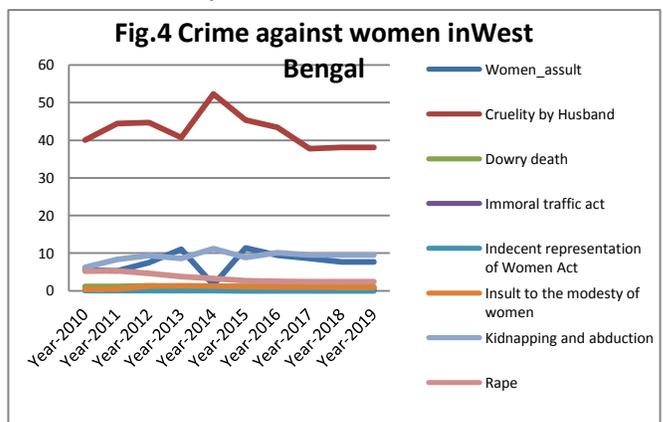
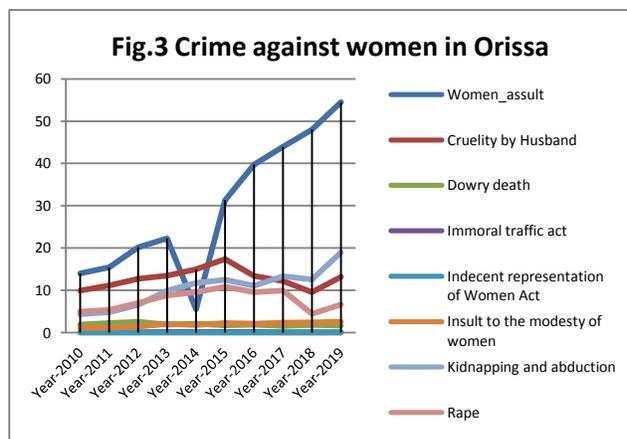
## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:**

Figure 1 shows the trend of crime for the last ten years in Bihar. It has been found that kidnapping and abduction have increased at a very high rate from 2010 to 2019. But there was a decreasing trend has been revealed in cases of cruelty on women by their husbands and relatives. It may be happened due to women empowerment which gives women the level of confidence to protest against domestic violence. Alcohol ban in Bihar also has evidence of a significant effect on reducing violence like murder, rape and kidnapping (Chaudhuri et. al.,2018). Another reason may be the implementation of the law to protect women. There were marginal changes in others crime rates like death for dowry, rape, trafficking, indecent representation of women etc. It has found that women assault was increased in 2011 but then it decreased. It may cause administrative interference.

Figure 2 shows the picture of Jharkhand. It reveals that the trend of domestic violence on women and girls has been fluctuating like increased in a very high rate up to the year 2013, then it has decreased but in the year of 2014-15 that was again upwards but after



2015 it was decreased rapidly. Women assault through the internet is another crime which was decreased in the year 2014 astonishingly but then it was increased periodically. One of the main reasons for these findings is the accessibility and random use of the internet. Crimes like rape, women assault have been



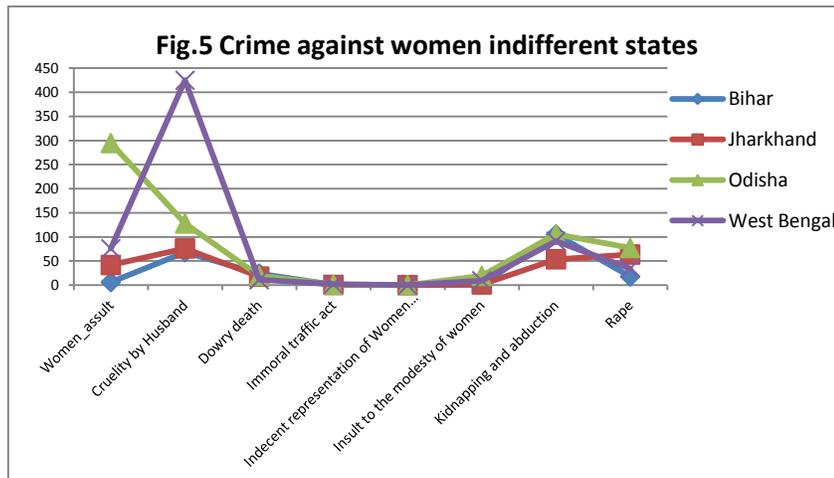
increasing day by day in Jharkhand.

Figure 3 indicates the crime trend in Orissa. It has revealed that crimes against women like women assault through the internet, kidnapping, rape, domestic violence have been increasing day by day. Among these women assault through the internet has been increasing at a surprisingly high rate since 2014 like Bihar. It can be defined that a high rate of internet accessibility may cause this kind of incidences. Ray et.al., (2015) found that though all the measures have been taken by the government

and NGOs still the cases of women assault is high. This problem is seen in all classes of women, irrespective of their caste, religion and socio-economic status.

Figure 4 reveals the scenario of West Bengal. It indicates that the cases of domestic violence against women were much higher than other crimes like dowry deaths, women assault on the internet, trafficking, rape kidnapping etc. It was highest in 2014 and then it has gradually decreased. It also shows that women assault on the internet has been fluctuating like highly increased up to 2013, but astonishingly a great fall in 2014 and again highly increased in 2015 and then decreased very slowly. Rape cases have been gradually decreased in West Bengal in the past ten years. It can be defined that there may be the implementation of laws and administrative support to control the incidents. **A special program named Kanyashree of the State government targeting adolescent girls has an impact on society. In this program, girls are assisted by the state government during their entire duration of study. This program not only increases the institutional enrollment rate but is also helpful to empower girls in different social development events. 42 lacks of Kanyashree girls works for preventing child marriage as well as various kinds of social evils (Mir,2018).**

The Figure below shows the total crime rate of different states in ten years. It is revealed that the case of women assault on the internet in the state of Orissa is much higher than in other states. All the states have more or less the same cases in the crime like dowry deaths, immoral traffic acts, indecent representation of women, and insult to the modesty of women. The highest rate of domestic violence has been found in West Bengal. The cases are much higher than in other states. Besides this West Bengal and Bihar have the lowest case of rape per lakh of the female population.



One of the main reasons for the higher numbers of domestic violence cases in West Bengal is the fearless reporting of crimes against women. There are 40 new women police stations in different districts in the last ten years. That may be the cause of higher reporting of crime.

The ANOVA has been tested for the comparison of crime cases in different states under study that reported in the table1. Among these states, Orissa is significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) high in women assault on the internet, an insult to the modesty of women, kidnapping and rape. Bihar is significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) high in dowry deaths and kidnapping and abduction. One of the main reasons of this finding is the social structure and gender biases.

Table1. ANOVA table of comparison for state-wise crime against women								
State	Women assault in internet	Cruelty by Husband	Dowry death	Immoral traffic act	Indecent representation of Women Act	Insult to the modesty of women	Kidnapping and abduction	Rape
Bihar	1.797826	6.828807	<b>2.398372</b>	.072459	.001204	.098352	<b>10.512372</b>	1.797826
Jharkhand	4.183632	7.619341	1.781687	.051065	.006227	.149460	5.377443	6.355159
Orissa	<b>29.487890</b>	12.794960	1.929961	.122338	.008670	<b>1.934777</b>	<b>10.588052</b>	<b>7.710691</b>
West Bengal	7.567170	<b>42.501996</b>	1.127126	<b>.201048</b>	.004498	.938447	9.132822	3.463685
ANOVA								
df	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
F vale	22.302	311.226	54.619	36.652	1.480	69.267	6.172	33.773
Sig.	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	0.236	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.000</b>

Mishra (2006) stated that nowadays assault and violence against women is a burning problem. It's ranging from slapping to homicidal assault by husbands or in-laws for dowry or other causes. But except for these two Bihar is significantly low in all other crimes against women compared to the other states. West Bengal is significantly high in domestic violence and immoral traffic act. It is caused due to the high population of West Bengal. Nowadays women are getting empowered than previous. As a result, more cases of domestic violence are filed. The immoral trafficking in West Bengal is significantly high maybe because it is a border state. No significant differences have been found in the indecent representation of women in these four states. NHFS-5 (2019-21) has also supported the findings of the study that spousal violence has been increased over the last 5 years by 8.46 % in Bihar, 7.35 % in Jharkhand, 13.06 % in Orissa and 16.31 % in West Bengal. Isolated women and lack of social support lead to much higher domestic violence and women assault (Fournier, 1999). on the other side woman who has authority and power outside her family, the rate of abuse in the intimate partnership are lower (Levinson, 1989). Different women empowerment initiatives have played a major role in this respect.

## CONCLUSION:

The crime is an administrative as well as a social evil. The study shows the crime against women in the four states of Eastern India viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. It has been revealed from the study that Orissa is significantly high in crime like women auscultation, kidnapping, rape and insult to the modesty of women. West Bengal is significantly high in domestic violence and trafficking and Bihar in dowry deaths and kidnapping. It is also a remarkable fact that the rape cases in West Bengal decreasing simultaneously in the last 10 years.

To control any crime we should focus on administrative law enforcement and social behavioural changes. To control the crime against women it may be suggested that Government should focus on the

development of sex education, women empowerment and ensure the training of women for self-defence. Besides these women have to be educated about their rights and association should be created at local levels to help women. Finally, it can be said that it is quite impossible to reduce crimes only by law enforcement until women are conscious about their rights, and men about their responsibilities.

## Consent

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the authors.

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