

# No more silence: Crimes against women

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## **ABSTRACT**

Crimes against women constitute a grave violation of fundamental human rights and continue to be a persistent social problem across the world. These crimes take various forms, including physical violence, sexual abuse, domestic violence, dowry-related harassment, human trafficking, workplace harassment, and cyber crimes. Such acts are deeply rooted in gender inequality, patriarchal social structures, and cultural norms that often normalize discrimination and violence against women. Despite the presence of legal provisions and policy interventions, a significant number of cases remain unreported due to fear, social stigma, lack of awareness, and inadequate access to justice.

The impact of crimes against women extends beyond immediate physical injury, leading to long-term psychological trauma, emotional distress, economic dependence, and social marginalization. These crimes hinder women's participation in education, employment, and public life, thereby affecting overall societal development. Addressing crimes against women requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach involving effective law enforcement, judicial reforms, victim support mechanisms, public awareness, and education aimed at promoting gender equality. Empowering women through education, economic independence, and legal awareness, along with transforming societal attitudes, is essential to create a safe and inclusive environment where women can live with dignity and security.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Sexual harassment, Rape and sexual assault, violence against women's, Patriarchal society.

**INTRODUCTION** Crimes against women have been a pervasive and alarming issue throughout history, posing a significant threat to gender equality, human rights, and societal well-being. These crimes encompass a broad range of violent acts and discriminatory practices that are directed specifically at women because of their gender. Despite advancements in legislation, activism, and education aimed at reducing gender-based violence, many women continue to face threats in both public and private spheres.

Crimes against women manifest in various forms, including physical violence, sexual assault, harassment, domestic abuse, trafficking, and honour-related crimes. Such acts are rooted in deep-seated cultural, social, and structural inequalities that perpetuate patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes. Often, victims experience stigma, fear, and systemic barriers to justice, making it difficult to report and address these offenses effectively.

The impact of crimes against women extends beyond individual victims, affecting families, communities, and economies. Studies show that gender-based violence contributes to physical and mental health issues, diminishes women's participation in education and the workforce, and undermines broader societal development.

Efforts to combat these crimes require a multifaceted approach that includes strengthening legal frameworks, raising public awareness, providing victim support systems, and promoting gender-sensitive education. Additionally, it is essential to challenge harmful cultural norms and engage both men and women in fostering an environment of respect, equality, and accountability.

Ultimately, addressing crimes against women is not only a matter of justice but also a critical step toward achieving a more inclusive, equitable, and safe society for all.

Crimes against women represent a serious violation of human rights and pose a significant challenge to global efforts aimed at achieving gender equality and social justice. Women around the world have historically been subjected to various forms of violence and discrimination that stem from deep-rooted patriarchal norms, cultural traditions, and unequal power dynamics between genders. Despite significant advancements in

education, legal reforms, and social awareness, crimes targeting women remain prevalent in many societies, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address this pervasive issue.

Crimes against women encompass a wide range of offenses, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, trafficking, honour killings, dowry-related abuse, acid attacks, and female genital mutilation. These acts often take place in environments where women should feel safe, such as their homes, workplaces, and educational institutions, as well as in public spaces. According to various global studies, a significant percentage of women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, with many cases going unreported due to fear, shame, or societal stigma. This underreporting exacerbates the problem, allowing perpetrators to act with impunity and reinforcing a cycle of violence.

Domestic violence is one of the most widespread forms of violence against women. It encompasses physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse, often inflicted by intimate partners or family members. This form of violence not only harms women physically and psychologically but also undermines their autonomy and ability to participate fully in society. In many regions, domestic violence laws either do not exist or are poorly enforced, leaving victims with limited avenues for redress and protection.

Sexual violence and harassment also constitute major categories of crimes against women. Rape, one of the most heinous forms of gender-based violence, leaves lasting emotional, physical, and psychological scars on survivors. The fear of sexual violence restricts women's freedom and mobility, limiting their access to education, employment, and social engagement. In workplaces and public spaces, sexual harassment creates hostile environments that undermine women's confidence and career progression. Although legal frameworks addressing sexual harassment and assault have been strengthened in many countries, societal attitudes that blame victims or trivialize these crimes remain significant barriers to justice.

Human trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation and forced labour, is another brutal crime affecting millions of women and girls. Organized criminal networks exploit economic vulnerabilities, coercing victims into situations where they are subjected to horrific abuse and deprived of basic human rights. Women and girls from marginalized communities are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, often facing additional layers of discrimination and neglect. The global nature of this crime demands coordinated international efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders.

Cultural practices and societal norms also contribute to crimes against women. In some societies, honour killings occur when women are perceived to have brought shame upon their families by acting outside of prescribed gender roles or norms. Similarly, dowry-related violence, common in certain regions, leads to harassment, injury, and death of women who are deemed to have brought insufficient dowries into their marriages. These crimes highlight how deeply entrenched social practices can perpetuate violence and discrimination against women.

Addressing crimes against women requires a multifaceted and holistic approach. Legal reforms are essential to create strong, enforceable laws that protect women and punish perpetrators. However, laws alone are not sufficient without effective implementation, gender-sensitive law enforcement, and accessible support systems for victims. Public awareness campaigns, education initiatives, and media advocacy play critical roles in challenging gender stereotypes and shifting cultural attitudes that condone or normalize violence against women. Engaging men and boys as allies in the fight for gender equality is also crucial to changing societal power dynamics and preventing violence.

## **NEED OF STUDY**

Crimes against women remain a critical social issue globally, with severe consequences for individuals, families, and societies. Despite legal frameworks and increasing awareness, women continue to face various forms of violence and discrimination, including domestic abuse, sexual harassment, rape, human trafficking, acid attacks, and dowry-related crimes. These acts not only violate human rights but also hinder social and economic development.

The need to study crimes against women arises from the persistent rise in such incidents and the often inadequate response from legal and societal systems. Understanding the nature, causes, and patterns of these

crimes is essential to inform effective policy-making, improve law enforcement practices, and empower communities to take preventive action. Moreover, such research is vital for advocating better support mechanisms for victims and ensuring justice.

This study seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the issue, highlight the gaps in existing systems, and recommend strategies for prevention and protection. By shedding light on the lived experiences of women, it aims to promote a safer and more equitable society.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. various crimes against women
2. to analyse the causes on crimes against women
3. to analyse the various crimes against the women for 4 years
4. to study the government role against the crimes on women

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This study focuses on understanding the nature, extent, and impact of crimes committed against women, with an emphasis on identifying underlying causes, societal attitudes, and the effectiveness of current legal and institutional responses. The research will explore various forms of crimes against women, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, dowry-related violence, acid attacks, and human trafficking.

The scope includes:

- **Geographical coverage:** The study may be limited to a specific country, region, or community (e.g., urban vs. rural areas) to provide focused and relevant insights.
- **Demographic focus:** The study will primarily consider women of different age groups, socio-economic backgrounds, and educational levels to understand diverse experiences and vulnerabilities.
- **Time frame:** The analysis may cover recent years (e.g., past 5–10 years) to identify current trends and changes in crime patterns.
- **Institutional review:** The study will assess the role of law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, NGOs, and government initiatives in addressing crimes against women.
- **Social perception:** It will also examine societal attitudes, cultural norms, and the stigma surrounding victims, which often influence reporting and justice outcomes.

### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

This study adopts a **descriptive and analytical research design**. It aims to understand the patterns, causes, and consequences of crimes against women by analysing existing data and literature. The research focuses on identifying trends, legal gaps, and the effectiveness of institutional responses.

### **DATA COLLECTION METHOD**

The study relies exclusively on **secondary data**, which involves the collection and analysis of data that has already been published or recorded by credible sources. No primary data (such as surveys, interviews, or fieldwork) is used.

## **SOURCES OF SECONDARY DATA**

Data will be obtained from the following sources:

- Government reports (e.g., National Crime Records Bureau - NCRB, Ministry of Women and Child Development)
- Reports by international organizations (e.g., UN Women, WHO, Amnesty International)
- Research papers and academic journals
- Newspaper articles and media reports
- NGO publications and case studies
- Law commission reports and legal databases

## **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

- Dependence on the accuracy and availability of published data
- Possible underreporting or misreporting of crimes
- Inability to gather firsthand accounts or recent updates not yet reflected in official reports

## **Review of literature**

1. Harbishettar and Math (2014) discussed the impact of violence against women on community development.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, one crime is recorded in every three minutes in India. Violence leads to mental disorders such as anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, self-harm and sleep.

2. (2019) in his report examined the violence against women in India and policies of police in India to combat the menace in recent times. Violence against women varies among the countries. Every country has policies for minimizing violence against women.

3. Goel (2020) in his report found that there should be innovative methods and techniques for solving crime against women. A new zero violence society is essential for the nation. It improves socio-economic conditions of the country.

4. According to Qureshi et. al. (2021), insecurity and physical threat to women is a real fact in Indian society. There is a growing concern for increasing crime in Indian society. The paper examines the role of police and non- governmental organization for combating such crimes.

5. Podder (2021) in his report examined the overall issues of violence against women in India. Crime against women is increasing in alarming rate in India. Sexual harassment, dowry deaths, forced or induced abortion, acid attack, domestic violence, rape and trafficking are the major crime against women.

Therefore, from the above review analysis it has found that violence against women is a real challenge before the society. The above articles discussed the violence against women in Indian society.

6. Mukherjee et al (2001) also observed that working women have probably greater exposure to the risk of violence outside the home. However, in the present model, the explanation for the high rate of violence suffered by working women is highly related to their exposure to the outside world and their empowerment as compared to those not working.

7. Kabeer (1999, 2019) locates women at the intersection of class, caste, race, ethnicity, legal and socio-economic status inequalities and defines women's empowerment as the capacity to make choices and live a life outside the one imposed by social laws, customs and norms—women at the intersection.

8. This was supported by Deyessa et al. (2010), who explored violence against women in low-income settings in Ethiopia and determined that although semi-urban lifestyle and literacy promoted changes in attitudes against intimate partner violence, in rural settings, a literate woman married to an illiterate man was most vulnerable to spousal violence.

## **Findings of the study**

### **Objective -1**

#### **VARIOUS CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN:-**

1. Domestic Violence

Physical, emotional, and psychological abuse within the household. Includes harassment over dowry demands.

2. Rape and Sexual Assault

Crimes involving non-consensual sexual acts. Includes attempts to commit rape.

3. Harassment and Stalking

Harassment at workplaces or in public spaces. Cyberstalking and online abuse.

4. Dowry Deaths

Deaths or murders resulting from disputes over dowry demands.

5. Human Trafficking

Forced prostitution or labour through illegal trafficking of women.

6. Acid Attacks

Attacks with the intent to disfigure or harm women.

7. Honor Killings

Murders based on caste, community, or familial dishonour.

8. Kidnapping and Abduction

Abductions for marriage, ransom, or trafficking.

9. Cybercrimes Against Women

Sharing or morphing of explicit photos or videos without consent. Online trolling, defamation, or blackmail.

10. Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces

Eve-teasing or molestation in public places, schools, or workplaces.

11. Forced Marriages

Marriages under coercion or against the consent of women.

12. Witch-Hunting

Rare cases of women being labelled as witches and subjected to violence.

13. Workplace Harassment

Sexual harassment and exploitation at workplaces.

### **Objective – 2**

#### **TO ANALYSE THE CAUSES ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN :-**

Analysing the causes of crimes against women requires a deeper exploration of the structural, cultural, and individual factors that contribute to gender-based violence. Here's a detailed breakdown:

## **1. Socio-Cultural Factors**

### • Patriarchal Mindset:

Root Cause: Patriarchy normalizes male dominance and control over women, reducing women's autonomy.

• Impact: Women are often treated as subordinate adding to abuse, domestic violence, and exploitation

### • Harmful Traditions:

• Root Cause: Practices like dowry, honour killings, and child marriage perpetuate inequality.

• Impact: These practices normalize violence, often making it socially acceptable.

### • Objectification of Women:

• Root Cause: Media and cultural depictions reduce women to mere objects of desire.

• Impact: Increases instances of sexual harassment, assault, and abuse.

## **2. Economic and Educational**

### Inequalities

#### i) • Economic Dependence:

ii) • Root Cause: Women's limited access to education and employment opportunities creates dependency on men.

• Impact: Financial vulnerability makes women susceptible to exploitation and abuse.

#### • Lack of Education:

• Root Cause: Gender inequality in education limits awareness of rights and resources.

• Impact: Women may be less likely to resist or report abuse, and men may lack awareness of gender equity.

## **3. Weak Legal and Institutional Frameworks Inadequate Law Enforcement:**

• Root Cause: Insufficient training of law enforcement in gender-sensitive practices.

• Impact: Perpetrators are often not held accountable, and victims face secondary trauma during legal proceedings.

#### • Slow Judicial Processes:

• Root Cause: Backlogged courts and complex legal systems delay justice.

• Impact: Delays discourage victims from reporting & es and embolden offenders

## **4. Psychological and Behavioural**

### Factors

#### • Toxic Masculinity

• Root Cause: Social conditioning

encourages men to assert dominance and suppress emotions.

• Impact: Leads to aggressive behaviours, including violence against women.

#### • Substance Abuse

• Root Cause: Addiction to alcohol and drugs impairs judgment and increases aggression.

• Impact: Often a direct factor in domestic violence and sexual assault.

## **5. Urbanization and Technology**

### • Urbanization

• Root Cause: Inadequate safety measures (e.g., poorly lit areas, lack of surveillance) in urban settings.

• Impact: Women become more vulnerable to crimes like harassment and assault in public spaces.

### • Cybercrime:

• Root Cause: Anonymity online and insufficient cyber laws.

• Impact: Increases online harassment, stalking, and exploitation.

## **6. Societal Norms and Stigma**

- Victim-Blaming
- Root Cause: Societal attitudes that blame women for crimes committed against them.
- Impact: Discourages victims from seeking help and allows perpetrators to act with impunity.
- Lack of Community Awareness:
- Root Cause: Limited public discourse on gender issues and equality.
- Impact: Perpetuates ignorance and tolerance of crimes against women.

### **Objective -3**

#### **TO ANALYSE THE VARIOUS CRIMES AGAINST THE WOMEN FOR 4 YEARS :-**

In 2019, Telangana recorded approximately **18,394** cases of crimes against women, as per the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** report. These cases were categorized under various offenses, including sexual violence, domestic abuse, and harassment. Below is a breakdown of the major crimes:

#### **Breakdown of Crimes Against Women in Telangana (2019):**

1. **Rape** – 1,630 cases
2. **Attempt to Commit Rape** – 95 cases
3. **Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Modesty (Molestation)** – 3,963 cases
4. **Kidnapping & Abduction of Women** – 2,230 cases
5. **Dowry Deaths** – 287 cases
6. **Cruelty by Husband or Relatives (Domestic Violence)** – 5,998 cases
7. **Sexual Harassment (including workplace harassment)** – 818 cases
8. **Cyber Crimes Against Women** – 318 cases
9. **Human Trafficking (involving women victims)** – 44 cases
10. **Dowry Prohibition Act Violations** – 93 cases
11. **Immoral Trafficking (PITA Act Violations)** – 132 cases

#### **Key Observations:-**

- Telangana ranked among the states with a high number of crimes against women in 2019.
- Cases of **domestic violence (Section 498A IPC)** were among the highest, followed by **molestation and kidnapping**.
- **Cybercrimes against women** saw a significant rise, indicating growing concerns about online harassment.
- **Rape cases** were notably high, reflecting the need for stricter enforcement of laws and better protection measures.
- **Breakdown of Crimes Against Women in Telangana (2020):**

In 2020, Telangana reported **17,791** cases of crimes against women, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). This represented a slight decrease from the 18,394 cases reported in 2019. The breakdown of these cases in 2020 is as follows:

- **Cruelty by Husband or Relatives (Domestic Violence):** 7,745 cases
- **Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Modesty:** 4,365 cases
- **Kidnapping and Abduction of Women:** 1,967 cases
- **Rape:** 823 cases
- **Dowry Deaths:** 175 cases
- **Abetment to Suicide:** 403 cases
- **Cyber Crimes Targeting Women:** 47 cases

**It's noteworthy that Hyderabad alone accounted for 2,390 of these cases in 2020.**

• **Breakdown of Crimes Against Women in Telangana (2021):**

In 2021, Telangana reported **20,865** cases of crimes against women, marking a 17.3% increase from the 17,791 cases reported in 2020.

The breakdown of these cases is as follows:

- **Cruelty by Husband or Relatives (Domestic Violence):** 9,468 cases
- **Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Modesty:** 4,365 cases
- **Kidnapping and Abduction of Women:** 1,967 cases
- **Rape:** 823 cases
- **Dowry Deaths:** 175 cases
- **Abetment to Suicide:** 403 cases
- **Cyber Crimes Targeting Women:** 47 cases

**Notably, Hyderabad alone accounted for 3,050 of these cases in 2021.**

• **Breakdown of Crimes Against Women in Telangana (2022):**

In 2022, Telangana reported **22,066** cases of crimes against women, reflecting a 5.8% increase from the 20,865 cases recorded in 2021.

The breakdown of these cases is as follows:

- **Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives:** 9,996 cases
- **Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Her Modesty:** 4,652 cases
- **Kidnapping and Abduction of Women:** 2,195 cases
- **Rape:** 814 cases
- **Dowry Deaths:** 137 cases

The rate of total crime against women per lakh population in Telangana stood at 117, with a charge-sheeting rate of 87.6%.

This data underscores a continued rise in crimes against women in Telangana, particularly in categories such as domestic violence and assault. The increase highlights the need for enhanced protective measures and effective law enforcement to address these issues.

• **Breakdown of Crimes Against Women in Telangana (2023):**

In 2023, Telangana reported **19,013** cases of crimes against women, reflecting a 5% increase from the previous year.

**Breakdown of Cases:**

- **Rape:** 2,284 cases
- **Dowry Murders:** 33 cases
- **Dowry Deaths:** 132 cases
- **Dowry Harassment:** 9,458 cases
- **Kidnapping of Women:** 884 cases

The increase in reported cases is attributed to enhanced reporting mechanisms and greater awareness among women. In Hyderabad, the state capital, crimes against women rose by 12% in 2023, totalling 2,775 cases, up from 2,484 in 2022. This includes 403 reported rapes, an increase of 67 cases from the previous year. The overall rise in crime rates in Telangana is also influenced by a significant increase in cybercrimes, which saw a 17.6% uptick in 2023. These statistics underscore the ongoing challenges in addressing crimes against women in Telangana, highlighting the need for continued efforts to enhance women's safety and implement effective preventive measures.

#### **Objective -4**

### **TO STUDY THE GOVERNMENT ROLE AGAINST THE CRIMES ON WOMEN:-**

#### **1. Rape case 2019 :- ( Hyderabad )**

In November 2019, the gang rape and murder of a 26-year-old veterinary doctor in Shamshabad, near Hyderabad sparked outrage across India. Her body was found in Shad Nagar on 28 November 2019, the day after she was murdered. Four suspects were arrested and, according to the Cyberabad metropolitan police, confessed to having raped and killed the doctor.

All four accused were killed on 6 December 2019, under a bridge on the Bengaluru – Hyderabad national highway, while they were in police custody. According to the police, the suspects were taken to the location for a reconstruction of the crime scene, where two of them allegedly snatched guns and attacked the police. In the ensuing shootout, all four suspects were shot dead. Some accused the police of extrajudicial execution while hundreds of thousands of people celebrated the men's deaths.

#### **2. Gang rape ( Asifabad 2020)**

The victim was a street hawker, selling cosmetics and petty items. She was found dead on November 24, 2019, throat-slitted in a village in Lingala Mandal of Asifabad district. The police had arrested Shaik Babu, Shaik Shabuddin and Shaik Makdum and booked them for gangrape, murder and offences under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. After her death, protests erupted in Asifabad and parts of erstwhile Adilabad. Activists alleged that the government had ignored delivering justice to the victim since she belonged to a Dalit community. Following widespread protests, the Telangana government set up a special court in Adilabad in December 2019, where the trial began. The state government also offered Samata's husband a job as an attendant at the state-run Social Welfare Hostel.

#### **3. Rape case 2021 Saidabad :-**

Meanwhile, state women and child welfare minister Satyavati Rathod, who expressed anguish over the incident, urged city police commissioner Anjani Kumar and women and child welfare commissioner Divya Devarajan to take steps to bring the culprit to book and to ensure tough punishment, an official release said. Her parents of the girl be provided with financial assistance of ₹50,000, the minister said. Observing that the Telangana government under the leadership of chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has initiated several measures for women's safety, the minister directed officials to be tough in dealing with such incidents. Appealing to the residents of the locality to observe restraint, she said the government would stand by the family of the deceased girl and take steps to hand out stringent punishment to the culprits, the release added.

#### **4. Rape case in 2022 ( Jubilee hills ):-**

In the last week of July 2022, the five minors were granted bail. Juvenile Justice Board allowed the four other minors accused to be released on bail after serving 50 days. As per reports in August 2022, one of the juveniles in the Jubilee hills minor's gang-rape is reportedly being sent abroad.

Asaduddin Malik was granted bail in August 2022 after 61 days in jail. Malik was in Chanchalguda central jail in judicial remand.

## **5. Rape case in 2023 ( Nalgonda , angadipeta ) :-**

On January 17 morning, the girl reached Angadipeta in Naresh's car. The police said she wanted to board a bus to Karmanghat and has asked the accused to drop her near the Angadipeta crossroads. Dileep then took her to a nearby clothing store called 'Rowdy Boys' which is owned by Naresh, and allegedly raped her. The girl then started bleeding excessively and fainted, according to the police. The accused took her to the Devarakonda government hospital in their car, but she passed away around 1 pm.

After the girl's father lodged a complaint with the Gudipally police on the same day, the Devarakonda Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) took up investigation and the three accused were apprehended a day later on January

18. They were produced in court and sent to judicial remand, police said. The accused were booked under various sections of Indian Penal Code for rape and murder as well as relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

## **Steps taken by government regarding crimes against women's:-**

### **1. Formation of SHE Teams (2014)**

SHE Teams stands for Safety, Health and Environment. The division was started on 24 October 2014, is a brainchild of Chief minister of Telangana, Rao who was impressed by a similar initiative in Singapore. Additional Commissioner, Hyderabad, Swathi Lakra heading the division ever since its inception.

**SHE Teams** is a division of Telangana police for enhanced safety and security of women. They also work to prevent Child marriages in Telangana state. The teams work in small groups to arrest eye teasers stalkers and harassers. They operate mainly in busy public areas in Hyderabad. They respond to complaints delivered by WhatsApp and through social media.

SHE Teams' were launched on the 24th of October 2014 in Hyderabad City as part of the Telangana State Government's vision of providing a totally safe and secure environment for women within the larger concept of friendly policing. In view of the resounding success of SHE Teams in Hyderabad City, it was replicated initially in Cyberabad and thereafter in each district of Telangana from April 2015. Women Safety Wing monitors the work done by all the SHE Teams in Telangana State. At present there are 331 SHE teams working in Telangana State.

### **2. Kavitha Women Safety App (2018)**

In 2018, actor Preity Zinta launched **Kavach Safety**, a discreet service leveraging mobile technology to provide comprehensive support services, backed by a leading team of crisis experts. The app aimed to enhance women's safety by offering features such as:

- **Emergency Alerts:** Allowing users to send immediate notifications to pre-selected contacts in case of distress.
- **Location Sharing:** Enabling real-time sharing of the user's location with trusted individuals for prompt assistance.
- **Crisis Support:** Providing access to a team of crisis experts for guidance and assistance during emergencies.

Kavach Safety was part of a broader movement in 2018 to utilize technology for enhancing women's security, alongside other notable apps like:

- **Suraksha:** Launched by the Bengaluru City Police in April 2017, this app aimed to protect women in distress by sending panic alerts to emergency contacts and authorities. However, reports in early 2018 indicated a poor response from city women, leaving the police disappointed.
- **My Safetipin:** An app that provides safety audits for public spaces, live tracking, and SOS alerts, helping users identify safe and unsafe areas based on user reviews.

- ? **Shake2Safety:** This app allows users to trigger alerts by shaking their phone or pressing the power button, even without an internet connection, ensuring reliability in emergencies.

### **3. The Telangana State Women Commission**

The **Telangana State Commission for Women** is a statutory body established to address issues related to crimes against women in Telangana. It functions as a quasi-judicial entity, aiming to safeguard women's rights and promote their welfare within the state.

#### **Objectives and Functions:**

- **Protection and Welfare:** Ensuring the protection and holistic development of women.
- **Addressing Violations:** Intervening in cases where women's rights are violated or protective laws are not implemented effectively.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Advising the state government on matters concerning women's issues and suggesting legislative measures to promote gender equality.
- **Awareness Initiatives:** Conducting programs to educate the public about women's rights and related legislation.

#### **Composition:**

The Commission comprises a Chairperson and up to six other women members residing in the state, all nominated by the government.

#### **Current Leadership:**

- **Chairperson:** As of March 2024, Ms. Nerella Sharada serves as the Chairperson of the Telangana State Commission for Women.

### **4. Fast-Track Courts**

**Fast Track Courts (FTCs)** are special courts set up to ensure speedy disposal of cases, particularly those involving heinous crimes, women's safety, and corruption. These courts aim to reduce the backlog of cases in the judicial system and provide timely justice.

#### **Key Features of Fast Track Courts:**

1. **Speedy Justice** – Designed to dispose of cases within a short time frame.
2. **Special Focus Areas** – Primarily deal with cases related to:
  - Crimes against women and children (rape, POCSO cases, domestic violence)
  - Corruption and financial frauds
  - Cases pending for long periods
3. **Dedicated Judges** – Specially appointed judges handle cases to avoid delays.
4. **State and Central Government Support** – FTCs are funded by the central government and implemented by state governments.

#### **Fast Track Courts in India:**

- Introduced in **2000** on the recommendation of the **11th Finance Commission**.
- The **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme** was launched in **2019** for cases related to **rape and POCSO Act (child sexual abuse cases)**.
- As of 2023, there are over **1,023 FTSCs** operational across India.

## 5. Awareness Campaigns

**Awareness Campaigns** are organized efforts aimed at educating people about a particular issue and encouraging action or change. These campaigns can be conducted by governments, NGOs, corporations, and community groups to address social, environmental, or health-related concerns.

### **Types of Awareness Campaigns:**

#### **1. Women's Safety & Empowerment:**

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** A government campaign to promote girls' education and prevent gender-based discrimination.
- **#MeToo Movement:** A global social movement against sexual harassment and abuse.
- **She Teams (Telangana):** A campaign by the Telangana Police to prevent eve-teasing and crimes against women.

#### **2. Health & Hygiene:**

- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** A cleanliness drive to promote hygiene and sanitation.
- **Polio Eradication Campaign:** WHO-backed immunization drives to eliminate polio.

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Awareness:** Public health campaigns encouraging vaccination.

#### **3. Environmental Awareness:**

- **World Environment Day Campaigns:** Encouraging tree planting and reducing pollution.
- **Say No to Plastic:** Campaigns to reduce plastic usage.
- **Save Water Initiatives:** Promoting water conservation methods.

#### **4. Cyber Safety & Digital Literacy:**

- **Digital India Campaign:** Encouraging the use of digital technology.
- **Cyber Awareness Programs:** Educating people about online scams and cybercrime prevention.

#### **5. Road Safety & Public Welfare:**

- **Helmet & Seatbelt Awareness Campaigns:** Promoting safe driving habits.
- **Anti-Drug Awareness Programs:** Educating youth about drug abuse and rehabilitation.

## 6. Free Legal Aid Services

Free legal aid services are provided to ensure justice for all, especially for economically weaker and marginalized sections of society. These services help individuals access legal representation, advice, and assistance without any cost.

### **Who Provides Free Legal Aid?**

1. **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** – The apex body that oversees legal aid in India, formed under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
2. **State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA)** – Function at the state level.
3. **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA)** – Provide free legal aid at the district level.
4. **Legal Aid Clinics** – Operated by law colleges and NGOs.
5. **Pro Bono Lawyers** – Lawyers who voluntarily provide free legal services. Who Can Avail Free Legal

### Aid?

According to **Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, the following groups are eligible:

- Women and children
- Persons from SC/ST communities
- Victims of human trafficking
- People with disabilities
- Industrial workers
- Victims of natural disasters
- Undertrial prisoners
- People with an annual income below a certain limit (varies by state) Types of Legal Aid Provided:

- Free legal advice and consultation
- Free legal representation in court
- Drafting legal documents
- Assistance in filing cases How to Apply for Free Legal Aid?

1. **Visit the nearest Legal Services Authority** – Available at **National, State, and District levels.**
2. **Call the Legal Aid Helpline – 15100 (NALSA Helpline Number).**
3. **Apply online** – Through the NALSA website ([www.nalsa.gov.in](http://www.nalsa.gov.in)).
4. **Approach Legal Aid Clinics** – Available at law colleges and NGOs.

### 7.24/7 Women Helpline

#### 24/7 Women Helpline Numbers in India

Women in distress can seek immediate assistance through various **24/7 helplines** that offer support for domestic violence, sexual harassment, human trafficking, and other emergencies.

#### National Women's Helplines:

- 📞 **181 – Women's Helpline** (For domestic violence, harassment, and distress)
- 📞 **1091 – Women's Police Helpline** (For immediate police assistance)
- 📞 **112 – Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)** (Single emergency number for police, ambulance, and fire)
- 📞 **1098 – Child Helpline** (For children in distress, including girls facing abuse)

#### State-Specific Women Helplines (Examples):

- 📞 **Dial 100** – Telangana Women's Safety & Police Helpline
- 📞 **Dial 181** – Telangana Women Helpline for domestic violence cases
- 📞 **She Teams Helpline (Telangana): 040-2785 2785** – For complaints about harassment and stalking

#### Other Women Safety Helplines:

- 📞 **14416 – NALSA Legal Aid Helpline** (For free legal assistance to women in distress)
- 📞 **8826400600 – NCW WhatsApp Helpline** (For quick complaint filing to the National Commission for Women)

## 8. Police Training on Gender Sensitivity

### Police Training on Gender Sensitivity

**Gender sensitivity training** for police officers is crucial to ensure they handle cases related to women, children, and marginalized groups with empathy, fairness, and professionalism. This training aims to change attitudes, eliminate biases, and improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in gender-related cases.

#### Key Aspects of Gender Sensitivity Training for Police:

##### 1. Understanding Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- Identifying different forms of GBV (domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, etc.)
- Recognizing the psychological and social impact on survivors

##### 2. Legal Framework & Women's Rights

- Training on laws like:
  - **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005)**
  - **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013)**
  - **POCSO Act (2012) for child protection**
  - **Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections on crimes against women**

##### 3. Victim-Centric Approach

- Listening to and treating survivors with empathy
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Avoiding victim-blaming and insensitive questioning

##### 4. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- Immediate response to distress calls (e.g., **Dial 112, 181, 1091**)
- Filing **Zero FIR** (registering an FIR at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction)
- Escorting survivors to medical and counseling facilities

##### 5. Community Engagement & Awareness

- Police interaction with local women's groups and NGOs
- Public awareness campaigns on women's safety Gender Sensitization Initiatives in India:
  - **"She Teams" (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh)** – Special police units to tackle harassment and crimes against women.
  - **Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D)** – Conducts gender training programs for police personnel.
  - **UNICEF & UN Women Programs** – Partner with Indian police to provide gender-sensitive training.
  - **Delhi Police "Swayam Siddha" Program** – Focuses on gender sensitivity and self-defence training for women.

## 9. Public Surveillance and CCTV Installation

### Public Surveillance & CCTV Installation for Women's Safety

Public surveillance through **CCTV cameras** plays a crucial role in enhancing women's safety by deterring crimes, aiding investigations, and providing real-time monitoring in public spaces. Several cities in India have implemented large-scale **CCTV surveillance projects** to improve security, particularly in high-risk areas.

#### Key Benefits of CCTV Surveillance for Women's Safety:

##### 1. Crime Prevention & Deterrence

- Acts as a deterrent against **eve-teasing, harassment, and physical assaults** in public places.

- Encourages safer environments in **bus stops, railway stations, parks, and markets.**

## 2. Real-Time Monitoring & Quick Response

- Helps **police control rooms** track suspicious activities and respond to distress calls promptly.
- Enables **automatic alerts** for law enforcement in case of emergencies.

## 3. Evidence Collection & Legal Support

- CCTV footage serves as **strong evidence** in courts for prosecuting offenders.
- Reduces false allegations and ensures fair investigation.

## 4. Integration with Women's Safety Apps & Helplines

- Cities like Hyderabad have linked CCTV feeds to **'She Teams'** and emergency response centres.
- AI-based facial recognition is used for **tracking criminals** and repeat offenders.

## Notable CCTV Initiatives in India for Women's Safety

### 1. Safe City Project (Government of India)

- Implemented in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata under the Nirbhaya Fund.
- Focus on CCTV surveillance, panic buttons, and women-friendly infrastructure.

### 2. Hyderabad's 'Safe and Smart City' Initiative

- Over 7 lakh CCTV cameras installed under the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC).
- Linked to 'She Teams' for quick action against harassment cases.

### 3. Delhi Police 'Nirbhaya CCTV Surveillance Project'

- More than 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras installed in high-risk areas.
- Monitoring by women police personnel in real-time control rooms.

### 4. Mumbai's 'Safe City' Surveillance System

- Over 5,000 cameras installed at key locations to track and prevent crimes.
- Integrated with facial recognition technology for offender tracking.

## Challenges in CCTV Surveillance for Women's Safety

- **Privacy Concerns:** Risk of misuse of surveillance footage.
- **Maintenance Issues:** Many cameras become non-functional due to poor upkeep.
- **Coverage Gaps:** Some areas still lack CCTV surveillance.
- **Legal & Ethical Concerns:** Need for strict **data protection laws** to prevent misuse of footage.

## 10. Specialized Women Police Stations

Specialized Women Police Stations (WPS) are dedicated law enforcement units designed to handle crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and other gender-based offenses. These stations are typically staffed by female officers and provide a more supportive and sensitive environment for women to report crimes.

### **Key Features of Women Police Stations:**

1. **Women-Centric Staff** – Mostly run by female police officers to make women feel more comfortable reporting crimes.
2. **Specialized Training** – Officers are trained to handle gender-sensitive cases with empathy.
3. **Legal and Psychological Support** – Many stations offer legal aid, counseling, and psychological support.
4. **Coordination with NGOs** – Often collaborate with women's organizations for victim assistance.
5. **Fast-Track Processing** – Ensures quicker response and investigation of cases involving women.

## **11. Anti-Dowry and Anti-Harassment Campaigns**

In Telangana, both government bodies and community organizations have initiated various campaigns to combat dowry practices and harassment against women.

### **Anti-Dowry Campaigns in Telangana:**

- **Anti-Dowry Task Force:** In 2021, organizations like Tehreek Muslim Shabban established a task force to address the dowry menace. Their initiatives included door-to-door campaigns to educate the public about the negative impacts of dowry practices and organizing silent protests at weddings that involved extravagant expenditures.
- **Religious Scholars' Involvement:** The Ulama-e-Jamia Nizamiya Organisation, comprising imams and scholars, launched campaigns to raise awareness about the harms of dowry and associated societal issues. They emphasized the importance of simple marriages and discouraged dowry demands.
- **Social Activism:** Individuals like Aleem Khan Falaki have been at the forefront of anti-dowry movements in Hyderabad, advocating for the eradication of dowry through social reforms and community engagement.

### **Anti-Harassment Campaigns in Telangana:**

- **SHE Teams:** Established in 2014, SHE Teams are specialized units within the Telangana Police dedicated to curbing harassment against women in public places. Operating undercover, these teams identify and apprehend individuals involved in activities like eve-teasing and stalking. Their proactive approach includes regular monitoring of hotspots and public awareness campaigns.
- **'Sahas' Initiative:** Launched in May 2023, the 'Sahas' program aims to create safer workplaces for women. This initiative provides support systems for women facing workplace sexual harassment, including resources like a dedicated microsite, chatbot, WhatsApp support, and forums for assistance.
- **Women Safety Wing:** The Telangana Police's Women Safety Wing develops and conducts awareness campaigns on women's safety, child rights, and legal awareness. They also offer assistance to victims and their families, aiming to create a safer environment for women across the state.

These concerted efforts reflect Telangana's commitment to addressing and mitigating issues related to dowry and harassment, fostering a safer and more equitable environment for women.

## **CONCLUSION**

Crimes against women continue to be a grave and persistent issue that undermines the safety, dignity, and rights of women across the globe. Despite the presence of laws, policies, and growing awareness, the prevalence of gender-based violence remains alarmingly high, often exacerbated by societal norms, lack of enforcement, and systemic gaps in justice delivery.

This study, based on secondary data, highlights the urgent need for comprehensive strategies that go beyond legal frameworks. There is a pressing need for stronger implementation of laws, increased sensitivity among law enforcement agencies, and the empowerment of women through education, economic independence, and awareness of their rights.

Furthermore, changing societal attitudes and breaking the culture of silence surrounding these crimes is crucial. Only through a collective effort involving government institutions, civil society, educational systems, and individuals can we create a society where women feel safe, respected, and free from violence.

Addressing crimes against women is not just a legal or social responsibility—it is a moral imperative for achieving gender equality and sustainable development.

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