

Violence Against Women At Any Age and Every Relationship Indian English Newspaper (Oct-Dec 2023)

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Abstract

This paper provides an in-depth examination of **47 articles** involving sexual assault, rape, gang rape, murder, and other forms of violence, with a focus on the demographic factors such as the age, relationship to the perpetrator, education, occupation, geographic location, and the nature of the crime. The articles, drawn from *The Times of India* e-Paper between October and December 2023, offer a detailed insight into the frequency and diverse nature of crimes committed against women and children. This study looks at crimes involving women and children, focusing on different areas like the age groups of victims (minors, young adults, and middle-aged women), their relationships with the offenders, types of crimes, and the impact of education, jobs, and location. It finds that crimes happen across all age groups, education levels, and places, with many offenders being people the victims know, like family members or acquaintances. It highlights the urgent need for changes, especially in education and rural areas, to better protect women and children.

Keywords: Sexual assault, murder, minors, young adults, crime statistics, legal outcomes, post-incident care.

Methodology

This study analyzes 47 articles from *The Times of India e-Paper* (Oct–Dec 2023) focusing on sexual violence reported in Delhi and Lucknow. It examines (**visual data analysis on the basis of secondary data crimes**) primarily involving female and child victims, including rape, gang rape, sexual assault, and murder. Combining **quantitative** and **qualitative** methods, the study categorizes victim demographics (age, education and occupation), crime types, perpetrator relationships (stranger, acquaintance, family etc.) locations (urban, rural, isolated etc.), and legal follow-up (FIR status, arrest rates) through Excel-based statistical analysis. The qualitative analysis explores social, psychological, and emotional impacts, using thematic coding to identify patterns of victimization and trauma. Legal follow-up and victim support services are also reviewed. Ethical considerations ensure confidentiality and privacy, though the study is limited to reported cases and a specific timeframe. The findings offer insights into the frequency, nature, and impact of sexual violence, emphasizing socio-legal implications.

Objectives

1. To analyze the demographic profile of victim.

2. To assess the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.
3. To evaluate the prevalence and nature of different types of crimes.
4. To investigate the impact of geographic and environmental factors.
5. To explore the aftermath of these crimes.
6. To evaluate the success of law enforcement efforts.

Literature Review

- **Biasness of Newspaper:** Verma and Pal (2022) highlights that Delhi newspapers primarily report violence occurring in Delhi, reflecting **under-reporting and metro-centric media bias**. This selective reporting favor's "newsworthy" urban locations over rural areas, leading to the rise of rural-focused outlets like *Khabar Lahariya* and *People's Archive of Rural India*. Coverage also varies based on the **geography and demographics of victims and perpetrators**, despite persistent criticism.
- **Age Dynamics in Sexual Offence Cases:** This aligns with previous research, which reported average ages of 32.59 at the offence and 35.84 at reporting, with significant age variations across offence types (Devies, Spench, Cummings, Cross and Horbarth, 2022). These findings contextualize the current study's age-related observations, emphasizing the importance of categorizing suspects by offence type for targeted analyses.
- **Media Highlights Physical Violence, Overlooks Other Abuses:** The analysis of violence reported in the news reveals that over three-quarters of the incidents focus on **physical violence against women**, followed by cases of **sexual violence**, including sexual assault and rape. Sutherland, Eastel, Holland and Vaughan (2019) argue the reports on other forms of abuse, such as **emotional, verbal, or financial abuse**, were notably rare. Additionally, they highlight a separate examination of **lethal violence** found that the majority of these reports concerned **female homicides**.
- **Pattern of sexual assault and other violence:** Warricha, Israrb, Yasin (2021) recorded various forms of violence to determine its extent, including another category for additional forms, following Dr. Siraj's method. The coding units included actions like **gazing, chasing, scolding, body injury, threats**, and severe forms such as **acid throwing, sexual assault, honor killings, murder, forced marriage, and kidnapping**, among others.

Data Analysis

The provided data presents a grim picture of sexual violence against children and women. It highlights the alarming prevalence of child sexual assault, rape, and murder cases, as well as women's sexual assault and rape cases.

A comprehensive analysis of the data highlighted a disturbing trend of sexual violence against both children and women, involving multiple forms of sexual violence, such as assault, rape, and murder analysis are given below with detail discussion.

Crime Has No Age Barrier

The dataset represents an analysis of **32 articles (total 47 articles)** of crimes such as sexual assault, rape, gang rape, and murders, categorized by age. Below is the breakdown of the cases into three age groups:

Crimes Against Minors: Crimes against minors constituted **50% (13 out of 32 articles)**. It includes victims as young as **3 years old**, highlighting the alarming vulnerability of children.

Young Adults as Major Victims: The 18–35 age group accounts for **40.6% (15 out of 32 articles)** which

demonstrates that crimes predominantly target women during their socially and economically active years, showcasing that young adults are significantly targeted.

Crimes Against Middle-Aged Women: The 35–45 age group makes up **9.4% (3 out of 32 articles)**, showing that even individuals perceived as less likely to be victims are at risk. Though fewer articles were reported, but it emphasizes that middle-aged individuals are not immune to these crimes.

This analysis reinforces the harsh reality that victims range from toddlers to middle-aged individuals, in any cities, emphasizing the absence of age boundaries and cities.

Crime's Complex and Overlapping Nature

This dataset categorizes the types of crimes committed against women and children across published **47 articles**, including sexual assault, rape, gangrape, murder, and associated violent actions. Below is a summarized statistical analysis:

Rape (including forced abortion and threats): Accounts for approximately **40%** of the articles (19 out of 47 articles). This includes standalone rape cases and instances with additional abuse, such as forced abortion or blackmail.

Gangrape: Represents **17%** of the articles (8 out of 47 articles). Many of these cases involve additional elements like recording videos, money extortion, and threats.

Sexual Assault (including molestation and harassment): Makes up **21%** of articles (10 out of 47 articles). These range from molestation to severe harassment combined with physical violence.

Murder or Attempted Murder: Found in **11%** of the articles (5 out of 47 articles), often paired with sexual assault. **Other Crimes (stalking, blackmail, dowry demands, forced prostitution):** Comprise **11%** (5 out of 47 articles), showing diverse criminal tactics beyond direct physical violence. The data emphasizes that crimes against women and children are not limited to one specific type of violation but often combine multiple forms of abuse like murder, forced abortions, and extortion occur frequently, reflecting the wide-ranging tactics of perpetrators.

Relationship is Not a Barrier to Crime

This analysis evaluates the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator across published **39 articles** involving crimes such as sexual assault, rape, and other forms of violence.

Stranger Crimes: The data highlights accounts for **46.2%** of articles (**18 out of 39 articles**). The significant risk posed by strangers, making up nearly half of the cases. These often occur in situations where trust is not established.

Trust Betrayal by Acquaintances: This data represents **33.3%** of articles (**13 out of 39 articles**) includes school van drivers, school friends, colleagues, neighbors, or family friends. One-third of the crimes were committed by individuals in close proximity to the victims, exploiting trust or familiarity.

Family-Related Crimes: This data constitutes **15.4%** of articles (**6 out of 39 articles**). Includes family members, in-laws, and even the victim's father. Although lower in proportion, crimes by family members and close relations are particularly alarming, as they reveal abuse of deeply rooted trust.

Boyfriend and associates: This data makes up **5.1%** of articles (**2 out of 39 articles**) crimes included involvement of the boyfriend and his friends.

This analysis underscores that strangers are the largest group of offenders, but a considerable number of crimes are committed by acquaintances and even family members, illustrating the disturbing reality that trust is often exploited.

Crime Does Not Discriminate by Education or Occupation

This analysis examines the education level and occupational status of victims in 23 published articles involving sexual assault, rape, and related crimes.

Students at High Risk: Among **52.2%** of articles (15 out of 23 articles). Includes school students (Nursery, Class 8, 9, 10) and college/university students (BHU, DU). Over half of the cases involved students, indicating that young individuals in educational settings are particularly vulnerable to crimes.

Working Women as Targets: **17.4%** of articles (**5 out of 23 articles**). Nearly one-fifth of the victims were working professionals, showing that crimes extend to women actively contributing to society through employment.

Housewives and Rural Women: **21.7%** of articles (**4 out of 23 articles**) among housewives and **8.7%** of articles (**2 out of 23 articles**) in the rural area. Housewives and village girls combined represent about **30%** of published articles, highlighting risks faced by women in traditional and rural roles.

The data emphasizes that crimes against women occur across all educational and occupational backgrounds underlining the pervasive nature of such crimes.

No Location is Immune to Crime

This analysis evaluates the demographic contexts and locations where crimes against women occurred across published **40 articles**, providing insight into the geographic and situational vulnerability of victims.

Prevalence in Isolated Areas: **40%** of articles (**16 out of 40 articles**) include places like forests, deserted buildings, canals, roads, and isolated stretches in rural and urban settings (e.g., near Surat Airport, Tronica City, and Sadar District, MP). This analysis reflecting the heightened vulnerability in areas with limited visibility or access to help.

Urban Settings: **35%** of articles (**14 out of 40 articles**). Involves housing colonies, apartments, and private or public places like schools, coaching centers, and workplaces (e.g., Swaroop Nagar, housing colonies, and Kakadeo). This data demonstrating that crimes also occur within seemingly safer, populated areas.

Public Transport Risks: **15%** of articles (**6 out of 40 articles**). Crimes occurred in transit settings, such as buses, trains, metro stations, or flights (e.g., Pune-Bengaluru flight, moving train in Satna District) underlining the risks women face while commuting or traveling, even in public spaces.

Educational and Workplace Risks: **7.5%** of articles (**3 out of 40 articles**) include school, university campuses, or related premises (e.g., university washrooms, Tilak Nagar) and **2.5%** of articles (**1 out of 40 articles**). The presence of crimes within educational and institutional environments reflects that safety in these domains remains a significant concern.

The analysis underscores that crimes against women occur across a wide spectrum of geographic and demographic contexts, from isolated rural stretches to bustling urban areas, educational institutions, and even public transport.

Complexity of Group Offenses

This analysis evaluates the involvement of criminals in **43 published articles** of reported crimes against women and children, focusing on the number of perpetrators per case.

Dominance of Single Perpetrator Cases: **48.8%** of articles (21 out of 43 articles). Nearly half the cases involved a single perpetrator, indicating the prevalence of individual offenses such as domestic abuse, stalking, or opportunistic assault.

Prevalence of Group Crimes:

- **Small Groups: 34.9%** of articles (15 out of 43 articles) that represents a significant number of cases involved small groups of 2-3 individuals, showcasing the role of accomplices in executing the crimes. These cases often involved premeditated attacks, such as gangrape or group violence.
- **Large Groups: 16.3%** of articles (7 out of 43 articles). These cases involved organized criminal groups, with instances of gang crimes involving up to 8 individuals. These represented more organized, violent crimes, often involving abduction, gangrape, or extortion.

Role of Accomplices: Many group crimes involved multiple roles, such as direct assault, filming the act, or acting as lookouts or protectors. While single offenders dominate the dataset, the significant presence of group crimes highlights the collaborative and often premeditated nature of offenses.

Victim's Post-Incident Situation

This analysis focuses on the condition of the victims in 9 published articles of sexual assault, rape, and related crimes, highlighting their medical and psychological status following the incident.

Medical and Psychological Care: 22.2% (2 out of 9 articles) indicates that a portion of the victims experienced severe physical trauma or medical conditions requiring immediate hospitalization. Another data represents that **22.2%** (2 out of 9 articles) victims were sent for counseling or were receiving counseling highlighting the importance of psychological support for victims who may have experienced significant trauma.

Stable and Counseling Care: The majority of the victims (**55.6%**) were either stable after the incident or receiving counseling, suggesting that victims often manage to recover or receive the necessary care post-trauma.

Hospitalization: A smaller proportion (**22.2%**) required hospitalization, indicating that while many cases were serious, not all victims sustained severe physical injuries.

underlining the profound emotional and mental consequences that follow such traumatic events.

Among the 4 published articles analyzed, 50% of the victims were murdered, reflecting the extreme emotional and physical toll of these crimes. The findings emphasize the devastating long-term effects of sexual violence, which in some cases leads to fatal outcomes.

Conclusion

The data presented paints a distressing picture of the prevalence of sexual violence against both women and children, with alarming trends across various age groups, geographical regions, and crime types. The analysis reveals that sexual assault, rape, gang rape, and murder are not confined to specific locations or demographics, as victims range from young children to middle-aged adults, across urban, rural, and isolated areas. A striking finding is that nearly half of the articles involve minors, underscoring the vulnerability of children, some as young as three years old, to such heinous crimes. The data also highlights the diverse backgrounds of both perpetrators and victims, showing that criminal behavior transcends occupation, education, and socio-economic status. Moreover, it emphasizes the importance of timely legal action, with most cases leading to the lodging of FIRs, although delays and partial follow-ups are still a concern in some instances. The aftermath for victims is tragic, with a significant number suffering from long-term psychological trauma, some even attempting suicide or falling victim to murder. The high arrest rate suggests a degree of law enforcement effectiveness, yet the lack of action in some articles points to gaps in the legal system.

In conclusion, this paper explores a distinct perspective on articles published in the *Times of India* e-paper. By analyzing data on reported articles, it examines the portrayal of sexual assault and violence. While several studies critique media bias in reporting violence against women and children, this study attempts to map how such incidents are covered. Notably, it highlights gaps in comprehensive reporting and the lack of detailed information in many articles.

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