



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### TO STUDY THE PERCEPTION OF MALE AND SENSITIVITY OF MEDIA IN CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

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#### ABSTRACT

The value of a civilization can be judged by the place given to a woman in the society. The stature into which women are born within the property system have great influence on the ways their lives unfold. The old orthodox Indian society places women in a very high respects, the Vedas lionized women as the creator and worshipped her as a "Devi" or Goddess. The women occupied a vibrant role and as such her subjugation and mistreatment were looked upon as demeaning to not only the woman but towards the whole society. But the condition of women in modern Indian society have become a matter of grave concern. Crimes against women are growing worryingly at local, regional, national and worldwide levels. The numbers of violent crimes in India especially those against women including rape that are reported in official statistics are increasing with each passing year.

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## INTRODUCTION

The word "crime against women" has become a silent epidemic with constantly increasing number of cases of molestation, assault, rape etc. Earlier it was the capital of the country that was called "the rape capital" but now cases of rape and molestation of women are registered in every part of the country. Many times, when such crimes take place against women, people start blaming the victim for the act. They either point out towards her clothes or her body language or start assassinating her character. Over the past several months, there have been a number of high profile cases of violence against women that highlight the victim-blaming culture we live in. Within this culture of victim blaming, women are told to change their own behaviour in order to avoid being assaulted or raped. Women are told repeatedly to dress less provocatively, drink less alcohol, not go outside and not put themselves in risky situations. This proliferates the belief that women are at fault when they are attacked, and leads to a lack of accountability for men. While blaming the victim people fail to realize that nobody asks to get violated in any way. Not just general public, even politicians blame the victim for such crimes. Some politicians even go ahead to blame mobile phones, internet and jeans for the crimes but nobody blames the male.

In April 2015, during a political rally in the socially conservative state of Uttar Pradesh, former Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav said in response to the conviction of gang rapists in Mumbai: 'The poor fellows, three of them have been sentenced to death. Should rape cases lead to hanging? Boys are boys, they make mistakes'. Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav is not the only minister in our country who holds this type of thinking. We live in a country where influential people like the ministers believe that it is because of the women themselves that such cases happen.

**Literature Review:** The psychology behind rape is complex, and researchers have different hypotheses about what goes on in the mind of a rapist. Social pressure and culture tend to have greater influence over people's behaviour than genetics or biology. According to a journal in *Indian Journal of Psychiatry* extensive research over the past 3 decades, suggests that several mental health issues underlie sexual violence and offending, particularly rape. Much of this research comes from the west and the lack of meaningful research on rapists in India highlights a serious lack in knowledge and skills required to manage mental health factors that underlie criminal activities, a role that forensic psychiatrists generally play.

#### Psychology of rape

An article by Suprakash Chaudhary in *Psychology and Behavioural Science International Journal* states that, five types of rapists or contexts of rape have been proposed

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- Disadvantaged men who resort to rape
- “Specialized” rapists who are sexually aroused by violent sex
- Men who rape opportunistically
- High-mating-effort men who are dominant and often psychopathic

### Objectives of the study

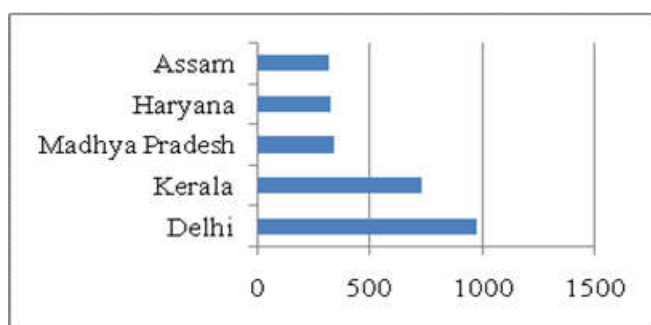
- Perspective of male on women presentation and crime against
- To find out the magnitude of media responsibility
- Is media sensitive enough in presenting crime against women
- Does the media trail instigate the change in the perception of male towards crime against women?

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- To complete the study on, “Analyse The Role Of Media In Spreading Male Sensitivity Towards Crime Against Women” in-depth research is done as well as descriptive research design applied.
- To fulfil the requirements secondary data as well as primary data has been included. Interview as a tool used to get the primary data.
- As a sample ten people from different sectors such as Academics, Police, Media professionals, and illiterates has been interviewed to get the results. These people were selected on the purposive sampling method.

### Data Analysis

S.No.	State/ UT	Crime %
1.	Delhi	975
2.	Kerala	727.7
3.	Madhya Pradesh	337.9
4.	Haryana	320.6
5.	Assam	313.8



### Secondary data

- As per NCRB (India) report 2016, the top five states who registered Cognizable IPC crime rate:
- This is latest report available on the site of National Crime Records Bureau presents the data which shows such a number in crime against women. The most surprising thing is that Delhi being national capital of India records highest of 975 crime cases against women, this is the society and security women are getting in national capital, what other states can expect especially women.

- Kerala having 93.91 percent literacy rate has the second position in the top five list of NCRB in crime against women. We think and think tanks of the society claim that educated and literate society commits less mistakes and is considered as a peaceful environment to stay, but the scene is totally different here.
- The third position is captured by the one of the Bimaru states, Madhya Pradesh in list of crime rate against women. Here the rate is 337.9 which is very low from Delhi and Kerala, but then also these figures shows the insecurity among women residing in MP.
- The fourth and fifth position is given to Haryana with 320.6 and Assam 313.8.

### Primary Data

#### Interview Questions

- Do you feel portrayal of women in media instigates crime against women?
- Is media helpful in changing perception of male towards females?
- Do you find media sensitive enough in showing the content of cases against women?
- What is your opinion on media trials in cases of crime against women?
- Are media trials and male perspective interrelated?
- On an individual level, have you ever tried changing the mentality of males around you?

#### Analysis of the Interviews

- According to the Interviewee 1, The media is a very important tool and if used intelligently, it can really bring a change in the society. He believes that media and the content shown has nothing to do with increasing crimes against women as it is the mentality and upbringing of people. But, media can be used a tool to change perception or mentality of such people. Regarding the media sensitivity, he feels that the entire game is of TRPs. Initially media are sensitive enough but when the competition increases, they forget every ethic and work for TRPs. When asked about media trials, he said that they absolutely unnecessary. It is the job of the judiciary to decide who is the culprit and not journalistic job. He also said that media trials at times assassinate the character of the victim. But he does not believe that media trials and male perception is interrelated. He said that people who are less aware get influenced by what is being said in the media and not everyone. He also said that he tries his best to teach the males around him about respecting women and hopes that the new generation will have a good mentality
- The interviewee 2 says that the content shown in the media might instigate the crime against women. It mainly depends upon the attitude of the viewers. He believes that it is the duty of the media to put a stop on crime against women. Mass media is a very effective medium in changing the perception of people and if it tries, it can definitely bring about a change. He feels that media sensationalizes the content for the sake of their TRPs but it should be kept in mind that ethics should not be forgotten. He further adds that media trials and male perspective are two different things and they don't have any inter relatedness. Lastly, he adds

that he strongly believes in changing a bad person into a good one so he definitely tries to change the dirty perception of males in order to reduce the cases of crime against women.

- According to the Interviewee 3, The interviewee 3 believes that in media, women are portrayed as the weaker gender that makes the male think that they are vulnerable and hence they harass women, instead women should be portrayed as a stronger gender. He further says that media cannot change the perception of an individual until and unless he wants to change his mentality. He further adds that media is not at all sensitive in showing the cases against women. Disclosing the identity of the victim further leads to their humiliation and that should not be done. Regarding the media trials he says that media lacks objectivity. The content shown is merely the perception of the news anchor and he is nobody to decide what is right and what is wrong. He believes that male perception and media trials are inter related because although the media shows that they are sympathetic towards the victim but they indirectly show her in the bad light thus assassinating her character without realizing that they are formulating an opinion about her in the mind of the audiences. He also said that he tries his level best to change the perception of males around him but seldom succeeds.
- According to the Interviewee 4, The interviewee 3 believes that in media, women are portrayed as the weaker gender that makes the male think that they are vulnerable and hence they harass women, instead women should be portrayed as a stronger gender. He further says that media cannot change the perception of an individual until and unless he wants to change his mentality. He further adds that media is not at all sensitive in showing the cases against women. Disclosing the identity of the victim further leads to their humiliation and that should not be done. Regarding the media trials he says that media lacks objectivity. The content shown is merely the perception of the news anchor and he is nobody to decide what is right and what is wrong. He believes that male perception and media trials are inter related because although the media shows that they are sympathetic towards the victim but they indirectly show her in the bad light thus assassinating her character without realizing that they are formulating an opinion about her in the mind of the audiences. He also said that he tries his level best to change the perception of males around him but seldom succeeds.
- According to the interviewee 5, The interviewee believes that media has always been sensitive in portraying cases against women but it is the new media that is setting low levels of journalism in such cases. It is because of crime shows and hunger for a greater TRPs' that at times news channels forget their ethics. He further adds that media is trying its best in changing the perception of males but more than anything inner enlightenment is needed only then the society will change. He adds that women have now started to flourish in their respective fields and the day men accept this, their perception regarding women will change. Regarding the journalistic ethics, he said that it is because of competition for TRPs that the case is presented with east sensitivity. He explains this with the

example of Kathua rape case where media was least sensitive towards the feelings of the victim's family. Even the supreme court had to intervene in this case. He further adds that the "media trials" do not have any constitutional existence so it does not hold any value. Other than this, media tries its best to show the cases against women with utmost sensitivity. On changing the perception of males around hi, he adds that its not possible for a common man to do that, in today's time only the political leaders or spiritual leaders can do that.

- The interviewee 6 believes that even if the media is showing wrong content, the audiences should be smart enough to differentiate between the wrong and the right. He believes that media is helpful in changing the perception of women to some extent but that is not enough. In order to bring about an actual change in the society, the change has to start from the media houses itself. He also adds, that media house intentionally sensationalizes the incident in order to increase their TRPs and also to favour their political orientation. According to him, this can be traced from the recent cases of rape in our country. He also believes that media trials are inappropriate not just in the cases of crime against women but in all the cases because media is never impartial. He further added that media trials and male perception is inter related. Our society is just not male dominant but also media dominant. He lastly said that he has tried to change the perception of males around him but has not really succeeded a lot of times.
- The interviewee 7 feels that the portrayal of women in media has nothing to do with increasing crime against them. He feels that media can create awareness among people regarding women safety but it can't change the mentality of the society as a whole. He further adds that media is not at all sensitive towards these cases. They do what is best for their TRPs without caring about the victim. Regarding the media trials he feels that they are wrong, because media generally fabricates the facts and does not show it the way they actually are. Having said this, he also added that male perception and media trials have not inter relatedness. Regarding changing the perception of male, he said that it is duty of everyone to try to change the perception and only then we can think about bringing a change in the society.
- The interviewee 8 believes that the vulgar content that keeps on repeating in the electronic media definitely instigates the crime against women in India. He says that not just media but police also are contributing a lot in changing the perception of males towards crime against women. Regarding the media insensitivity he feels that media is not at all sensitive enough in showing the cases of crime against women. He feels that if media presents the cases of crime against women sensibly then the cases of rapes, molestation and harassment will definitely decrease. Another thing that he highlighted as a reason for increasing crime against women is the dressing sense of females. He feels that if women dress sensibly, and if their lifestyle is improved the cases of crime against them will reduce. Lastly, he says that while working in the police station he definitely tried to change the min set of people and has even succeeded at it many times
- Interviewee 9 believes that media does not portray women in a bad light. But when such cases happen the media starts blaming women's lifestyle for it and that

should not happen because according to him, the females have the right to live their life as freely as the male. He adds that media has the power to stop the crimes against women but they do not help. They run campaign for self-defence for women but they never have any campaigns for changing the mentality of such people. Explaining by the example of Nirbhaya case, he explains that media sensationalizes the news for their own TRP. They forget that incident actually happened with somebody. He says that the identity of the culprit should be shown in the media instead of the victim. The family of culprits should know what they have done. Regarding changing the mentality of males around him he adds that he is teaching his sons how to respect women not only of his family but all the women. He feels that he does not have the power to influence anybody but his sons.

- The last interviewee believes that yes, the portrayal of women instigates crime against them, but it is not just the media but also the way they dress up that instigates the male. He feels that women should carry themselves in a better way if they want to decrease the rate of crime against women. He further feels that media is not helping in changing the perception of the male. At times when they try, the message goes in the opposite direction. He further adds that while presenting the cases of crime against women, the reporters forget that it has actually happened with somebody. They sensationalise the case for the sake of TRPs. When asked about media trials he said that media fabricates the news. They never show the case as it is. He also believes that media trials and male perception is inter related because audiences tend to believe what is shown to them. When media portrays the women in wrong light or as the weaker sex, it provokes the males. Lastly, he says that he once when he tried to explain the importance of respecting women to an individual, he in return lectured him about how to mistreat women

## RESULTS

- The crime rate against women is increasing day by day.
- The consequent reports of NCRB when analysed, it was found that cases against women are on increasing pace.
- The role of media has been found guilty in increasing rate of crime against women.
- The media today only work for TRP leaving behind the ethics of journalism.
- Male of almost every stream and different background is trying to spread awareness about behaving well with women.

## Conclusion

After the in-depth study on the topic “Analyse the Role Of Media In Spreading Male Sensitivity Towards Crime Against Women”, according to the secondary data, the report of NCRB finds that MP stands on the third position in the list of crime against women in India. The analysis of consequent reports it was shocking that even after having so many laws, punishments the crime rate in on high in India. On the other hand, after the analysis of interviews of interviewee of different background such people from education sector, policemen, media personnel, even illiterate except one every male who were interviewed try their best to bring change in the mindset of people who are having bas psychology regarding women. On an average, it can be concluded that content shown on media which portrays women as an object of sex and vulgarity has bad impact on the male. From the study, it can be concluded that, media has the power to bring change in the society if they do not compromise with their ethics just to gain or win the race of TRP. After the study it can be concluded that media trials are presenting negative image of the media among people. The people from different sectors and profession even media professionals agree that media these days media primarily work for TRP and rest comes at secondary level.

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