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Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.isrj.net**



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN JAMMU CITY: A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE

TAJINDER KOUR

Research Scholar , Department of Geography,University of Jammu, Jammu .

Abstract:

Women constitute almost half of the total population of India; play a vital role in socio-economic functioning of society. Since the inception of the human civilization women have been an integral part of nature, society and culture. Half of the world's population (known as better half) is women, but better half are great suffers in men dominated society under men made laws. For countless centuries women in India has been subordinated to men and socially oppressed. It is ironical that in a country where womanhood has been put on pedestal for worship, incidence of wife battering, molestation of women in various forms like rape, eve- teasing, abduction and bride burning among keep on increasing year to year. An attempt has been made in this paper to analyze the cases of violence against women in Jammu City of Jammu and Kashmir State of India, its consequences, some important preventive measures for the eradication of violence against women and for strengthening the position of women in the study area.

KEYWORDS:

Socio-Economic, Better half, Womanhood, Rape, Violence.

INTRODUCTION:

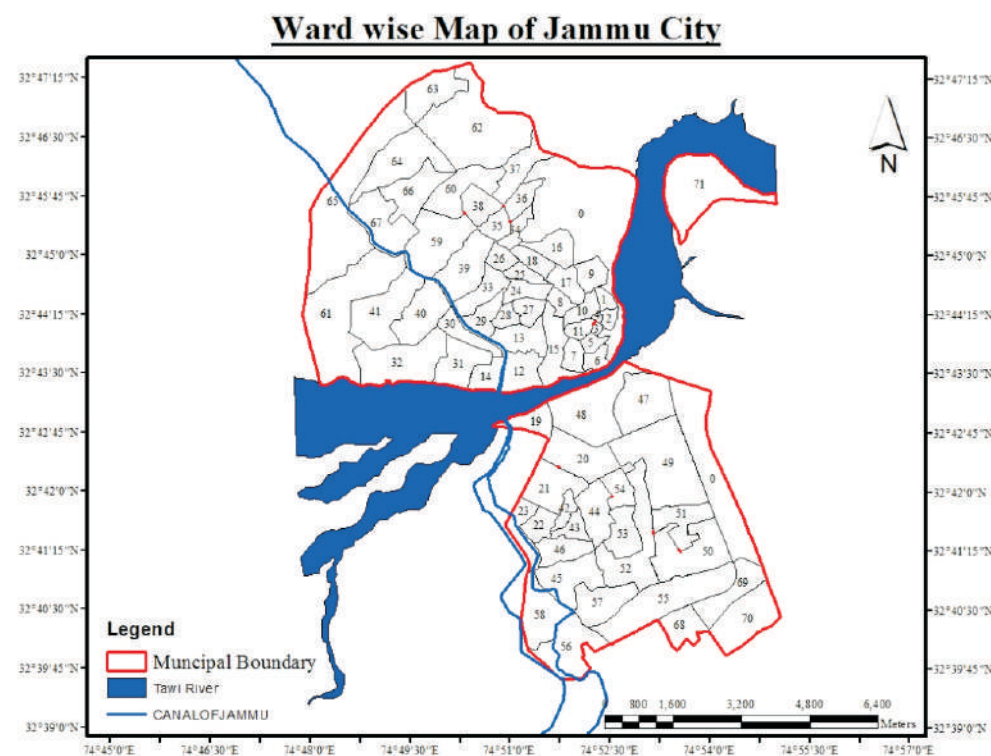
Violence is defined as a physical act of aggression of one individual or group against one another or others. Violence against women is widespread. It is prevalent in all societies and occurs within home or in the wider community and affects women disproportionately. Victimization of women in India starts from the time of their birth. Boys are preferred to girls. In most of cases, the birth of a girl child is not welcomed by even the parents of the child; on the contrary the birth of a son is celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and blessings showered on the couple by all the members of the family, friends and neighbors. Women are threatened by female infanticide, incest, child prostitution, rape, partner violence, psychological abuse, sexual harassment, widow burning, dowry burning etc. UN General Assembly defined gender violence as any act of gender- based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. The basic reason for violence against women is their inferior status in a male dominated society educationally, economically, politically, and socially. Violence against women is steadily increasing in our country as well as in Jammu And Kashmir State.

STUDY AREA:

Jammu the city of temples as it is located on both the banks of River Tawi. The city is expanding very fast in size and shape. The old city is confined to the right bank and the expansion of new city has taken place largely on the left bank of the river. But a number of new colonies such as Roopnagar, Janipur, Barnai, Bantalab, Anand Vihar etc, have come up on the right bank also. Large scale Urbanization and

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Industrialization has given rise to what now called as Greater Jammu, the name given to old, new and the suburbs of Jammu. The study areas lies between 32° 40'N to 32° 39' N latitudes and 74° 48' to 74° 54' E longitudes. The city is well connected by roads with the parts of J&K as well as other cities. The city has in recent years faced unprecedented growth of population due to influx of migration from the valley and rapid growth of commercial and industrial activities. The city has faced lateral expansion on the National Highway NH-1A and Railway line towards South and on Akhnoor road towards North. The city at present is covering area of about 170 Sq. Km.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Looking through a representative of geography books in a library or in a bookshop shelf, it appears that most of the geography is concerned with “man”, “man and his physical environment”, “man and culture” or simply “man and environment”. If we turn to the historical study of the human activities, we find that the same situation exists. Thus it is clear that women are “hidden from history” so also “hidden from geography”. Although geographers recognize the existence of women, they make little effort to investigate the existence of women and to investigate the role of women in society other than in terms of adjustment to a male dominated and male determined order. This study is considered significant because the study will focus on the issue of violence against women. Although a number of studies have been done in this area but not many studies are available which are conducted in Jammu City. This is such an important issue that any study conducted on this would add to the information much required to bring out new measures and a change in the society.

OBJECTIVES:

- To analyze the cases of violence against women.
- To identify the causes of domestic violence against women.
- To find out ways and means for preventing/reducing crimes against women.

DATABASE:

The present paper is an attempt to study the violence against women. The present study is mainly

based on secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from the published record of various departments and other sources. These include:

National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
Office Records, Police Station, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu City.
Office Records, Crime Branch, Jammu City.
Office Records, Women Cell, Jammu City.

Crimes against women are broadly classified under two categories:

1. Crimes identified under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)
2. Crime identified under the special laws

The crimes under former category include eight types:

Rape (section 376 IPC)
Kidnapping and abduction (section 363 and 373)
Dowry homicides (section 302 and 304B)
Torture – physical and mental (section 498A)
Molestation (section 354)
Eve-teasing or sexual harassment (section 509)
Importation of girl (section 366B)
Murder (section 302)

The crimes under later category include four types:

Immoral trafficking (1956 Act)
Demanding dowry (1961 Act)
Commission of sati (1987 Act)
Indecent representation of women (1986 Act)

Gender based violence is varied in nature and magnitude. The women are victims of gender based violence right from the conception till death. Discrimination and exploitation on the basis of gender constitutes a serious issue which effectively means that half the human race is unable to realize its potential and condemned to sub-optimal standards of existence. This problem has received worldwide attention and several efforts have been made to bridge the seemingly ever-widening gap. Yet, even after years of efforts to integrate women into the mainstream development process, the effectiveness of the same remains to be questioned owing to a multitude of factors which aid the continued marginalization of women. One of the most serious impediments to women's development is the phenomenon of continuing and increasing violence against them.

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA:

According to the available National Crime Records Bureau data, a total of 2,13,585 incidents of crime against women (both under IPC and SLL) were reported in the country during 2010 as compared to 2,03,804 during 2009 recording an increase of 4.8% during 2010. These crimes have continuously increased during 2006-2010 with 1,64,765 cases in 2006, 1,85,312 cases in 2007, 1,95,856 cases in 2008, 2,03,804 cases in 2009 and 2,13,585 cases in 2010. Andhra Pradesh, accounting for nearly 7.1% of the country's population, has accounted 12.8% of total crimes against women in the country by reporting 27,244 cases. West Bengal with 7.6% share of countries has accounted for nearly 12.2% of total crime against women by reporting 26,125 cases in 2010.

Table (1) Crime Head –Wise Incidents of Crime Against Women during 2006-2010 and Percentage variation in 2010 over 2009 in India:

SI .no.	Crime Head	Year					Percentage variation in 2010 over 2009
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
1	Rape(Sec.376 IPC)	19,348	20,737	21,467	21,397	22,172	3.6
2	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec.363 to 373 IPC)	17,414	20,416	22,939	25,741	29,795	15.7
3	Dowry Death(Sec.302/304IPC)	7,618	8,093	8,172	8,383	8,391	0.1
4	Torture(Sec.498-A IPC)	63,128	75,930	81,344	89,546	94,041	5.0
5	Molestation(Sec.354 IPC)	36,617	38,734	40,413	38,711	40,613	4.9
6	Sexual Harassment(Sec.509 IPC)	9,966	10,950	12,214	11,009	9,961	-9.5
7	Importation of Girls (Sec. 366-B IPC)	67	61	67	48	36	-25.0
8	Sati Prevention Act,1987	0	0	1	0	0	-
9	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act,1956	4,541	3,568	2,659	2,474	2,499	1.0
10	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition), Act,1986	1,562	1,200	1,025	845	895	5.9
11	Dowry Prohibition Act,1961	4,504	5,623	5,555	5,650	5,182	-8.3
	Total	1,64,765	1,85,312	1,95,856	2,03,804	2,13,585	4.8

Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Table (1) shows the details of reported crimes during 2006 to 2010 along with percentage variation. The crime against women has increased by 4.8% in 2010 over 2009 and by 29.6% over 2006. It can be observed from the data shown in table(1) that the highest increase was recorded in the area of kidnapping and abduction of women i.e. 15.7 %and lowest increase was in the area of importation of girls i.e.-25.0% in 2010 over 2009.

Table (2) Proportion of Crime against Women (IPC) towards total IPC crimes :

SI.no.	Year	Total IPC Crime	Crime Against women (IPC cases)	Percentage to total IPC crimes
1	2006	18,78,293	1,54,158	8.2
2	2007	19,89,673	1,74,921	8.8
3	2008	20,93,379	1,86,617	8.9
4	2009	21,21,345	2,03,804	9.2
5	2010	22,24,831	2,13,585	9.6

Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Table (2) shows the proportion of IPC crimes committed against women towards total IPC crimes. This table clearly shows that the proportion of IPC crimes committed against women towards total IPC crimes has increased continually from 8.2% in 2006 to 9.6% during 2010.

TABLE (3): INCIDENCE AND RATE OF CRIME COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN IN STATES DURING 2011:

SL NO.	STATE	INCIDENCE	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION TO ALL INDIA TOTAL	RATE OF TOTAL COGNIZABLE CRIMES	RANK AS PER RATE OF TOTAL COGNIZABLE CRIMES	RANK AS PER PERCENTAGE SHARE
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	28246	12.4	33.4	4	2
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	171	0.1	12.4	20	25
3	ASSAM	11503	5.0	36.9	2	7
4	BIHAR	10231	4.5	9.9	22	9
5	CHHATTISGARH	4219	1.8	16.5	12	16
6	GOA	127	0.1	8.7	30	28
7	GUJRAT	8815	3.9	14.6	16	12
8	HARYANA	5491	2.4	21.7	11	14
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	997	0.4	14.5	17	21
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	3146	1.4	25.1	8	17
11	JHARKHAND	3132	1.4	9.5	26	18
12	KARNATAKA	9594	4.2	15.7	13	10
13	KERALA	11288	4.9	33.8	3	8
14	MADHYA PRADESH	16599	7.3	22.9	9	5
15	MAHARASHTRA	15728	6.9	14.0	18	6
16	MANIPUR	247	0.1	9.1	28	24
17	MEGHALAYA	269	0.1	9.1	27	23
18	MIZORAM	167	0.1	15.3	14	26
19	NAGALAND	38	0.0	1.9	34	32
20	ODHISHA	9433	4.1	22.5	10	11
21	PUNJAB	2641	1.2	9.5	25	19
22	RAJASTHAN	19888	8.7	29.0	7	4
23	SIKKIM	55	0.0	9.0	29	30
24	TAMIL NADU	6940	3.0	9.6	24	13
25	TRIPURA	1358	0.6	37.0	1	20
26	UTTAR PRADESH	22639	9.9	11.3	2	3
27	UTTARAKHAND	996	0.4	9.8	23	22
28	WEST BENGAL	29133	12.7	31.9	5	1
29	TOTAL	223091	97.6	18.7		

SOURCE: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Table (3) deals with the incidence and rate of crime committed against women in different states of India during 2011. This table clearly shows that West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh contribute the highest percentage to the total percentage of incidences occurring in India during 2011 i.e. 12.7% and 12.4% respectively, whereas Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh contribute 8.7% and 7.3% respectively. Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh contribute the least percentage to the total percentage i.e. less than 1 percent. This table also shows that Tripura has ranked 1 as per rate of total cognizable crimes occurring in India during 2011, whereas, Assam, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal stands at second, third, fourth and fifth position . On the other hand, Goa stands at last position as for as rate of total cognizable crimes are concerned in India during 2011.

Table (4): Information regarding cases registered crime against women for the year,2010-2012(Police Station, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu):

S.No.	Year	Rape		Kidnapping		Molestation		Eye teasing		Dowry		Snatching	
		Cases	Fir No.	cases	Fir No.	cases	Fir No.	cases	Fir No.	Cases	Fir No.	cases	Fir No.
1	2010	2	35/10,21 1/10	2	79/10, 241/10	nil		2	9/10, 18/10	1	281/10	4	55/10, 91/10, 211/10, 245/10
2	2011	Nil		1	177/11	3	52/11, 85/11, 277/11	3	127/11, 136/11, 138/11	Nil		8	109/11, 183/11, 193/11, 197/11, 204//11,205/11, 257/11,298/11
3	2012	1	151/12	3	151/12, 158/12, 323/12	2	166/12, 326/12	2	160/12, 202/12	1	17/12	5	43/12, 46/12, 97/12, 197/12, 255/12
4	Total	3		6		5		7		2		17	

Source: Police Station, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The above table shows the total number of cases related to crime against women for the year 2010 to 2012 respectively in Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu City. This table clearly shows the rape, kidnapping, molestation, eve teasing, dowry and snatching cases in Jammu City. According to this table in the year 2010, 2011 and 2012, total number of rape cases are 3, 6 kidnapping cases, 5 cases of molestation, 7 cases of eve teasing, 2 cases of Dowry and 17 cases of snatching respectively. This table clearly shows that snatching is maximum observed in case of crime against women followed by eve teasing, kidnapping, molestation, rape and dowry. In the Jammu City, women are not coming forward for getting their cases registered since no substantial increase has been found in each case.

Table 5: Statement of complaints and disposal of cases registered in Women Cell, Jammu:

year	Case Registered	Compromise	Advice to Court	Total	Under Investigation
2006	33	683	Nil	716	Nil
2007	42	676	40	758	2
2008	43	497	42	582	2
2009	42	1070	53	1165	4
2010	55	967	06	1028	5
2011	32	1034	04	1070	13
2012	36	883	05	924	12

Source: Women Cell, Jammu.

Table (5) indicates the data related to the complaints and disposal of cases registered in women cell of Jammu City. From the above table it is clearly apparent that the total number of FIR lodged were 33, 42, 43, 42, 55, 32 and 36 in the year 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively in the Women Cell of Jammu City. It can be analyzed from the above table that the total numbers of complaints registered in the women cell were 716 in the year 2005, but in the year 2007 these figures increased to 758, again in the year 2008 these figures decreased to 582. In the year 2009 there was huge increase in these figure i.e. 1165, in the year 2010, 2011, 2012 number was 1028, 1070 and 927 respectively. As far as total cases as advice to court i.e. That case in which the couple does not want to live together was 40 in the year 2007, while these were 42 and 53 in the year 2008 and 2009 respectively. These figures decreased to 6 in 2010, again decreased to 4 in the year 2011 and 5 in 2012 respectively. It is seen that most of these cases are compromised in this cell; these were 683 in 2006, 676 in 2007, 497 in 2008, 1070 in 2009, 967 in 2010, 1034 in 2011 and 883 in 2012 respectively.

Mrs. Arti Thakur, in charge Women Cell informed that there are two types of cases which are registered. One is FIR (First Hand Information Report) and other is complaint. In the former, the case goes to the court and it takes long time i.e. 5-8 years and in the latter the case is settled in this cell and if not settled here then proceeded to the court. The women cell tries that the case should be settled here only as in case of FIR it leads to the separation of the couple which breaks the family.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

An environment in which women have experienced violence (physical or mental) or live with the threat of violence is likely to act to undermine empowerment. Though women today have proved themselves in almost every field of life affirming that they are no less than men, the reports of violence against them are much larger in number than against men. Domestic Violence is one of the greatest obstacles to gender equality and securing for women their fundamental rights to equal protection under the law and the right to life and liberty. In recent years, there has been increasing concern about gender based violence in general and domestic violence in particular in India. The greed of dowry, desire for a male child and alcoholism of the spouse are major factors of domestic violence. There have been gruesome reports of young bride being burnt alive or subjected to continuous harassment for not bringing home the amount of demanded dowry. Man who is indulged in extra marital relations naturally does not take care of his wife and children. As man feels that he is superior to his wife, he makes her suffer physically if she interferes in his affairs with other women. These factors may also include more income of a working woman than her partner, her absence in the house till late night, neglecting her in-laws, being more forward socially etc.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Violence against women restricts their overall development directly and indirectly. Violence

suffered by women can have fatal consequences, including suicide and homicide. The suicide case of such victimized women is also a deadly consequence and the number of such cases is increasing. Working women may drop out from work place because of the ill-treatment at home or office. It can also cause a maternal mortality. Violence against women has a major impact on women's physical and mental health. It particularly affects their sexual and reproductive health. The consequences of violence can lead to depression and psychological breakdown. Violence against women also has an impact on reproductive health such as unwanted pregnancy; the transmission of HIV, forced abortion etc. one of the severe effects of domestic violence against women is its effect on her children. It is natural phenomenon that a child generally has a greater attachment towards the mother. The day when mother's grief and suffering is revealed, a child may become upset about the happening deeply. They may turn silent and reserved. When the violence against women is openly done in front of them since their childhood, it may have a deeper impact in their mindset. They get used to such happenings at home and have a tendency to reciprocate the same in their lives. It is common in especially in rural areas in India, which are victimized by the evil of domestic violence.

PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES:

Following preventive strategies should be adopted to help the women:

Introducing self-defence training to girls in schools/colleges/universities.

Imparting legal education to girls in school/colleges and on the radio and T.V.

Showing programmes on TV suggesting measures for the psychological protection of women so that they act and do not think of themselves as weak and helpless creatures and learn to escape being hurt by means of active resistance such as screaming, fighting and running away.

Giving more rights to women in services, in business dealings, in insurance schemes, in taxation laws, in social affairs and in household chores to improve their status.

Awareness among the people can be used as a strategy for change in the thought process of the women and men regarding the practice of dowry and need for the property rights of women.

The programmes related to the women empowerment like DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) and STEP (Self- Training Empowerment Project) can be strongly implemented to give economic benefit to the women.

The social legislation must be implemented sincerely and completely without any bias by the law agencies, especially the police. If the police play this role effectively and in time, most of the practices of violence against women will either be stopped temporarily or negated completely.

CONCLUSION:

The above analysis clearly shows that the violence against women is gradually increasing in India as well as in Jammu City. In case of India, all women whether they live in the rich north or the poor south, the backward east or the progressive west are subject to violence. This is deprivation of their human rights. The study shows that in case of Jammu City, the total number of complaints registered in the women cell were 716 in the year 2005, but in the year 2007 these figures increased to 758 and again there was huge increase in these figures i.e. 1165, in the year 2010. Hence, violence against women is a serious issue which effectively means that half of the human race is confined to sub optimal standards of existence. Women victims of violence should be given special attention and comprehensive assistance. National machinery should be established in order to deal with the question of violence against women within family and society, preventive policies should be elaborated, and institutionalized forms of assistance to women victims provided. Public services need to be made more accessible especially to women in crises situations. Establishing more women police station and handling the cases of women with human touch and giving moral support is essential. Necessary steps should be taken to reduce the gap between the number of cases reported and convicted and disposal by disposing the cases at a reasonable time by the court of law.

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