

**Impact
Factor
3.025**

ISSN 2349-638x

Refereed And Indexed Journal

**AAYUSHI
INTERNATIONAL
INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH JOURNAL
(AIIRJ)**

Monthly Publish Journal

VOL-IV

ISSUE-IV

APR.

2017

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Impact of Web and Communication Technology on Women violence**Shweta Vikram**

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Abstract

The 21st century has been defined by the steadily developing of technology, gadgets, and creations that ultimately connect us across temporal and spatial boundaries. This has been the period of advanced mobile phones, tablets, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, among numerous others. The challenge of ending violence against women has stayed dynamic but has comparably transformed to join the advanced time (digital India). Violence against women now not only occupies its traditional spaces: cyberbullying, cyberstalking, digital voyeurism, an entire array of new types of viciousness have gotten to be prevalent.

Keywords: Women, Domestic violence, Web and Communication Technology, Social Media.

Introduction

Violence against women in India is going side by side to the technological improvement in modern world in the country [1]. Violence to the women is of various types and can happen at any place like home, public place or office. It is the big issue related to the women which cannot be ignored as it is hindering almost one half growth of the country. Women in the Indian society have always been considered as the things of enjoyment from the ancient time [3].

Violence against women can be domestic as well as public, Physical, emotional or mental. Women have fear of violence in their mind which causes the lack of participation in various areas of life. Fear of violence in the women mind has been so deep which cannot be out easily even after complete removal of violence against women in the society. India is a traditional male-dominated country where women have to face various violence in the society from the ancient time. As the world is leading in the technological improvement, advancement of material prosperity, etc; the rate of unnatural sex and violence with women is also on the way. According to the research it is found that violence against women begins at home in the early age especially in the rural areas by the family members, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

Situation of the women varies all over the country according to the place, culture and tradition of people. Women in the north-eastern provinces and south have better position than other regions. Because of the practice of female infanticide, the number of girl child has been very less in comparison to the male child (almost 940 women to 1000 men according to the 2011 census). Such a huge decrease in the percentage of female child is because of the sex-selective abortions and negligence of young girls during infancy. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, women in India are very much unsafe in their marital home. Other common violence against women in the society is domestic violence, acid attacks, rape, honor killings, dowry deaths, abduction, and brutal behavior by husbands and in-laws.

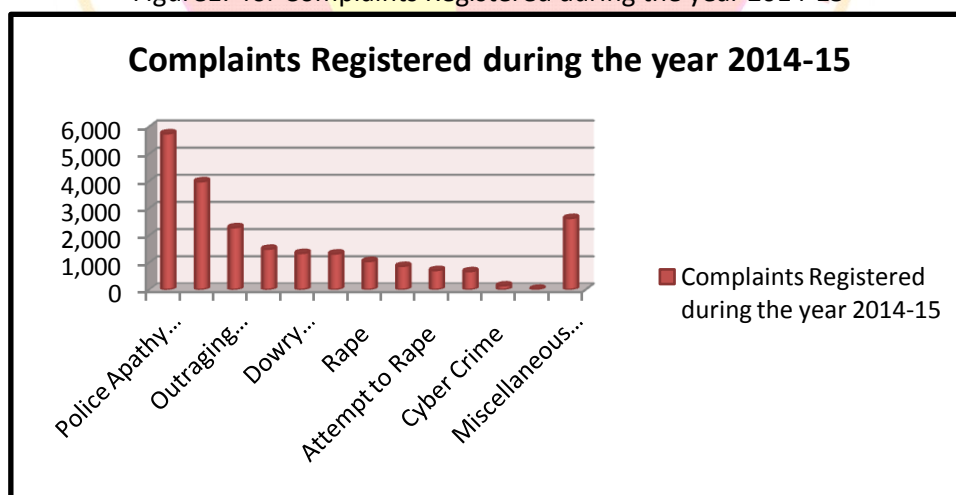
Women Violence The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering

to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

Since 1st November, 2014 free legal aid for women complaints received and registered at the Commission are under the following mandated categories:

- Violence against women:- Attempt to rape, Rape, Sexual assault, Acid attack.
- Sex selective abortion; female foeticide/ amniocentesis,
- Sexual harassment including sexual harassment at workplace
- Traditional practices derogatory to women rights i.e. sati pratha, devdasi pratha, witch hunting,
- Indecent representation of women,
- Dowry harassment/dowry death,
- Trafficking/ Prostitution of women,
- Outraging modesty of women,
- Stalking/voyeurism,
- Cyber crimes against women,
- Bigamy/Polygamy,
- Right to exercise choice in marriage,
- Right to live with dignity: Domestic violence, Cruelty, Harassment,
- Women's right of custody of children in the event of divorce,
- Gender discrimination including equal right to education & work,
- Free legal aid for women,
- Privacy of women and rights thereof,
- Police apathy against women and
- Reproductive health rights of women

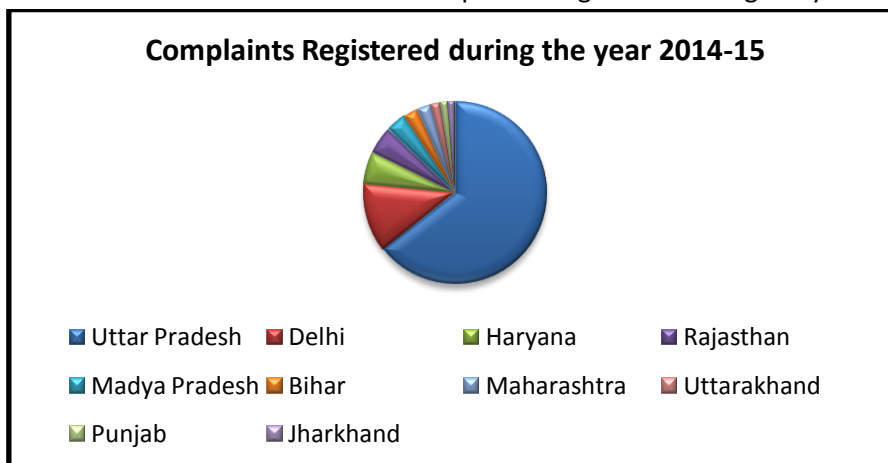
• Figure1: for Complaints Registered during the year 2014-15



- During the year (as on 08th January, 2015), 28,637 numbers of complaints/cases were registered at the C&I Cell. The largest number of complaints numbering 5,741 received by NCW amniocentesis was regarding Police Apathy against Women, followed by 3,977 complaints of Domestic Violence. The list of Top Ten Categories (In Police Apathy against Women, Domestic Violence, Outraging modesty of Women, Right to live with Dignity, Dowry

Harassment/Cruelty to Married Women, Property Dispute, Rape, Complaint by In-Laws, Attempt to Rape, Dowry Harassment/ Dowry Death, Cyber Crime, Acid Attack, Miscellaneous) under which complaints have been registered Figure1 shows Top Categories under which complaints have been registered. National Women Commission has received many complaints from many states. Figure2 (Pie chart) shows the complaint of top ten states in India during the year 2014-15.

Figure2: National Women Commission Complaints Registered during the year 2014-15



• **Cyber crime**

Cyber crime is a worldwide phenomenon. With the advent of technology, cyber crime and exploitation of women are on the high and it poses as a major threat to the security of a person as a whole. Even though India is one of the very few countries to enact IT Act 2000 to combat cyber crimes, issues regarding women still remain untouched in this Act. The said Act has termed certain offences as hacking, publishing of obscene materials in the net, tampering the data as punishable offences. But the grave threat to the security of women in general is not covered fully by this Act.

Types of cyber crime that are committed against women

Amongst the various cyber crimes committed against individuals and society at large the crimes which can be mentioned as specially targeting women are as follows: –

- **Harassment via e-mails:** It is not a new concept. It is very similar to harassing through letters. Harassment includes blackmailing, threatening, bullying, and even cheating via email. E-harassments are similar to the letter harassment but creates problem quite often when posted from fake ids.
- **Cyber-stalking:** Cyber stalking involves following a person's movements across the Internet by posting messages (sometimes threatening) on the bulletin boards frequented by the victim, entering the chat-rooms frequented by the victim, constantly bombarding the victim with emails etc.
- **Cyber pornography:** This would include pornographic websites; pornographic magazines produced using computers and the Internet. Cyber porn as it is popularly called is widespread. Almost 50% of the web sites exhibit pornographic material on the Internet today.

- **Defamation:** Defamation takes place with the help of computers and / or the Internet. e.g. someone publishes defamatory matter about someone on a website or sends e-mails containing defamatory information to all of that person's friends.
- **Morphing:** Morphing is editing the original picture by unauthorized user or fake identity. It was identified that female's pictures are downloaded by fake users and again re-posted/uploaded on different websites by creating fake profiles after editing it. This amounts to violation of I.T. Act, 2000 and attracts sec. 43 & 66 of the said Act. The violator can also be booked under IPC also.
- **Email spoofing:** A spoofed e-mail may be said to be one, which misrepresents its origin. It shows its origin to be different from which actually it originates.

Technology against Women Violence

Many Web and Communication Technology comes against women violence in 21st century. Disabled persons across the four blocks of Puri district have easy access to everything they need to know about state and national schemes, apart from crucial information on domestic violence and abuse, which countless disabled people encounter on an everyday basis.

To gain an in-depth understanding of the particular concerns of this disenfranchised group and to provide them with the support they need to get ahead, SMRC (Reena Mohanty, Programme Manager) came up the idea of creating Azadi Ki Udaan. The app has answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) under four major categories: domestic violence, health, rights and government schemes for women with disabilities. These days, in the four states where SMRC is active – Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha and Telengana – differently-abled women can benefit from this application which has been made available to them in their own language [2].

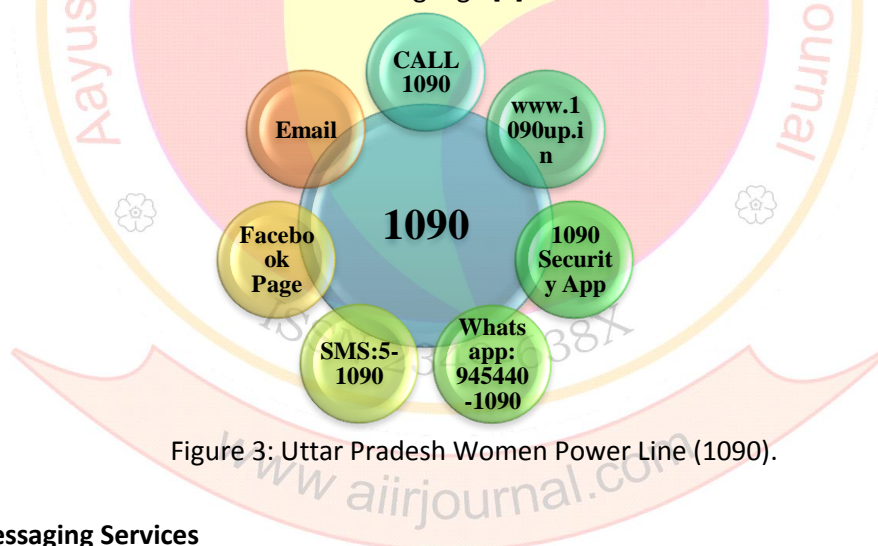


Figure 3: Uttar Pradesh Women Power Line (1090).

- **Instant Messaging Services**

Survivors sometimes use internet chat rooms or instant messaging facilities to dialogue with other survivors for mutual support. However, most of the programmers' that support these forms of 'real time' communication keep a log and sometimes even a copy of the conversation. If the survivor is unaware of this feature and does not disable it, an abuser can access this log to monitor her conversations [4].

Under the Women Helpline (WHL) Scheme, the States/UTs will utilize or augment their existing women help lines through a dedicated single national number. Department of Telecommunication, Government of India has allocated short code 181 to all States/UTs which is

being used by some States/UTs such as Delhi, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh as Women Helpline. Under this Scheme, States/UTs need to adopt this short code 181 as Women Helpline (WHL) [5].

- **Uttar Pradesh Women Power Line (1090):** This project aims at helping girls and women from harassment caused to them primarily because of gender insensitivity. The project called as '1090', Special helpline number to protect the rights of the female citizens and provide them with adequate support against eve-teasing and gender related Harassment was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 15th Nov, 2012[5]. Figure 3 shows all Web and Communication help line no. for women.
- **VIKALP-A** web portal dedicated exclusively to registering and processing complaints regarding crimes against women, which uses innovative digital technology to ensure over 95% police compliance and transparency. Women can complaint online against violence with Vikalp Portal (Figure 4). It is launched by UP government against women violence.

The IT staff will look after the technological aspect of WHL and ensure that it remains functional at all times. Staff would follow strict proceedings to maintain privacy with regard to data generated and will ensure that name and other details of aggrieved woman remain confidential in each step of case history documentation. Staff would draft the daily/monthly/quarterly report based on the MIS, web based data collection which would be approved at the level of the Helpline Manager for submission. d. She/he with the help of Helpline Manager will formulate the resource directory containing information about the relevant State and private authorities/institutions/individual related to women empowerment and protection.

The Women Helpline will be accessible 24 hours a day 7 days a week to any woman or girl suffering violence or in distress in the following manner:

- Telephone - landlines, mobile phones through calls, SMS/text messaging, mobile apps and fax messages.
- Internet - emails, web-posts, web-interface, social networking sites i.e. web page, facebook, twitter, mygov etc.
- A web enabled Management Information System (MIS) would be developed to provide a user friendly and easily accessible one single portal giving due regard to the confidentiality of women affected by violence.

Vikalp Portal - Report Crime Against Women

> [CLICK HERE FOR HELP & PROCEDURE TO UPLOAD CRIME AGAINST WOMEN ON THIS PAGE](#)

> [WHAT THE PRESS HAS WRITTEN ABOUT US](#)

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Step-1" for reporting a crime against women. At the top, there are language selection buttons for "English" and "Hindi". Below this, there are two dropdown menus: "Select District" with "LUCKNOW" selected and "Select Thana" with "Para" selected. The main form area contains several input fields: "Name" with "Sankish" entered, "Mobile Number" with "0000000000" entered, "Address" (empty), and "Email ID" (empty). A CAPTCHA field shows "QEYOKE" with a refresh button. Below the CAPTCHA is a text input field containing "QEYOKE". At the bottom of the form are "Submit" and "Reset" buttons. A red asterisk at the bottom left indicates "* Marked Fields Mandatory".

Conclusion

Indian women netizens are still not open to immediately report the violence. The biggest problem of violence lies in the modus operandi and the motive of the criminal. Cyber space is a transit space for many people, including offenders. While people do not live in cyber space, they come and go like any other place. This nature provides the offenders the chance to escape after the commission of cyber crime. Many web and communication technologies provide security tips for the safety of women.

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