

INFERENCE OF FEMINIST CONTEMPLATIONS IN REDUCTION OF WOMEN VICTIMIZATION

CHANDRASHEKAR.S.V

Assistant Professor, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice,
Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT

There are many instances of crime especially against women go unreported in India. large number of dark figure crime index reflecting on country's law and order situation, offences against women like domestic violence, Rape, sexual violence, Women Trafficking, Molestation, Murders, Dowry Deaths, and other violent crimes often impacting on society and they are seriously impacting on social condition. Women victim's in this particular offences faces many problems throughout the investigation and criminal justice trail processes, law enforcement is more responsible in an investigation. In India some of the offences like Dowry system, child marriages, are still affecting the society; Most of this kind of offence is rarely known to other countries. Feminism in India has been high spot in the recent developments. In India there is need of the active participation of feminism, which will be more gainful in the prevention of Offences against Women. Regarding underscored factors, paper attempts to analyses the inference of Feminist organization, thoughts of feminism, in the reduction of Women Victimization, Rights of female victims and their role in criminal justice.

KEYWORDS: Victims, Offence against Women, Criminal Justice, Violence and Victimization

INTRODUCTION

The prime objectives of feminism are hypothesizing by attaining equality against patriarchal dominance. Feminism has developed during 20th century; it started with the anticipation of succeeding the equality in all sorts of opportunities, through the movements all over the world. It is also a moral fight by having philosophical thoughts and ideologies. 20th century was the major milestone participation of women in all the fields. Gender equality and Women rights are deliberately considered as significant marks all over the world, In India feminism also has been struggling for the same global causes. In India, the scenario is slight dissimilar when it comes to the issues of women conditions in comparison to western thoughts of feminism. Because the nature of the Indian society is not complied in single form, there are some evident of Matriarchal families too. The society was classified into four major categories like, Brahmin at the top, followed by Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. Accordingly the status of women belonging to these caste based categories too notably dissimilar. Consequently comparison of the western thoughts cannot be generalized in the understandings of Indian Feminism. There are plentiful problems are still in deliberation, discriminations and the Women victimizations are seriously harmful to the society. The historical condition of Women through the ages was not significantly appraised in noble terms. There was various social evils hollowed dominated the society with superstitious believes. This remained until the European colonialist thinkers and the administrators condemned. This significant development is the first major steps in strengthening the status of women in the early India. Education system was reformed and as modern thoughts started developing in the minds of people, the orthodox norms were made new dimension by abolishment of Social Evils. In

ancient India the condition of women was considerably decent. Women used to participate in all the Social gathers, Festivals, Social Celebrations, and Education etc. So mostly respectable and the conditions were good. Victimization can be categorized in these following factors.

Religious canonical: The ancient Indian historically was dominated by the Religious practices. Almost all the things were measured through some Religious view. But, the victimizations were within these practices. Such are,

- **Discrimination in Rituals-** Widow Women Participations in Rituals was abolished, still today some of the Hindu women are never allowed to participation. This discrimination imposed worst, if these kinds of participation were subjected to ban or abusive, sometimes it was abusive to whole family she belongs.
- **Confined only for the services-** Women mostly confined with the four walls, she could manage all sorts of hygienic in the house, cooking and other service like domestic works were enforced only on women.
- **Dowry-** The Dowry system is paying some amount of money or other sources of wealth in the form of gift, or property to the bridegroom. There were adequate cases are registered every day even till the date. This is one of the social evil in Indian Societies.
- **The Menstruation Period** – This is sensitive issue that the Hindu traditional followers still they believe this is impurity, the females were sent out of the house to the other places like sheds or form houses were they are not allowed to enter house. After completion of the period they have to enter house with some rituals of purifications. This is an absolute discrimination on women for victimizing her in the name of ritual and practices. Above all the factors clearly indicates the Women victimization in ancient India.

WOMEN VICTIMIZATION IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

In the medieval period of Indian History is has witnessed changing dimensions in political, religious and socio-culturally. This era is supposed to be “the Real Dark Age” for Women. There were so many social evils were practiced. Conditions of Women were very horrible and brutal. The society was dominated by the Superstitious believes and offensive actions. This era is most panic-stricken in history of India.

Victimization due to the social customs, practices, was affected whole society. This remained until the European Colonialist administrators made restriction, and also the reformation of religious practices were criticized by the native Hindu Philosophers and reformist. Education for Women was not merely encouraged. Such practices are

The practice of Sati: This is considered to be most horrible practice in the medieval period of Indian History. Widow woman was forced to death on the pyre of husband in funeral. This was practiced among Hindu Women, in order to sacrifice their life to the credit of husband to prove the loyalty. This is the real evidence of Patriarchies dominance of those days, and the victimization of the societal practices.

The Dowry system was also very prominently practiced.

During Wars: Whenever the Hindu Dynasties were attacked by the invaders the women used to arrange for mass pyre to die, in order to escape from the invaders. Women were afraid of their renown and loyalty only for their husbands. War Crimes were highly brutal.

Child marriages were common: Usually the minor girl’s marriage was commonly practiced, either by forcible

or by traditionally. There was no moral conscience of the maturity, even today this is a social problem in India. There were no any chances to the girls to go against the society due to lack of awareness or maturity. Widows were forced to look ugly by removing their hair and eyebrow, forced to have foods without any spices and salt.

DevadasiSystem: This is a social problem, “Women herself dedicates to the services in the name of God”. This was almost misused in the terms of sexual Services by the authorities of the temples and people. This system practiced in the southern part of India, in the states Northern part of the Karnataka, Some part of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, And in Maharashtra. Also the parents forcibly marry the daughters to the deity of the god, when girl reaches to the puberty she should’ve served the upper caste communities. Once she marries the god, she had no chance to get into real marriages. God is considered as her Husband. These kinds of practices are evident of Women condition and the discrimination and also enslave her to the prostitution.

IMPACT OF WOMEN VICTIMIZATION IN MEDIEVAL PERIOD OF INDIAN HISTORY

Impact of women victimization can be analyzed with multi factor’s causations. The society condition was prime cause for those practices. The traditional values and orthodox practices used to control the whole society, even today there are many instances of social evils can be witnessed. It’s crime to go against the societal norms; women were confined with norms which is clear indication that whole society was victimized women.

- **Education:** The Education was not much remarkable during medieval period; there was restriction among Hindu religion and the Muslim religions. There were no instances of girls going for education, even there was restriction to the women to not to go out of the houses. “Purdah” was another practice, that women should cover her face by wearing some saree or other cloths. Education was encouraged during ancient period of India society, but in the Medieval period it was not carried and opportunities were blocked by conservatives. Lack of Education and awareness was causation for the Women Victimization.
- **Socio- Cultural Values:** The socio-culturally Indian history is very rich, Indian people were more loyal in such celebrations. Whenever the social celebrations celebrated, the participation of every people was so committed. The values were followed very strictly even today. Indian People are well known for their traditional values and the practices. So this was another reason for the women Victimization in the shadow of socio-cultural influence. If people go against it, they were banned from the society for specific period without help of other people.
- **Religious rule and law’s:** Indian history provides the significantly the Law and Legislations of early India. The Early developments were milestones of the religious laws of Saint Manu “ManudhramaShasthra”. Its set of rules and regulations of diverse roles of different people, status of the society, caste orientated roles of the people, and the Punishments. This law remained until the establishment of unified code for whole India by the British Administrators. Even the same case with the Muslim communities followed their own laws.

FEMINIST INTERVENTIONS AGAINST WOMEN VICTIMIZATION IN INDIA

There are many ideologies like Gender sensitive issues, Women rights, Discriminations, Work place safety, Representation, Modesty, Health, Political, Economic, Social empowerment, Education, Status, Rural Women development, Dress code, Identity, Marriage and individual liberty of choice, Opportunities, Equality, Freedom of Speech and expressions, Breaking the barricade of Religious believes related to patriarchal dominance, Protest against

Exploitation, Fight against Sexual anomalies, Fight against sexual violence's, Rising voice against safety and measures, Demand of Punishments as a Democratic right, Changes in the legislations and protections, Women related jurisprudence, Facilities and Service through the government are the theoretical approaches of the feminism in India. There are many instances of issues are made national wide support in order to create awareness through the programs of the government and also through some organization like NGO's.

Table 1: Women Victimization and Nature of Offences against Women in India

SL NO	CRIME HEAD	CASES REPORTED	VICTIMS	CRIME RATE
1	RAPE	34651	34771	5.7
2	ATTEMPT TO RAPE	4437	4442	0.7
3	KIDNAPPING AND ABDUCTION (SEC 363,364,364A,366 IPC) OF WOMEN	59277	60652	9.8
4	DOWRY DEATH	7634	7646	1.3
5	ASSULT ON WOMEN WITH INTENT TO OUTRAGE HER MODESTY (SEC 354IPC)	82422	82800	13.6
6	INSULT TO MODESTY OF WOMEN (SEC 509 IPC)	8685	8707	1.4
7	CREULTY BY HUSBAND OR HIS RELATIVES (SEC 498-A, IPC)	113403	113548	18.7
8	IMPORTATION OF GIRLS FROM FORGIEN COUNTRY (SEC 366-B IPC) UPTO 21 YEARS	6	6	0.0
9	ABETMENT OF SUICIDE OF WOMEN (SEC 306 IPC)	4060	4085	0.7
10	DOWRY PROHOBITION ACT, 1961	9894	9984	1.6
11	INDECENT REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN (PROHIBITION) ACT 1986	40	40	0.0
12	PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT 2005	461	468	0.1
13	IMMORAL TRAFFIC (PREVENTION) ACT	2424	3038	0.4
	TOTAL	327394	330187	53.9

Source: **National Crime Records Bureau, 2015, Crime in India.**

The above numbers indicates the crime rate on offences against women in the year of 2015 in India. There were 3, 27,394 cases were registered and the victims of those offences were 330187. This table exhibits crimes against women is considerably to be apprehensive.

THE ACTIVE WOMEN GROUPS IN THE PREVENTION OF VICTIMIZATION IN INDIA

Women victimization through the ages signposts the distraction of analysis of Victimization process in quite a lot of dimensions. Today the awareness and the empowerment, participation of women in every mainstream activities of the society made significant transmission. They are aware of their strength enough to battle with societal conditions. Offences against women especially in India can be analyzed with different conditions through the ages. Some of the evil practices are no significant in the recent conditions, there are some social evils are only traced in the rural societies. As education improvises the confidence among girls, with the support of governmental actions, it has moving towards more progress and the Women are ready to face all the situations. There is lot of differences of women victimization comparing to the present

day situations. There are many organizations are fighting and creating awareness among women to strengthen them in every kind of support. Such organization in order to protect the interest of Women Victimization is as follows,

Gulabi Gang: Gulabi literally mean as “rose” the symbol is ‘Pink’ color organization. This group of women is active in the Bundelkand, Uttar Pradesh State of India, led by Sam pat pal Devi. Their movement is against Domestic abuse and Violence against women. The group opens for the women who are victimized by husband or family, their prime objective is to punish those who ill-treat women in such cases like domestic violence, cruelty of husband and family members, dowry harassment. The group of women will charge the abuser’s by scolding men in public and even by humiliating, by beating them in publically with sticks. This group is reputed all over the nation by their style of attack and the way of protesting in the form of movement in the prevention of women victimization.

The Bhumatha Brigade: This is group of women, in Maharashtra state of India, fighting against the discrimination of women and also fighting against corruption. Banning women from worshipping the god and access of women entry to the temple and other sacred places where women are restricted. This group also fights for injustice, rape against women, Agrarian issues; corruption in workplace, sexual harassments, exploitations, eve teasing, and dowry system etc., this group is led by activist called Trupthi Desai. The recent action of this group at Maharashtra state, one of the traditional temples called “Shani Shignapur temple” located at Supa, which has banned women entry through the ages, attacked the temple and attempted to entry on Indian Republic Day of 2016.

Red Brigade Lucknow: This is an NGO at Lucknow city of Uttar Pradesh, India. Led by Usha Vishwakarma. This NGO fights for sexual assaults, work place sexual violence’s. In this organization most of the women are survivors of Sexual Assaults. They work in order to protect the interest of the women especially working women. They usually conduct the street plays, conducting workshops, by wearing Red dress which symbolizes the Struggle and also Black which symbolize protest. They also practice the Martial Arts lessons.

Pink Chaddi Campaign: this is group of women known for their movement in 2009, in the protest against right wing activism in India, started with the tragic incident of ‘Pub Attack’ at, Mangaluru city of Karnataka state by right wing activists against the youth’s party celebration. This group is led by the worker of “Tehelka political magazine” named Nish Susan.

WOMEN PROTESTS IN INDIA

Recently India witnessed many feminist movements against the patriarchal dominance and offences against Women. The objectives of every protest is to create awareness among women not to tolerate the worst conditions and to encourage the women with confidence to combat all kinds of situations which affecting in the forms of work place sexual harassments, Sexual Favourism in work place, Physical and Mental tortures, Against social evils, Imposing traditional believes and superstitions on Women, Eve- teasing in public places, Abusive, banning women to public worships, restriction on Love and Dating, Celebrations on lovers day, Criticizing on Dress, Dowry, Empowerment, Employability, Equality, Freedom of choice etc. some of the well- known protests in India are,

Kiss of Love: Is the feminist movement in south India against the right wing activists moral policing. It was huge protest especially in Kerala; issues were promoted through the Social Networks. The objective is to promote love and dating and the related liberties, with the objections of right wing activists.

Blank Noise, Walk the Night: This is a Project led the volunteers, against the street sexual harassment and Eve-teasing, started in Bengaluru city of Karnataka state. A group of peer age Volunteers across the nation collectively works. Blank Noise is a warning to the public sexual abuse or eve-tease in the streets, girls and boys made chain in the streets during nights and show their protests. This is also to create public awareness and public debates.

Breakthrough: It is Human rights organization functions for awareness of Violence and Discrimination against women.

He or She: This is the campaign launched by the United Nations organization during the festival of Rendezvous, during 2014; it was a campaign of social awareness. It was initiated through the Government of India.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL CAMPAIGNS

- **Orange Your Neighborhood:** This campaign through the united nations, Campaign conducted by Secretary General of the United Nation, to stop violence against women and girls. The color orange is symbolized creatively and visibly in neighborhood.
- **Save Our Sisters:** This is the initiative started in India, against the sexual traffic, Violence against women by editing Hindu Goddesses images to tragic graphics showing harm.

Promising Efforts of Feminist Approach in the Prevention of Women Victimization

- **Legislation:** The efforts through the Feminist approaches and the movements will influence in the creation of laws in the interest of women perspective. Nowadays lots of efforts are made to create awareness. Recent example of protests made significant for recent amendment of Nirbhaya law in India is such a venture. Feminist writers and thinkers are more active in order to achieve the needy process.
- **Feminist Movements in societal changes:** Now the societal acceptance is changing dimensions all over the world, it is very much of promising efforts and also significant in conveying the better solutions. Feminist movements are also convincing in social changes.
- Feminist movements through social networking are faster in reaching the people, it is well establish mode to create attention among people. It works has one of the best action to bring social awareness.
- Establishment of organizations and governmental initiation is one of the best activities to promote issues like gender sensitivity.

Role of feminist activism: The feminism in India is rising in its trends, more women participation in the social needs and causes, especially with the objective of strengthening women and to prevent the social evils with more importance. This is good sign in the development of Women activism; it would seek attention from all the dimensions. It has much importance in the country like India, where Women participation is needy in regional setups.

CONCLUSIONS

In India, feminist movements are attentive towards the progressive developments of the nation especially towards old-fashioned patriarchies and developments exclusively in socio – economic dimensions, political stagnations. It is challenging in the Indian diversify conditions, stratified with various religious interference, caste are effecting the progressive nature. After the milestone of establishing the democratic influenced Nirbhaya law amendment to the Indian

Penal Code, the attention towards women victimization is drastically influenced in India. Now the probable ways for the feminists approach is to emphasis their knowledge on legal enforcements, legislative authorities in order to make effective influence and to convey morality among people in the prevention of offences against women and to care women victims with good advocacy.

REFERENCE

1. Daly, K., 2006. Please refer to the published version.
2. Fisher, B.S., Cullen, F.T. and Turner, M.G., 2000. The Sexual Victimization of College Women. Research Report.
3. Natarajan, M., 1995. Victimization of women: a theoretical perspective on dowry deaths in India. *International Review of Victimology*, 3(4), pp.297-308.
4. Raj, A., Saggurthi, N., Lawrence, D., Balaiah, D. and Silverman, J.G., 2010. Association between adolescent marriage and marital violence among young adult women in India. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*, 110(1), pp.35-39.
5. Schneider, E.M., 1993. Feminism and the false dichotomy of victimization and agency. *NYL Sch. L. Rev.*, 38, p.387.
6. Simpson, S.S., 1989. Feminist theory, crime, and justice. *Criminology*, 27(4), pp.605-632.

