

ANALYSIS OF RAPE INCIDENTS IN HYDERABAD, SINDH

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ABSTRACT

Rape is a crime under Section 375 of Pakistan Penal Code committed due to aggression, revenge, gender hostility, and social and cultural factors underlying the roles of male and female in our society. The study is focused to investigate the incidents of rape in Hyderabad city. The FIRs of seventy six cases of rape were collected for study and analysis. The offending side of the rape shows that the highest number belongs to acquaintance category. The victim side shows that the victims are very young (5-19) girls and mostly unmarried women (56%). The media, awareness, focus interventions, introduction of women policing and role of community policing can prevent and reduce the problem.

Key Words: Rape, Offender, Victims, Offender-Victim relation.

BACKGROUND

Rape is the cruelest, humiliating and forcible sexual act without any empathy for the victim. The victim and offender are strangers in about fifty to sixty percent incidents. Incidents of rape between relatives account for a total of five percent and those of acquaintance are 25%. The crimes of rape are result of aggression, resentment and customary value systems. The offender may be blood-relative, known or stranger. The violent crime is outcome of impulsive and unpredictable acts of individuals 'The relationship between homicide and sex is very strong' (Bartol, 1986).

Koss (1988) conceived theoretical models based on experiences of rape. The models were (1) the social control, (2) the victim-precipitation, and (3) situational blame model. The term 'acquaintance rape' will be defined as being subjected to unwanted sexual intercourse, oral sex through the use of force or threat of force. Sexual coercion is defined as unwanted sexual intercourse,

or any other sexual contact subsequent to the use of menacing verbal pressure or misuse of authority.

There are certain genetic reasons driving some people towards rape. The factors responsible may be genetically ingrained in some men and women increasing their vulnerability. This may be biological element of the humans (Camille Paglia, 2001). According to socio-biological perspective, the society, culture and human understandings have thoroughly neglected the discourse on rape. This has made social scientists highly powerless to prevent or control the phenomenon. The growth of the menace of rape is severely compromised and ignored. Some theorists believe that rape occurs when offender is stranger to the victim (Thornhill and Palmer, 2000). The others equally treat it rape without the variable involvement of stranger or other elements (Camille Paglia, 2001). Acquaintance rape may have different categories and date rape is its sub-component. Date rape involves nonconsensual sex between two parties in self-defined dating setting.

Burgess and Holstrom (1974) embarked on psychological effects of rape. They conducted interviews and passed therapy sessions with rape victims at the emergency room of Boston City Hospital and observed a pattern of reactions which they named Rape Trauma Syndrome.

Like other crimes, rape can be committed with *mens rea* and having linkages/proximity with places, areas, locations or farm fields. The ecology, topography and physical environment play key role in rapes, especially in rural areas. These places provide criminal opportunity and shelter (Felson, 2006). Koss (1988) believed the situational, environmental and contextual factors make people more prone to involvement in acquaintance rape. Women usually hide and are less likely to discuss or report the rape committed by known. Authors of this study observed that 36% rapes occurred in first acquaintance. Koss conducted a case study on rape which revealed:

- 89% of the victims related to acquaintance rape.
- Only 27 percent of victims whose cases/incidents matched the legal definition of rape believed they are raped.
- 42 percent of the rape victims did not disclose they were assaulted sexually.
- The reporting of the incident was merely 5 percent.

- Only five percent of the rape victims sought help at rape-crisis centers.
- 30 percent of women thought to commit suicide.
- 82 percent of the victims felt they have been permanently changed after the incident.

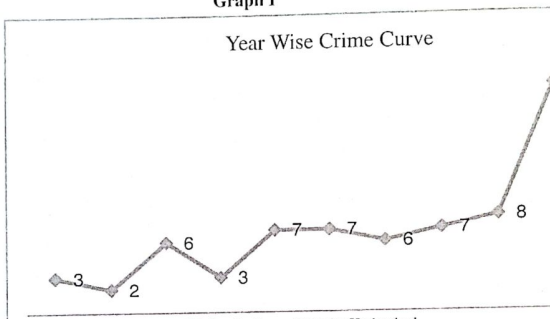
In Sindh, the women face sexual violence which is highly under-reported due to social and cultural factors. The highly grievous of all such crimes includes a double crime in which the women are raped (humiliated) and killed on the pretext of honor-killing. Ironically, the criminal justice apparatus which is immensely fragile can not protect life and dignity of the vulnerable segments. Women enjoy no rights of civilized members of society. They have been subjugated to the level of animals. Women shun their rights of living if they speak out the truth. They sacrifice their rights; they are raped; they pay heavy price for living (Simi, 1997). The rape victims seeking police protection and shelter are killed before reaching police stations like the case registered in Jacobabad district (Shah, 1998).

In some pockets of Pakistani society, women are subordinated to the lowest position and inferior cultural status. They are targeted by violence of all types. The violence is deeply rooted in customs and traditions of Pakistan. Domestic violence including rape incidents are common and routine (HRCP, 1999).

Sex-related violence is commonly found and routinely ignored in Pakistan. Sindh constitutes 15.96% of cases of violence against women. Sindh province represents second largest incidents of violence including rape. The study has revealed that 1173 incidents of violence were reported (Sajid, 2010). There were 411(8%) cases of rape.

METHOD

The study is primary in its nature and quantitative in its approach. The study is based on facts about rape in Hyderabad city police stations. The data is based on FIRs of the incidents collected through police stations of the city. The total cases of 76 rapes are studied and analyzed. There were 57 cases of rape, 15 attempts to rape and 4 cases of gang rape. The data is presented and analyzed through graphic presentation.

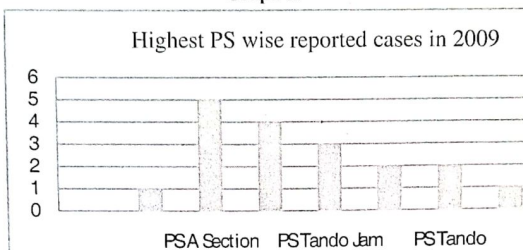
DATA ANALYSIS**I. RAPES REPORTED****Graph I**

Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad.

The graph shows slow and steady rise and fall of crime of rape in Hyderabad (76 were registered from January 2000 to March 2010). The above curve flows gradually up till 2008. There is sudden spike in the rape incidents starting from the year 2008 touching highest peak in 2009.

II. HIGHEST INCIDENCE IN ONE YEAR

Graph II

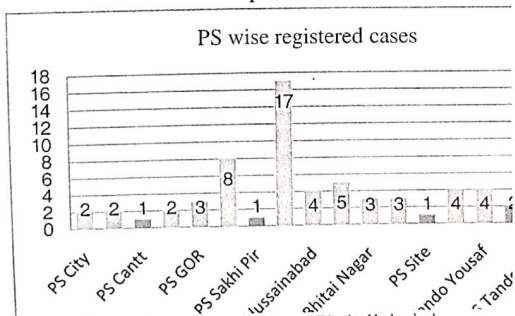


Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad.

The above graph indicates that five incidents were recorded in Police Station A Section Latifabad in 2009, four cases were registered at PS Pinyari. The record of PS Hossri could not be retrieved due to incident of arson in the police station. Further investigation into the problem can find out the reasons behind the alarming incidents.

III. RAPE HOT SPOTS

Graph III

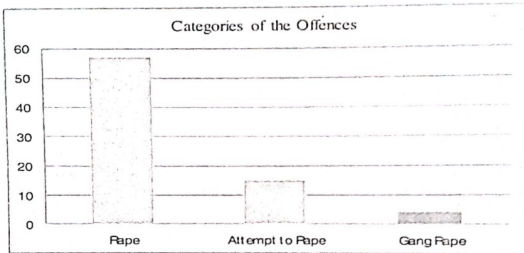


Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad.

This graph shows the total no of registered cases of rape from January 2000 to March 2010 in Hyderabad in various police stations. The PS A Section Latifabad registered 17 followed by PS Tando Jam with 12 cases while 8 cases were registered at Pinyari Police Station.

IV.OFFENCE TYPE

Graph IV

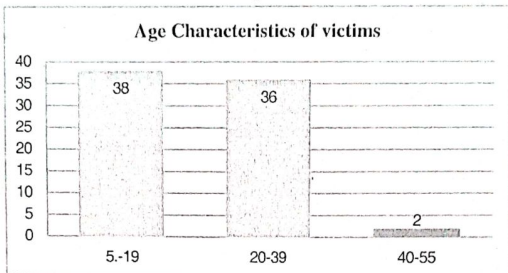


Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad (2010)

There were fifty seven (57) rape incidents, fifteen (15) attempted rapes and four (4) gang rapes during study period.

V. AGE CHARACTERISTICS

Graph V

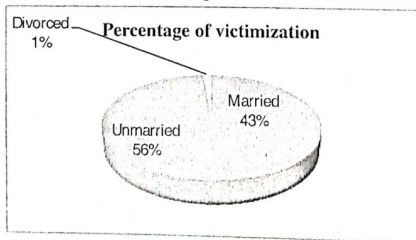


Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad

The age characteristics of victims of rape show that 38 cases were related to age group (5-19), and 36 cases related to age group (20-39).

VI. MARITAL STATUS OF VICTIMS

Graph VI

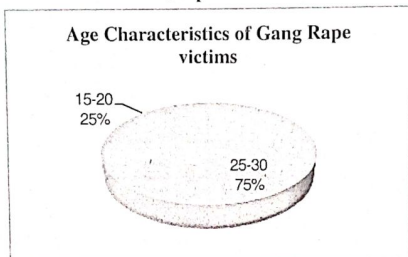


Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad

The highest no of victims of rape were unmarried girls/women (56%). The percentage of victimization of married women was 43% and 1% cases of rape were related to divorced women.

VII. AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF GANG RAPE VICTIMS

Graph VII

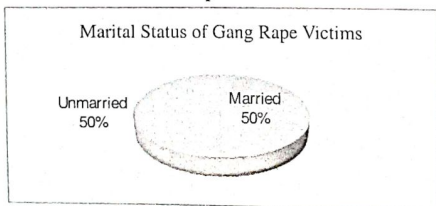


Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad

The above graph shows that 75% of gang rape victims belonged to the age category of 25-30 years.

VIII. THE MARITAL STATUS OF GANG RAPE VICTIMS

Graph VIII

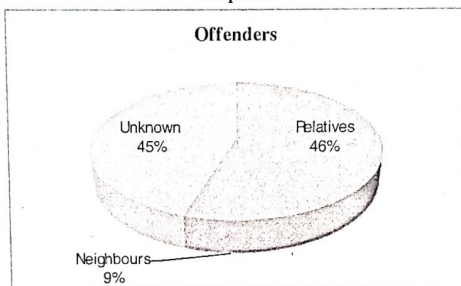


Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad

There were total 4 cases of gang rape. Two cases were registered at PS Tando Jam (2009) and one case each with registered at PS Pinyari (2010) and PS Women (2004).

IX. THE OFFENDER-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP

Graph IX



Source: Survey of Police Stations of District Hyderabad

This shows that acquaintance rape or rape by known is slightly higher with 46% than rape committed by strangers/unknown 45%. The 9% of the offenders were neighbor.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

The crime of rape committed due to factors of psychology, biology, social structure, culture and gender-related issues. The theorist believed that aggression, masculinity, male dominance, revenge and genetic factors involve in causation of the offending behavior. Besides, the role of women, ecology and cultural variables become the supportive factors in rape incidents. The human understandings fail to locate the causes where all can agree. The study found that the rape incidents were highly concentrated in localities of the few police stations. The police stations prominently leading in rape offences, include, PS A Section

Latifabad (17), PS Tando Jam (12) and PS Pinyari (8). The highest number of cases registered in one year was five in PS A Section Latifabad in year 2009.

There were 76 cases of rape offence registered in Hyderabad during the period January 2000 to March 2010. Out of such 76 cases, 57 were rape cases, 15 attempts to rape and 4 gang rape cases. This survey shows that most vulnerable age group was (5 to 19 years old) followed by age group 20 to 39. This is due to unawareness of the victims about sex as there is no provision for sex education in schools. The highest ratio of victims of rape was unmarried girls/women. This shows how young girls/women are increasingly vulnerable to rapists in Hyderabad. Of many reasons behind greater victimization of unmarried women, young age, low social exposure, low attachment to morality and religion, low self-defense and offence supporting social factors merit attention. Also, 75% of gang rape victims belonged to age group of 25-30. The offenders in the category of relatives constituted 46%. This shows that acquaintance rape or rape by known has increased, this situation needs special attention of the society.

RECEOMMENDATIONS

- The community and citizens should activate their watch and coordination in the neighborhood to prevent and control incidents of rape.
- The police must disseminate the rape statistics and offender profile to other districts.
- The women policing and community policing could play vital role towards preventing the incidents of rape in locality.
- The police and NGOs must start counseling and rehabilitation centers for the rape victims.
- Hot spot information must be utilized by the police organization.

- The picture and detail story of the rape victims should be avoided in mass media.
- Medical and other social security networks must be activated for rape victims.
- Victim prevention program must be launched for awareness. Awareness programs at school and college levels must be started.
- Education about sex must be started at school level which will help the children to understand motives of the offenders.

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