

RAPE IN INDIA : A SOCIAL PROBLEM¹Pratap Kumar Ghorai., ²Ipsita ChakrabortyResearch Scholar, Dept. of Sociology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India¹, Research Scholar, Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, Annamalai University, Tamilnadu, India²
pkgviktu@gmail.com¹, chakrabortyipsita448@gmail.com²**ABSTRACT**

Rape is one of the most common and under reported crimes against women in India. It is carried out in different ways and cuts across various social structure. As a result, there are social classification of rape for instance, landlord rape, caste rape, rape by those in authority, class rape, police rape. From the classical antiquity of Greece, Rome and in colonial period rape was a capital offence. But in social point of view rape is learned behavior the good of which is collective political, social and economic domination of women by men, though rape is not only motivated by sexually but power domination are responsible factor for rape also.

Keywords: Crime, authority, political, behaviour, domination.

CONCEPT & MEANING

In order to study about the problem of rape in India, at first we have to understand the concept of rape. Rape is force intercourse, when one or more male or female have fulfilled their sex desire by force is known as rape. This process of sex need fulfillment have a long history. The word "Rape" is derived from Latin word 'reperere' meaning to take or take by force, rape is a forced intercourse, rape is also known as sexual assault it is applicable for male and female both in any age. Many people believed that rape is a purely sexual act; it is motivated by desire for power and control another person rather than by sexual attraction or the desire for sexual gratification. Rape is an unwanted sexual activity for male and female both, rape and sexual violence are deeply rooted in specific political, economical and cultural environment; it is situational as well. Some socio-cultural environment is a promoting factor of rape. So rape is a forced intercourse of female by male in an abnormal social situation. Simple to say- rape as penile penetration of the vagina forcefully.

DEFINITION:

- ❖ According to Groth & Hobson, "rape as a form of sexual aggression; that is sexually motivated".
- ❖ According to Palmer and Thornhill rape is a sexual assaults including oral and anal penetration of men or women".
- ❖ Robin Morgan defined that rape exists any time sexual intercourse occurs when it has not been intimated by the women, out of her own genuine affection and desire".
- ❖ According to Savino and Turvey, "rape as nonconsensual sexual penetration".
- ❖ Section 375 of Indian Penal Code "rape are sexual intercourse with a women and the absence of consent".

From the above definition we can define that rape is an undesirable intercourse which has several harmful consequences. Rape is any type of activity imposed on a person against will and without consent.

A. Characteristics of rape:

1. Rape is an abnormal social phenomena.
2. It is happening in all societies.
3. When penis entering the vagina without consent.
4. It is traumatic and painful.
5. Rape victims often experience severe and long lasting distress.

6. Rape victim often experience physical injury.
7. Rape victim often experience sexually transmitted infection.
8. It has social effects as stigmatization.

B. Types of rape:

- a) Forcible date rape, b) Drug facilitated date rape, c) Blitz rape, d) Spousal rape
e) Group rape f) Rape of child by own person g) Statutory rape h) Prison rape
i) Bottle rape j) War rape

- a) **Forcible date rape:** Date rape as well as acquaintance rape refers to rape or non-consensual activity between people who are already acquainted, friends, acquaintances, people on a date or even people in an existing romantic relationship where consent of sexual activity is not given. Most of the rapes are committed by people who already know the victim.
- b) **Drug facilitated date rape:** This kind of rape are very usual because rapist use various kinds of drugs very cunningly to victim for senseless, unconscious and memory loss. In this case, the victim become unable to save herself from rapist; date rape drug refers to any kind of drug that can be used to assist in the commission of a sexual assault.
- c) **Blitz rape:** Blitz rape is also known as stranger rape. This type occurs when the rapist assault the victim on the street without prior contact. Blitz rape is dangerous for victims because where rapist and victim are unknown to each other. Most of the rape murder are happening by Blitz rape. This kind of rape is more traumatic and fearful.
- d) **Spousal rape:** Spousal rape is known as spouse rape, marital rape, wife rape, husband rape, partner rape or intimate partner sexual assault, is rape between a married or de-facto couple. Though the African society never regard a forceful sexual intercourse between a woman and her husband as an act of rape. Sex is something a husband claims from his wife as his right anytime. Though spousal rape and Blitz rape are interrelated if in a society rape case becomes high than Blitz rape become reduce also, if spousal rape is less than Blitz rape becomes high obviously which is happening in contemporary Indian society.
- e) **College campus rape:** College campus rape is increasing gradually. College campus is out of family control and without personal authority; son in college adult male and female enjoy full freedom to easy interact with opposite sex very freely. Alcohol and drugs are implicated as implicated as playing a major role in rapes on college campus.
- f) **Group rape:** Group rape is also known as gangbang, pack rape. It occurs when a group of people participate in the rape of a single victim. It is more dangerous and harmful for victim. In the advent of pornography industry and Western free sex practices are the more promoting factor for increasing the group in Indian society which is traditional and conservative in nature.
- g) **Child rape:** Child rape is more frequent in our society because they are innocent. So very easily neighbors, relatives and other people are able to do any kind of sex activities with them. Basically in the context of poverty, child labor, street children those who has no social security they have become more victimize by sexual abuse or rape.

- h) **Other rape:** As statutory rape, prison rape, bottle rape and war rape; male to male rape and also female to female rape. From the above types of rapes, we can say that rape is a forceful sexual intercourse. This forceful sexual intercourse is happening by certain causes and from social grounds.

C. Causes of rape:

- a) Alcohol and drug consumption
 - b) Unsound mind
 - c) Aggressive behavior
 - d) Wrong socialization
 - e) Child marriage
 - f) Povertiness
 - g) Gender discrimination
 - h) Male domination and power
 - i) Expansion of sex industries and business.
- i. Alcohol and drug consumption:** Alcoholism and drug addiction are the fundamental causes of rape where people consumes drug or alcohol then he or she has no sense about good, bad, reality, unreality, past and present, norms or values, rituality or rules. After consuming these toxics one losses his or her ideology and deviate from social ideal situation and commit sexual abuse very frequently.
- ii. Unsound mind:** Unsound mind of both the binary gender are the fundamental cause of rape. Unsound mind refers to a condition, a state of mind that is not sound psychologically, he or she has no power to judge the psychological and social motives of the rapist.
- iii. Aggressive behavior:** Any kind of aggressiveness is not sound for society, basically young generation those who has no control over them, they are believe to possess aggressiveness in the manifestation of smartness. One can learn this aggressive behavior by environment or inherent genetically. They are always in high-risk for any kind of abuse as bullying, raping, etc.
- iv. Wrong socialization:** Wrong socialization is one of the important cause of sex abuse, chaos and any kind of deviant behavior. Socialization starts from family, so in family he or she learns how to show respect honor of other sex and gender. Though male child socialization and female child socialization is far different. Most of the families from illiterate to literate, from educated to uneducated, from poor to rich always give more priority to male child and ignore female child. So from early childhood male child observing from family, neighbor and community and even in society that female are only reproductive and expert in house managing; they don't have any idea about external world that is why female are facing more attract in outside home.
- v. Child marriage:** Child marriage is also a vital cause of rape. In our Indian society, majority of the population lives in below poverty line; they are unable for schooling their children. Girls before adulthood gets married thus experiencing sexual activities. Due to poverty, divorce is happening to their life frequently and by the name of job they become victimize through trafficking and facing sexual abuse in every sphere of their lives.
- vi. Gender discrimination:** Gender discrimination is one of fundamental factor of rape in India. Because Indian society is patriarchal where male are treated as main earner, protector and savior of family as

well as lineage and on the other hand where has no importance of girl child because after getting adulthood she has to give marriage and send her to the home of father-in-law. So, most of the people have strong belief that investment against girl child are non-refundable this most of the poor villagers don't have much capacity to provide equal support to their boy and girl. Due to this, poverty they have to ignore and discriminate their girl child from educational, economical and health support. This ignorancy and discrimination are the promoting factor for any kind of violence against women as eve-teasing, domestic violence, wife battering and rape.

- vii. Male domination and power:** Male are physically powerful than female; so for any sort of domination and pressure male are more capable than women because of physical power of male are more than female physically. Also in the context of culture and society where male and female become socialize differently. Male child are more free than female due to gender discrimination. Most of the Indian family never allow their girl child to behave freely, to play freely and even to interact freely with their neighbor and community. So from the childhood a girl becomes more isolated than male. This discriminating female isolation are more promoting for male domination by physically- mentally and socially. So these physical, mental and social restriction as well as weakness is
- viii. Expansion of sex industries and business:** Expansion of sex industries and business are the most vital factor in increasing the motivation of rape among the people of society; mainly by the mobile sex industry where young male and female those who has no way of earning, no means to fulfill sex desire they are giving offer and approaching to sexual activity by whatsapp, Facebook and YouTube. So by the bliss of 4G sim and Android mobile phone most of the people are able to watch pornography as well as various invitation and approaches of sexual activities. So, vast use of android phone are the most promoting factor of rape in India.

D. Social measures to control rape in India:

To reduce this kind of problem from our society like India some constitutional and Legal measures has been incorporated. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, POCSO Act 2012 (protection of children from sexual offence) except those legal measures as a member of society. We should confirm some social norms and regulations as:

- Don't walk or jog at night wearing a headphones.
- Don't approach open sex publicly.
- Don't make sex video at whatsapp, Facebook and YouTube.
- Don't avoid marriage at the age of marriage.
- Don't avoid widow remarriage.
- Don't avoid sex education in school syllabus.
- Don't hate sex workers.
- Community should allow prostitution in each cities, town or even in small town.
- To built separate toilets and washrooms in private educational institutions as from nursery to university.
- To promote adult men and women for own choice of life partner.
- Right to free sex in hotel and lodge (legal provision).
- To support romantic marriage.

- To protect girl child.
- To value girl child.
- To love girl child.
- To provide all types of support to girl child.

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