

CRITICAL OVERVIEW OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

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Abstract: Violence against women stands as a true hindrance to the achievement of social and economic development of the country. In this study, an attempt is made to analyze reported crimes committed against women in Mizoram. This paper also attempts to examine the link between female literacy rate, female working population and Indian Penal Code (IPC) case registered on crime against women in Mizoram. In the course of the study, it is found that specific conclusion cannot be drawn on any specific aspect of cruelty against women in the country because most of such cases are never reported to the police or Judiciary or law enforcing authority. Even after rising levels of education, economic empowerment and several laws and mechanisms to prevent crime against women, a countless number of women continue to suffer in silence.

Index Terms: Crime against Women, Domestic Violence, Indian Penal Code (IPC), Rape, Sexual Harassment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Women are often the target of physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual assault and other ill-practices as they are conceived to be the weaker sex, both physically and emotionally. 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 psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

Violence against women stands as a true hindrance to the achievement of social and economic development. Women are often victims of crimes such as rape, murder, robbery, cheating, sexual harassment and so on. The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 deals with various offences against women. Crime against women under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) are as follows:¹

- 1) Section 312 of IPC provides punishment for causing miscarriage.
- 2) Section 354A of IPC deals with Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment.
- 3) Section 354B of the IPC deals with assault or use of force on a woman with the intention to disrobe her or compel her to be naked.
- 4) Section 354C IPC prescribes the punishment for voyeurism.
- 5) Section 354D IPC deals with the offence of stalking.
- 6) IPC Section 366 is related to kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage, etc.
- 7) IPC Section 366A deals with Procurement of minor girl.
- 8) Section 366B of IPC deals with importation of girl from foreign country.
- 9) IPC Section 375, 2013 Amendment is related to rape.
- 10) Section 376 provides punishment for rape.
- 11) IPC Section-494 is related to the offence of bigamy or marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife.
- 12) Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code deals with Adultery.
- 13) Section 498 in The Indian Penal Code. 498. Enticing or taking away or detaining with criminal intent a married woman.
- 14) Section 498-A refers to 'cruelty by husband or relatives of husband.'

Despite the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and related mechanisms in India, women continue to be victims of humiliation, injustice, crime and violence.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To examine crime committed against women in Mizoram.
2. To find measures that must be taken to prevent crime against women.

¹Indian Penal Code. Retrieved from <https://lawrato.com/indian-kanoon/ipc/section-312>.

III. METHODOLOGY

Observation, Interview, Government Records, and Documents form the primary source of data collection. Books, Journals and Websites have been used as a secondary source of data collection.

IV. PROFILE OF MIZORAM

Mizoram is a mountainous region which became the 23rd State of the Indian Union on 20th February 1987. It is one of the seven states in the North-East of India. Mizoram shares its borders with other north-eastern states of Manipur, Tripura and Assam, and neighboring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar. There are eight districts in Mizoram, with Aizawl as its capital city.

The population of Mizoram forms 0.09 percent of India in 2011. Total population of Mizoram as per 2011 census is 1,097,206 of which male and female are 555,339 and 541,867 respectively. The Decadal growth rate of population is 23.48 p.c., the Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 males) is 976 and the Population Density (per sq.km) is 52. The total literacy rate of Mizoram is 91.33% which is greater than average literacy rate 72.98% of India. The male literacy rate is 93.35% and the female literacy rate is 89.27% in Mizoram.²

In Mizoram out of total population, 486,705 were engaged in work activities. 85.3% of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 14.7% were involved in Marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months. 486,705 workers engaged in Main Work, 202,514 were cultivators (owner or co-owner) while 26,464 were Agricultural labourer.³ Mizoram working population according to 2011 are shown Table No.4. 1.

TABLE 4.1
MIZORAM WORKING POPULATION-CENSUS 2011

	Total	Male	Female
Main Workers	415,030	263,305	151,725
Cultivators	202,514	121,598	80,916
Agriculture Labourer	26,464	16,601	9,863
Household Industries	5,459	3,109	2,350
Other Workers	180,593	121,997	58,596
Marginal Workers	71,675	27,435	44,240
Non-Working	610,501	264,599	345,902

Source: Mizoram Population Census 2011| Mizoram Religion, Caste data- Census 2011. Retrieved from <https://www.censusindia.co.in/states/Mizoram>

V. ANALYSIS OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN MIZORAM

According to the IPC case wise of crime registered against women in Mizoram by the State Crime Records Bureau of Mizoram, CID Crime, Mizoram Police, there are 637 cases registered from the year 2014 to the year ending 2017. The crime head under IPC (Indian Penal Code) include Outraging, Rape, Hurt, Attempt to murder, Murder, Cruelty by husband, Criminal Intimidation, Criminal Trespass, Kidnapping, Kidnapping and Abduction, Causing death by negligence, Attempt to rape, Sexual assault, Sexual Harassment, Death due to Negligence, Missing, Employment of child for begging, Abetment of suicide, Cheating, Robbery, Arson, Defamation, Culpable Homicide, Wrongful Restraint, Mischief, Theft, Insult to the modesty of Women, Defamation, Juvenile Justice Act, Information Technology Act, Adultery, Human Trafficking, and Gang Rape. The total number of IPC cases registered in the year between 2014 and 2017 are shown in the table.

TABLE 5.1
TOTAL NUMBER OF IPC CASES REGISTERED ON CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN MIZORAM (2014-2017)

SL.NO	YEAR	TOTAL
1.	2014	174
2.	2015	138
3.	2016	166

²Mizoram Population Census data 2011. Retrieved from <https://www.census2011.co.in/census/state/mizoram.html>

³Mizoram Population Census 2011| Mizoram Religion, Caste data- Census 2011. Retrieved from <https://www.censusindia.co.in/states/Mizoram>.

4.	2017	159
	TOTAL	637

Source: State Crime Records Bureau of Mizoram, CID Crime, Mizoram Police.

The total number of IPC cases registered on crime against women in Mizoram is presented in Table no. 5.1. As indicated in the table, a total of 637 IPC cases were registered on crime against women in Mizoram between the year 2014 and 2017. The percentage variation between the year 2014 to 2015 is - 20.69 p.c., between 2015 to 2016 is 20.2p p.c., between 2016 and 2017 is - 4.27 p.c.

TABLE 5.2
CRIME HEAD UNDER IPC CASE OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN MIZORAM
(2014-2017)

Sl.No	Crime Head under IPC	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
1.	Outraging	83	46	65	59	253
2.	Rape	57	25	15	20	117
3.	Hurt	17	14	20	28	74
4.	Attempt to Murder	1	7	3	4	15
5.	Murder	2	11	8	5	26
6.	Cruelty by Husband	8	8	17	15	50
7.	Criminal Intimidation	2	4	16	4	26
8.	Criminal Trespass	1		5	1	7
9.	Kidnapping	1	3		1	5
10.	Kidnapping and Abduction	1				1
11.	Causing death by negligence	1				1
12.	Attempt to Rape		4		2	6
13.	Sexual Assault		6		7	13
14.	Sexual Harassment			1	1	2
15.	Death due to negligence		1			1
16.	Missing		1			1
17.	Employment of child for begging		1			1
18.	Criminal trespass		1		1	2
19.	Abetment of suicide		1			1
20.	Cheating		1	4		5
21.	Robbery		1	1		2
22.	Arson		1			1
23.	Defamation		2			2
24.	Culpable Homicide			1	1	2
25.	Wrongful Restraint			1		1
26.	Mischief			1	2	3
27.	Theft			4		4
28.	Insult to the Modesty of women			2	1	3
29.	Defamation			2		2
30.	JJ Act				1	1
31.	IT				1	1
32.	Adultery				2	1
33.	Human Trafficking				1	1
34.	Gang Rape				2	2
	Grand Total	174	138	166	159	637

Source: State Crime Records Bureau of Mizoram, CID Crime, Mizoram Police.

Table No. 5.2 indicate the crime head under IPC case on crime against women in Mizoram from the year 2014 to 2017. Despite the Indian Penal Code 1860, many other special laws have been enacted to control crime against women in the country, however, it did not put an end to violence against women in the country. Regardless of rising levels of education,

economic empowerment and several laws and mechanisms to prevent crime against women, a countless number of women continue to suffer in silence.

VI. CONCLUSION

Despite the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and related mechanisms made to protect women, women continue to be victims of violence in India. No conclusion can be drawn on any specific aspect of cruelty against women in the country because most of such cases are never reported to the police or Judiciary or law enforcing authority. Many women continue to suffer because they are either unaware of the legal provision on laws related to women or fear of losing their social reputation. Lack of education, fear of husband and family or financial dependence made countless women reluctant to report against domestic violence. However, even educated and financially independent women suffer in silence because they are afraid to end their marriage, or they want to avoid creating scandal in the society. Women should not have to suffer in silence. Qualitative analysis should be made instead of quantitative analysis to really understand the problem, to make women speak out, and to put the guilty before the authority.

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