



# TREND OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

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## **Abstract**

Crime is a prohibited act that has been in our society since the beginning of time; throughout history, prohibited acts have been performed against the less powerful members of society. One such vulnerable category includes women. Since some acts of violence are not considered crimes and hence go unreported or unregistered, violence against Indian women is much more frequent than it might first appear. Even though numerous laws and regulations have been passed to protect women, crimes against them continue to rise every day and every year. In this study, an effort has been made to emphasize the pattern of some of the horrible crimes against women committed in India over the past ten years. It has been noted that crimes against women have been steadily rising over the past decade.

**Key words:** crime against women, rape, kidnapping, dowry, cruelty against

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

According to Powell and Wahidin (2007), women are one of the most at risk groups when it comes to violence. The term "violence against women" was defined by the United Nations General Assembly (1993) as any act of gender-based violence that



causes or is likely to cause physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrarily denying them their freedom, whether taking place in public or in private life. Violence against women, in the words of the World Health Organization, is a "public health problem of epidemic proportions" (Ellsberg et al., 2005). Crime against Women is defined as "crimes that are specifically committed against women and in which only women are the victims" (Goel, 2004). According to Himabindu et al. (2014), gender-based violence, particularly serious crime like rape, is a complex issue. The lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence among women who have ever been in a relationship is 30.0% worldwide, according to the World Health Organization (2013); however, this figure is higher in South-east Asia, where it is estimated to be 37.7%. The functioning sex-gender system in India exposes girls and young women to several sorts of violence, depriving them of a decent existence through practices including selective abortion and infanticide, harassment, rape, kidnapping, and murder (Patel, 2015). Although modern India is quickly becoming a major worldwide force, the country's women, who make up half of the population, continue to battle for a dignified existence. Women in today's culture are not safe, regardless of their class, caste, or level of education. According to Nagindrappa et al. (2013), women have historically been exploited in a variety of areas including the physical, social, mental, and economic spheres of their lives. Crime against Indian women has been rising at an alarming rate in recent years (Chakraborty et al., 2021). Violence against Indian women is considerably more widespread than it may first appear because some acts of violence are not criminal offenses, they are not reported, or they are not recorded (Chakraborty et al., 2021). The frequency of violent crimes in India, particularly those committed against women, including rape, is rising every year, according to government figures (NCRB, 2012).



## **2. CONCEPT OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN:**

Even though women may be victims of all types of crimes, including theft, murder, and fraud, "crime against women" refers to those crimes in which "only women" are the victims and which are directed specifically at them. In general, there are two types of crimes against women: (i) Crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC):

- (a) Rape (376 IPC)
- (b) Kidnapping and Abduction (363-373 IPC),
- (c) Dowry deaths (304-B IPC)
- (d) Torture – Physical and mental (498 IPC)
- (e) Molestation (354 IPC)
- (f) Sexual harassment (509IPC) and
- (g) Importation of girls (366-B IPC).

(ii) Crimes under Special and Local Laws (SLL):

- (a) Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
- (b) Dowry Prohibition Act
- (c) Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition) Act
- (d) SATI Prevention Act
- (g) Protection of women against Sexual Harassment at work place Act

While not all laws are gender-specific, those that significantly affect women have undergone frequent review and amendment to meet changing needs.

## **3. OBJECTIVES:**

The objective of this paper is to look at some of the crimes against women that have been perpetrated over the past decades in terms of their trends. Four types of crimes viz., Rape, kidnapping, dowry related deaths and cruelty by husband and relatives are being discussed within the scope of this paper.



#### 4. METHODOLOGY AND DATA:

To exhibit the pattern and trend of the rates of the different crimes against women, line chart along with the fitted curves have been drawn. The female population of the relevant years is used as the denominator to calculate the rates of the various incidence rates. The rates are expressed as per one lakh female population. For this purpose, secondary data from 2011 to 2021 is used from the publications of National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The current study tries to highlight the trend of some of the horrible atrocities done against women in India.

#### 5. RESULT AND ANALYSIS:

##### 5.1 Crime Against Women:

**Table 2.1:** Crime Against Women in the Period 2011 – 2021

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female Pop. (in Lakh)	5865	6074	6147	6219	6289	6359	6428	6496	6563	6629	6694
Total Crime	228650	244270	309546	337922	327394	338954	359849	378277	405861	371503	428278
Rate of Total Crime	39.0	40.2	50.4	54.3	52.1	53.3	56.0	58.2	61.8	56.0	64.0
% Increase in Rate	--	3.2	25.2	7.9	-4.2	2.4	5.0	4.0	6.2	-9.4	14.2
Rape Cases	24206	24923	33707	36735	34651	38947	32559	33356	32033	28046	31677
Rate of Rape Cases	4.13	4.10	5.48	5.91	5.51	6.12	5.07	5.13	4.88	4.23	4.73
% Increase in Rate	--	-0.58	33.63	7.73	-6.73	11.16	-17.30	1.38	-4.95	-13.32	11.84
Kidna-pping & Abduction	35563	38262	51881	57311	59277	64519	66333	72751	72780	62300	75369
Rate of Kidna-pping & Abduction	6.06	6.30	8.44	9.22	9.43	10.15	10.32	11.20	11.09	9.40	11.26
% Increase in Rate	--	3.9	34.0	9.2	2.3	7.6	1.7	8.5	-1.0	-15.3	19.8
Dowry Related Deaths	8628	8233	8083	8455	7634	7621	7466	7166	7115	6966	6753
Rate of Dowry Related Deaths	1.47	1.36	1.32	1.36	1.21	1.20	1.16	1.10	1.08	1.05	1.01
% Increase in Rate	--	-7.9	-3.0	3.4	-10.7	-1.3	-3.1	-5.0	-1.7	-3.1	-4.0
Cruelty by Husband & Relatives	99135	106527	118866	122877	113403	110378	104551	103272	125298	111549	136234
Rate of Cruelty by Husband & Relatives	16.9	17.5	19.3	19.8	18.0	17.4	16.3	15.9	19.1	16.8	20.4
% Increase in Rate	--	3.8	10.3	2.2	-8.7	-3.7	-6.3	-2.3	20.1	-11.9	20.9

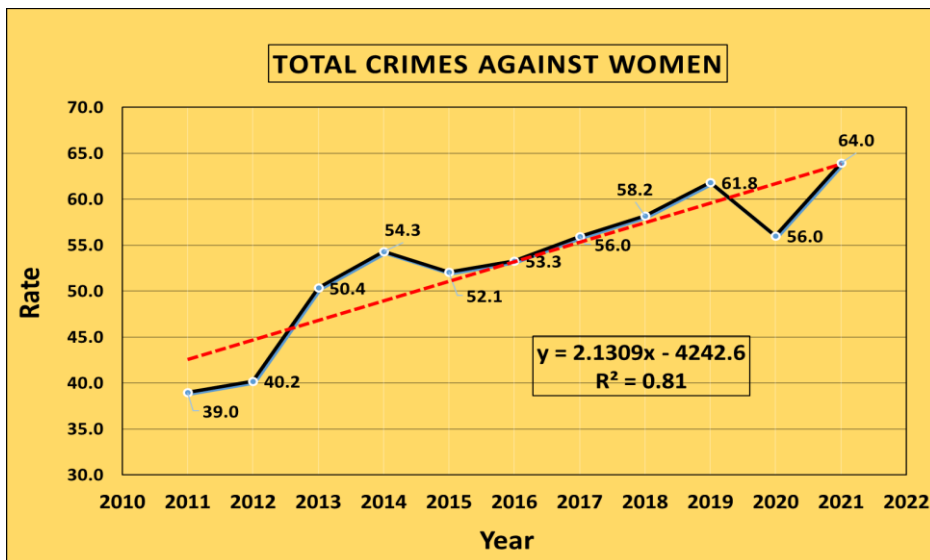
Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

N.B.: Rates are expressed as per lakh female population.



From the above table, it is seen that majority of incidences of Crime against Women (IPC+SLL) and their rates were registered under ‘Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives’ followed by ‘Kidnapping & Abduction of Women’, ‘Rape’ and ‘Dowry Related Deaths’. The above table also depicts the yearly increase or decrease rates of the crimes against women under our consideration in terms of percentages. The negative numbers are showing the decrease rates of the crimes year wise. It is evident that all the crimes against women except ‘Dowry Related Deaths’ are in a increasing trend.

### 5.2 Total Number of Crimes Against Women (2011 – 2021):



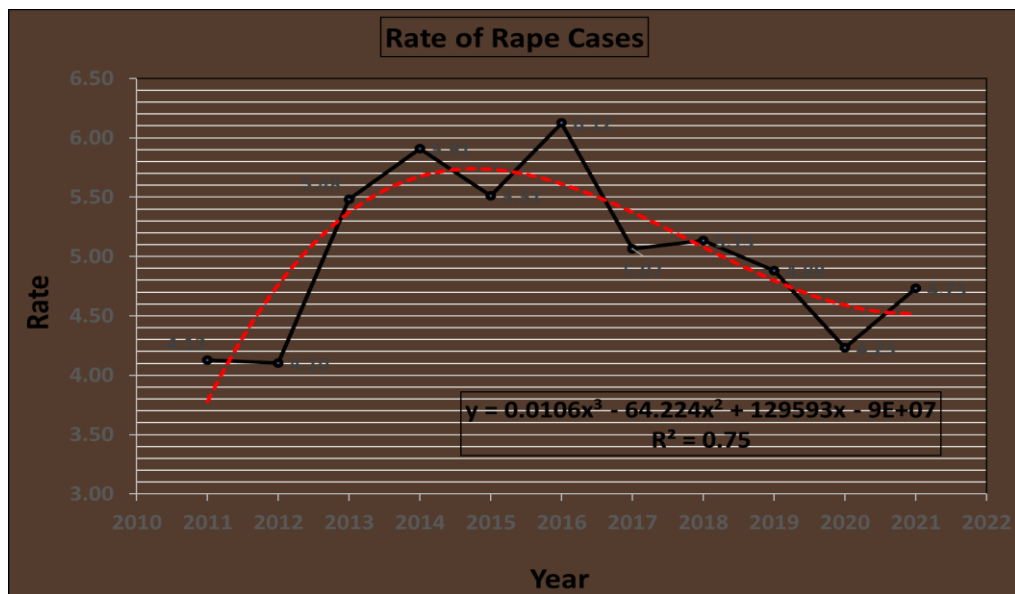
Data Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

**Fig. 2.1:** Rate of Crimes Per Lakh Females (2011 – 2021)



The above diagram depicts the rate of crimes per lakh females in India for the period 2011 to 2021. The fitted linear trendline is shown as a red dotted line and the equation of that is embedded on the chart along with the  $R^2$  value. It can be clearly observed that the crimes rates are in an increasing trend.

### 5.3 Rate of Rape Cases (2011 – 2021):



Data Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

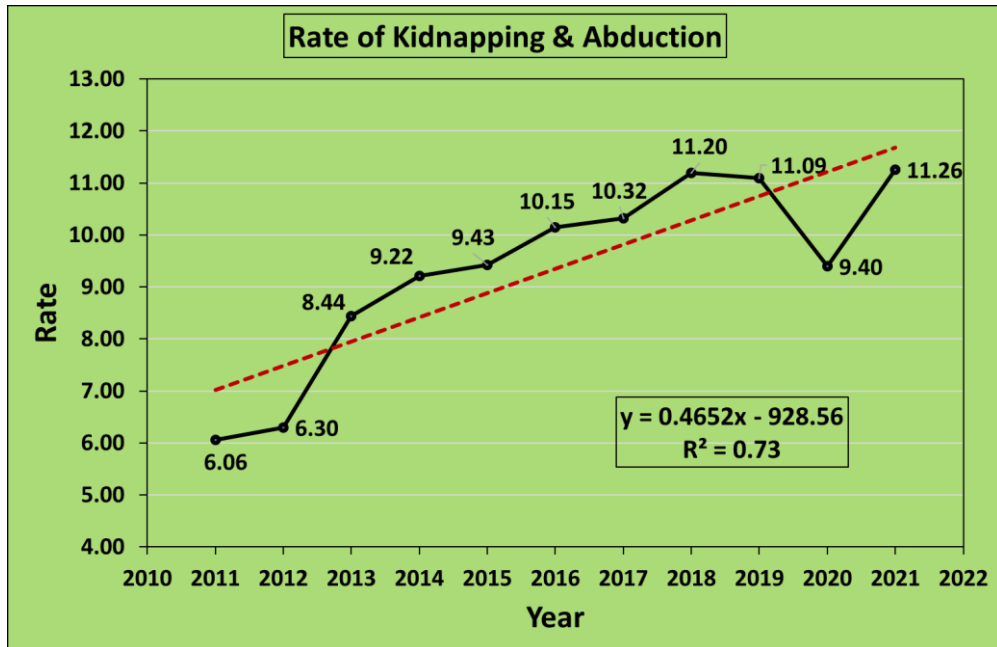
**Fig. 2.2:** Rate of Rape Cases Per Lakh Females (2011 – 2021)

The graph above displays the rate of rape cases per lakh females in India from 2011 to 2021. It has been observed that the rate of this heinous crime has been increased by 15 percent during the decade, recording 6 rapes per lakh females as the highest in 2016 and showing a random pattern over the years. However, a third-degree



parabola may be fitted as shown in the figure as a dotted line. The equation of the same and the  $R^2$  value have been embedded on the figure.

### 5.4 Rate of Kidnapping and Abduction Cases (2011 – 2021):



Data Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

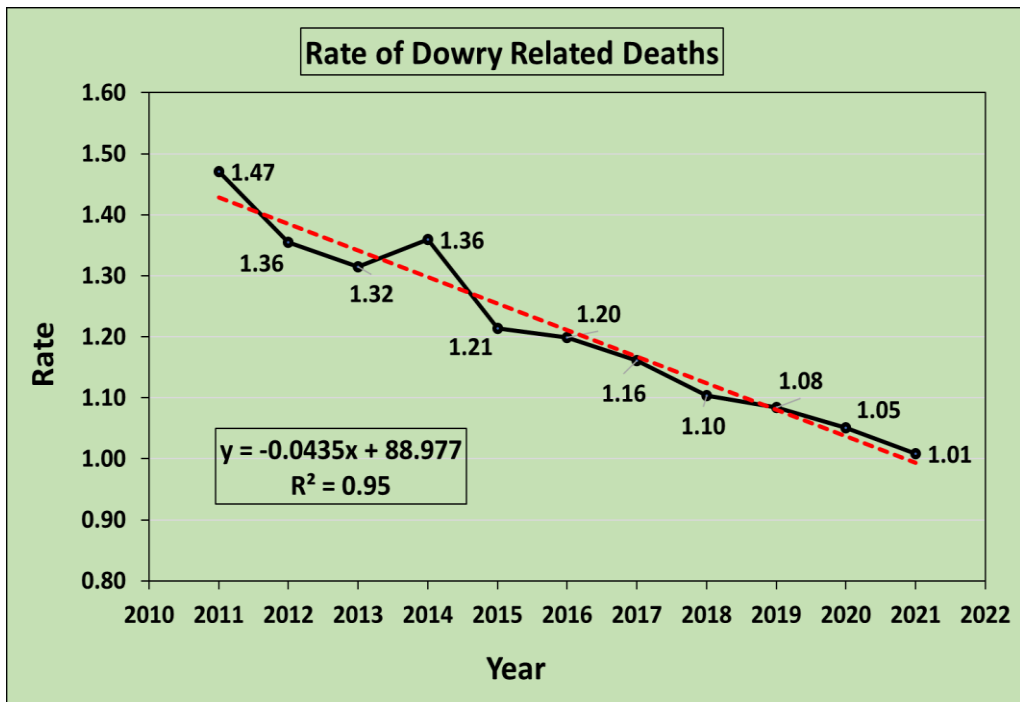
**Fig. 2.3:** Rate of Kidnapping and Abduction Cases Per Lakh Females (2011 – 2021)

Fig 2.3 is showing the rate of kidnapping and abduction cases of women during the last decade. Diagram shows consistent increase of cases from 2011 to 2021 except for the year 2020. Compared to 2011, the rate of kidnapping and abduction cases show an increase of 85% in the year 2021.



### 5.5 Rate of Dowry Related Death Cases (2011 – 2021):

It is evident from the following figure that the dowry related death cases are consistently decreasing in the last decade except in the year 2014. In comparison to the year 2011, the dowry related death cases decreased by one third in the year 2021. A linear trend line has been fitted showing a decreasing trend of the dowry related death cases. The equation of the fitted trend line and the  $R^2$  value are embedded on the figure.

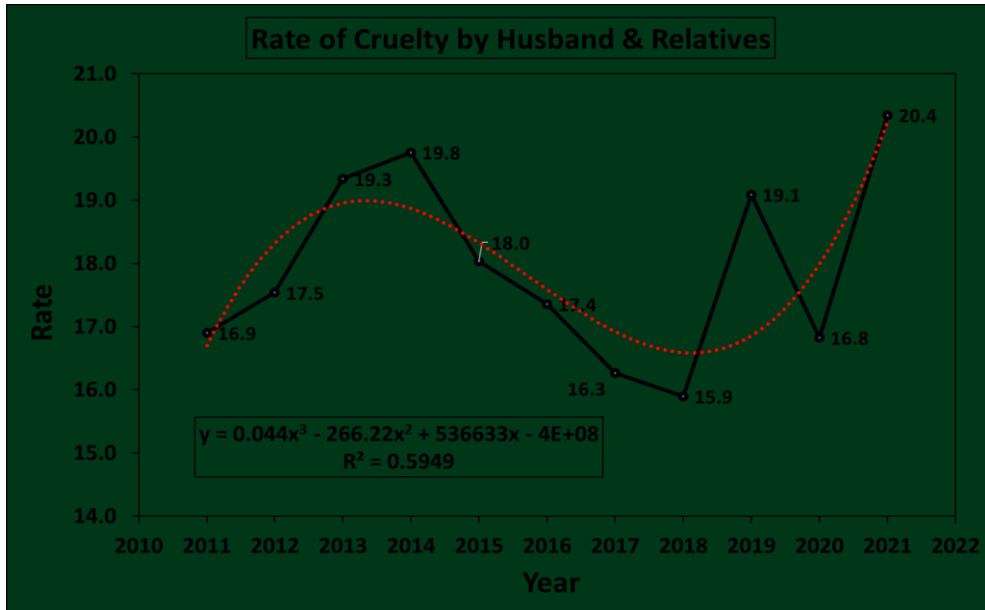


Data Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

**Fig. 2.4:** Rate of Dowry Related Death Cases Per Lakh Females (2011 – 2021)



### 5.6 Rate of Cruelty by Husband & Relatives Cases (2011 – 2021):



Data Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

**Fig. 2.5:** Rate of Cruelty by Husband & Relatives per Lakh Females (2011 – 2021)

The incidence rate of cruelty to a woman by her husband or other family members is in a fluctuating manner for the last decade, which is shown in the above figure. However, the figure also clearly exhibit that the rate is in an increasing trend, and the figures are also of great concern. Comparing to the rate in 2011, that of the incidence has increased by 21% in the year 2021. A third-degree polynomial has been fitted to the rates and the equation of the curve and the  $R^2$  value are seen embedded on the figure.



## 6. CONCLUSION:

Crime is a social ill for which there is no cure, but there is a treatment. The number of crimes committed against Indian women has increased to an intolerably high level in recent years. Gender-based violence, especially serious crimes like rape, is a multifaceted problem. This analysis shows that crime rates have been steadily rising throughout the years. Control of all forms of violence against women, including sexual assault, dowry crimes, and other crimes against women, is necessary. There are other successful policy options available, despite the fact that enforcement and punishment are typically the emphasis of policymakers. Policies that promote economic development, education, parental oversight, social security, and financial stability may help to reduce crime against women. Increasing women's legal literacy through the media, written works, and volunteer organizations is urgently needed.

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