

# Violence against Women: Trends and Counter Measures in Smart Cities of India

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## ABSTRACT

Violence against women is a world-wide crisis of pandemic magnitude. The crime statistics in India show a steady increase in violence against women in urban areas. Different theories in Criminology have sought to explain violent crime in general and violence against women in particular. Violence inhibits harm both psychological and physical. The crime statistics is self explanatory and exhibits the scenario of violence against women in nineteen metropolitan cities of India which are smart cities. However it deserves mention that the level of literacy, development of the states, religious and cultural values, geographical and political location of the city can play provocative causes for the incidents of criminality. Collaborative effort of the people, NGOs and the urban police can foster sustainable urban society which are smart in the true sense of the term. Each city has its unique characteristics, issues of concern and distinct demographic and environmental conditions which influence people's life and crime trends. Thus each commissionerate should identify the lacunae, problems and prioritise accordingly and can thereby succeed in achieving success in combating crime. The present study analyses the trends of violence against women in smart cities of India and attempts to explore the counter measures that can be undertaken to eradicate the bane.

## Keywords

smart cities, smart policing, violence against women

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## 1. Introduction

Women are exploited and abused by people whom they love or are acquainted with. The domain of violence against women includes both their private and public life. The demands of new era and the call for an independent life exposes women to double abuse and greater vulnerability. The crime statistics in India show a steady increase in violence against women in urban areas. The smart cities in India are promoting more technology based surveillance, better Information Technology infrastructure, more greenery, concern for healthy living, greater accessibility and safer zone. Smart policing in the hundred smart cities of India aim to provide a safer and secure society to the urban population in India. However the crime

scenario continues to remain gruesome and it is a still a sad tale for all the women and the vulnerable groups who are facing the rigours every day. The present study analyses the trends of violence against women in smart cities of India and attempts to explore the counter measures that can be undertaken to eradicate the bane.

## II. Conceptualising violence against women and its forms

Violence is an human action carried out with the purpose of or perceived volition of causing bodily pain or hurt to another individual.[1] However, violence may not be confined to only physical harm it includes psychological harm and even neglect. Violence against women is a world-wide crisis of pandemic magnitude. It represents a from

of gender discrimination because it inhibits women from enjoying their rights and freedom on a basis of equality with men. Women face violence both at home (perpetrated by family or an intimate partner) and outside the home perpetrated by various individuals including government agents, employers, co workers and teachers. There are primarily four forms of violence against women: (a) Sexual harassment represents a form of gender based violence occurring largely in the public sphere and can be physical, verbal or non verbal conduct; (b) Rape is an act of penile or vaginal penetration committed by some degree of force or the threat of force. It represents a crime of power and can be perpetrated by known acquaintances and strangers. It results in various physical and mental health problems for the victim and on the society; (c) Domestic violence includes actual or threatened physical or sexual violence or psychological abuse by a spouse, intimate partner or child and includes violence committed by cohabiting or non-cohabiting partners. It includes physical, sexual, psychological and verbal abuse and (d) Marital rape or spousal rape is a form of intimate sexual partner violence in which a woman is physically forced to have sexual intercourse against her will. It is a tool for men to exert social control over women through the use of patriarchal familial relationships.[2][3]

### III. Theoretical Perspectives on violence against women

Different theories in Criminology have sought to explain violent crime in general and violence against women in particular. The hedonistic philosophy of Jeremy Bentham have sought an answer through the pleasure and pain principle. If the pleasure from an act committed is more than the pain it will inculcate then there will be a tendency towards commission of crime. Thus certainty, swiftness and severity of punishment can be a deterring factor. Lombrosian school of thought opines that the prevalence of atavistic

features in certain human is a common characteristic of offenders of violent crimes. However the Freudian belief establishes improper socialization thereby inadequate development of the superego as a cause of violent crime. Much against the so called individual characteristics that may be the reason of violent crime the sociological school of thought gives the onus to society and criminality as a learnt attribute of human beings. Even the lack of social bonds whereby an individual loses accountability towards society is also considered to be a drive towards violent crime. The Routine Activity Theory reckons that a motivated offender, a suitable target and lack of guardianship may be the source of violent crime and in this regard the vulnerability and the inefficiency of law enforcement may trigger violence against women. The critique of the criminological theories come through the works of feminist criminology which gives the obligation of such crimes to patriarchal dominance and the hegemony of the male whereby women are deprived of equal status, considered weak and victimised in every aspect of life.[4][5][6] [7]

### IV. Causes and Consequences of Violence Against Women

Violence inhibits harm both psychological and physical. But many a time we contemplate what may be the reason for the rising incidences of violence against women. In this context it deserves mention that the rising number is indicative of the number of reported cases showing a hike. This may be the cause of enhancement of trust on the judiciary, greater awareness, more monitoring by the law enforcement officers and less stigma associated with a victim. However the crime statistics are just the figures of reported cases and many incidents go unreported, unnoticed which may be called the dark figure of crime. The causes of violence against women may be (1) psychiatric morbidity, stress, high expectations, monotonous life (2) socio demographic factors like young age, illiteracy, low level of education, poverty, urban

habitation; (3) family factors like childlessness, longer marital duration, more number of children, dowry, absence of boy child, late marriage; (4) mental illness; (5) traditional and cultural practices like female genital mutilation, acid attack, honour killing, early marriage lack of respect for women; (6) modernization and the hazards of modern life; (7) inefficient, insensitive, corrupt, unaccountable judiciary and law enforcement; (8) decline in moral and religious life; (9) poor cognitive development due to improper socialization, broken homes, history of experience of similar such incidents during childhood and (10) increase in population. These are some of the general causes of violence and sometimes a violence may be triggered due to a provocative situation which is beyond reasoning.[8] [9]

Any kind of aggressive act can have severe impact on the victim. These may include (a) physical injury, (b) miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm delivery (c) poor overall health, (d) difficulty in carrying out daily activities, (e) memory failure, (f) fear of crime, (g) substance abuse to overcome social isolation, (h) depression, anxiety, emotional distress, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, (i) low self esteem, (j) enhanced vulnerability and (k) loss of trust in social living and relationship, (l) child and infant mortality and morbidity, (m) emotional and behavioral disturbances (n) perpetration of violence for men who have witnessed it in childhood and victims of violence for women who have experienced such abuse in young age. [10]

## V. Crime Trends in Smart Cities of India

In the year 2015-16, hundred cities have been identified as smart cities for enhanced urban living for a term of five years. The purpose of this is to (a) promote mixed land use in area based developments, (b) create walkable localities –reduce congestion, air pollution and resource depletion, boost local economy, promote interactions and ensure security; (c) Preserve and develop open spaces to promote eco-balance; (d) promote a variety of transport options; (f) make

governance citizen-friendly and cost effective; (g) promote online services to bring about accountability and transparency; (h) give an identity to the city - based on its main economic activity, such as local cuisine, health, education, arts and craft, culture, sports goods, furniture, hosiery, textile, dairy, etc; and (i) Applying Smart Solutions to infrastructure and services in area-based development in order to make them better. For example, making areas less vulnerable to disasters, using fewer resources, and providing cheaper services.[11][12]

For the purpose of the study the authors have sampled ten smart cities of which data is available for nine cities as they are metropolitan cities. However Bhubaneswar which is the top among the hundred smart cities does not figure under metropolitan city and therefore no separate data is available. The table below represents the incidents of violence against women in the last four years in the smart cities of India.

**Table 1: Incidents of Violence against Women in 10 smart cities of India**

Smart City	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ahmedabad	1126	1405	1416	1633
Bengaluru	3412	3565	3427	3486
Chennai	544	642	761	729
Delhi	13803	11542	11724	12902
Hyderabad	2419	2272	2332	2755
Jaipur	2090	1857	2030	3417
Kolkata	1693	1975	2176	2176
Mumbai	5128	5453	6058	6519
Pune	2131	2032	1481	1390
Bhubaneswar	No separate data available			

Source: Crime in India, 2018, NCRB, New Delhi, Crime in India, 2019, NCRB, New Delhi.

## Highlights of Incidents of Violence against Women in Metropolitan Cities of India, 2018

- Highest number of murder with rape is in Delhi.
- Highest dowry death Delhi (133) followed by Bangalore (53).
- Highest number of abetment to suicide Bangalore (80 out of total 404).

- Forced miscarriage highest in Delhi.
- Acid attack total 21 out of which Delhi and Ahmedabad has 5 each
- Attempt to acid attack out of total 18 Delhi has 9
- Cruelty by husband or his relatives, total 11788- Delhi has 3128, Hyderabad 1343, Kolkata 946 and Jaipur 993
- Kidnapping and Abduction of Women - total 8992- Delhi 3037, Bengaluru 674, Kolkata 310.
- Human trafficking - total 232 Pune 41, Mumbai and Delhi 28 each.
- Rape - total 2776 Delhi 1080, Kolkata 14, Mumbai 319. Below 18 yrs Jaipur has highest that is 51 out of total 108.
- Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty- 9013- Mumbai 2038, Delhi 2353, Bangalore 829, Hyderabad 317, Kolkata 372.
- Insult to the modesty of Women- total 1677, Delhi 508, Mumbai 532, Kolkata 232.[13]

### **Highlights of incidents of Violence Against Women in Metropolitan Cities of India, 2019**

- Out of total 45485 cases of violence against women , Delhi (28.4%), Mumbai (14.3%), Bengaluru (7.7%), Jaipur (7.5%), Hyderabad (6.1%), Kolkata (4.8%), Ahmedabad (3.6%), Pune (3.1%), Chennai (1.6%).
- Highest incidents of murder with rape out of 16, Delhi reports 5.
- Out of 385 dowry deaths Delhi (115) reports highest followed by Kanpur (58).
- Out of total 429 cases of abetment to suicide of women, Bengaluru reports highest (105) followed by Delhi (44).
- Out of 10 reported cases Delhi reports sixty percent.
- Acid attack (22) highest is reported from Delhi (7) followed by Bengaluru (4).
- Cruelty by husband or relatives (14045) lowest

is reported from Coimbatore (18), highest Delhi (3697) followed by Hyderabad (1568), Jaipur (1525), Lucknow(1300).

- Procurement of Minor Girls out of 73, Kolkata reports highest (54).
- Total of 3309 cases of rape, Delhi reports 1231, followed by Jaipur (517), Mumbai (396).
- Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty highest Delhi (2311) followed by Mumbai (2069), Bengaluru (803), Jaipur (748).[14]

The crime statistics is self explanatory and exhibits the scenario of violence against women in nineteen metropolitan cities of India which are smart cities. However it deserves mention that the level of literacy, development of the states, religious and cultural values, geographical and political location of the city can play provocative causes for the incidents of criminality.

### **VI. Countermeasures to Combat Violence against Women**

The victimization of women has aroused concern and alarm all over the globe. A problem and a curse which has crossed all national boundaries is an issue which is much of worry. Even during hours of the pandemic this menace continues to rule over all other types of crime. In this regard an exploration of the countermeasures is essential to create awareness among the people and more so the victims of such violence that is women.

#### **(a) Counter measures at the international level**

- United Nations General Assembly Resolution Article 55 and 56 of UN Charter promotes respect for equality and human rights.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1981
- The Vienna Declaration 1993, The World

### Conference on Human Rights

- Inter American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, 1994
- The United Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998.
- UN Security Council resolution on Women Peace and Security, 2000
- United Nations Guidelines for Crime Prevention, 2002
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region in 2004

### (b) Counter measures at the national level with special reference to India

- Article 14 of the Indian Constitution talks about Right to Equality
- Article 21 of the Indian Constitution - Right to live with human dignity
- National Commission for Women - in operation since 1992
- The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
- Indian Evidence Act, 1872- Abetment to suicide
- Indian Penal Code, 1861
- The Commission of Sati (Prevention ) Act, 1987
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- Information Technology Act, 2008
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012,
- Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

### (c ) Counter measures through smart policing in

#### smart cities

Smart Policing attempts to provide the following services

- (i) Electronic Surveillance through CCTV cameras placed at strategic locations
- (ii) Virtual monitoring of incidents, riots and decision making without much patrolling on the road
- (iii) Door-to-door monitoring of law and order by top level officials
- (iv) Special observation of events like fair, festivals and religious processions
- (v) Safety alert in public places and vehicles
- (vi) E-filing of FIR such as theft of vehicle and phone
- (vii) Real time monitoring of security/patrolling teams
- (vii) Involve Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in problem solving[15]

### Table 2: Initiatives of Police Commissionerate in 10 Smart Cities of India for Security of Women



Smart City	Initiatives	Target
Mumbai	Helplines for Women, Children and Senior Citizen and Cyber crime Fraud	Women, children and senior citizen
	CCTV project, 24x7 Citizen Assistance through social media	Mumbai City Surveillance
	Helpline, Cyber Crime Call	Cyber crime Awareness programmes and Fight Against Cyber Crime, Cyber crime fraud
	Digital Forensic and Analysis Tools AMBIS (Automated Multi Modal Biometric Identification System)	Improved detection and investigation of crime
Kolkata	Helplines	Senior citizen, women and children
	Dial 100, Sampark, Jana Sanjog Sabha	Interaction with senior officials of Kolkata Police
	Sukanya	Self defense training of women
	Kiran	Computer Training programmes for students both girls and boys from minority community
New Delhi	Helplines	Women, Senior Citizen, Children, North eastern People in distress
	PCR 112 (24x7)	Patrolling
	Special police Unit for Women and Children, Self defense training unit, information of agencies for women and children, NGOs combating Violence against Women, Medical Aid, family counselling, gender sensitization, awareness of laws protecting the rights of women, Information on how to report	Addressing violence against women and children
Bengaluru	Elders Helpline	Senior Citizen
	Makkala Sahayavani helpline 10924	Children- destitute, abused, child labour

	Telephonic Counseling, police support, rescue, medical assistance, children's home	
	Parihar- center for research training and development of women	Women, Children and their family members
	Vanitha Sahayavani Helpline 1091	Rescue and Support for Women in distress, telephone counselling, trained volunteers to rescue women, short stay home, family counselling, rehabilitation.
	Hello Neighbour	Neighbours in every locality
	Knowledge Center	Information for all
	Legal Aid	All especially the poor and needy
Hyderabad	Mobile App to empower public to be Citizen Police-Hawk Eye	Women
	Lost Report - Mobile App, Whatsapp	All
	She Teams/She Shuttles	Women
	Citizens Feedback Services	All
	Nenu Saitham- City wide safe city Project Community CCTV project- to encourage community to deploy CCTV system in buildings, corridors, common areas	Safety of women, children and elderly
Pune	Bharosa Call (COPs Hub)	Women, children and elderly in crisis
	Awareness and safety Tips	All
	Helplines for women 1091	Women
	Helpdesk for Foreign Students	International Students
	SEVA - Service, Excellence and Victim Assistance	Victims of crime
	Patrolling vehicles with modern facilities	All
	Buddy COP and Whatsapp	Safety and security of women
Ahmedabad	Cyber Police Station	Check cyber fraud and other offences in cyberspace

Bhubaneswar	Citizens Call Center Helpline	ALL
	Childline	Children
	Crime Stopper Helpline- 181, Rescue and relief helpline-1070	Women
	Mahila Police Station	Women
	295 Women Special Police Officers (SPOs)	Women under distress
	Senior Citizens Security Calls (SCSC)	Safety and security of senior citizens.
Jaipur	Mahila and Shishu desk at every Police Station	Women and Children
	Madhyam family Counseling Center, short stay homes	Women
	Missing Children Helpline	Children
	Help in Suffering 0141-3245673	Women, children and elderly
Chennai	Citizen Helpline 0141-2743190	ALL
	Yellow Brigade, Blue Brigade patrolling vehicles	Safety and security of vulnerables
	100 Hyundai Accent Cars for patrolling with digital cameras, wireless communication devices and loudspeakers	Safety and security of vulnerables
	Helpline for women, children and report a crime	Women and children in distress
	Kavalan	Citizen safety app

Source: [www.mumbaipolice.co.in](http://www.mumbaipolice.co.in);  
[www.kolkatapolice.gov.in](http://www.kolkatapolice.gov.in); [www.delhipolice.nic.in](http://www.delhipolice.nic.in)  
[www.bcp.gov.in](http://www.bcp.gov.in); [www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in](http://www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in); [www.punepolice.gov.in](http://www.punepolice.gov.in); [http://ahmedabad.nic/police/](http://http://ahmedabad.nic/police/);  
[www.bhubaneswarcuttackpolice.gov.in](http://www.bhubaneswarcuttackpolice.gov.in);  
[www.police.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.police.rajasthan.gov.in) and  
[www.tnpolice.gov.in](http://www.tnpolice.gov.in) accessed on 10th September, 2020.

#### (d) Countermeasures by the People

The common people can initiate the following countermeasures for the safety and security of women:

- Report grievance if any
- Be aware, tech savvy and educate yourself
- Use empowering language, encourage sensitization by family and peers
- Respond to someone who is disclosing information about violence
- Ethical representation of victim/survivors
- Speak up both bystander and victim
- Be a flagbearer of women's independence, women's rights and human rights
- Stand by and support NGOS and promote those working for the rights of the vulnerable
- Do not depend on anyone, learn the self defense techniques
- Spread awareness on legislations for the rights of women, children and elderly
- Advocate for a systemic change in society to get rid of its vices

- Take care of yourself, respect yourself, love yourself and feel proud of yourself
- Encourage proper parenting through sensitizing children about the values of equality, dignity, self esteem, respect for all and care for the elderly.

## VII. Concluding remarks

A growing number of crime against women, children and senior citizens is a serious challenge to smart cities of India. The alarming raise in the rate of cyber crime in the recent years is another menace to combat. Newer dimensions of crime enroute Information technology where the perpetrators are mainly youth is a cause of concern. In this regard with increasing pressure on the traffic monitoring system in relation to drunken driving, violation of traffic rules and corruption within the system and makes the environment of smart cities polluted. Social Movements, people's rights, the rise of the civil society are making a call for new smart policing especially in urban areas. This can be achieved through public awareness, dissemination of information, identification of social ailments and having a positive approach towards society and healthy and secure social life.

Further the role of NGOs also deserve mention. The proactive and enthusiastic appeal of these welfare organizations towards public well being and improved social living should be encouraged and people should come forward for fund raising and awareness building. Collaborative effort of the people, NGOs and the urban police can foster sustainable urban society which are smart in the true sense of the term. Each city has its unique characteristics, issues of concern and distinct demographic and environmental conditions which influence people's life and crime trends. Thus each police commissionerate should identify the lacunae, problems and prioritise accordingly and can thereby succeed in achieving success in combating crime.

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