

# With Reference to a Specific Developing Country, Explain Why is it so Difficult to Prevent Crimes of Sexual Violence Against Women? Analysis of Sexual Violence in India

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## ABSTRACT

In today's Indian society, the status of women has been significantly improved compared with that before independence, which can not be separated from the exposure of women's issues in the world and the awakening of women's independence consciousness, but the inequality between men and women is still serious. This paper starts from the current security problems faced by Women in India, analyzes the general situation of the security problems of women in India, the causes, research status and impact of this problem, as well as possible solutions mentioned in the appendix. This article will be divided into four parts.

The first part introduces the general situation of women's security in contemporary India and the research status of international scholars on this issue. In the overview, it mainly introduces the abuse and violence of contemporary Indian women in the home, as well as social violence such as rape, sexual harassment and so on. It shows that Indian women are facing extremely serious social security problems. The second part mainly discusses the causes of women's security in contemporary India. Mainly from the religious system, patriarchal culture, weak implementation of laws and regulations efficiency and ability, India's traditional sex culture and other aspects of the study. The third part focuses on the impact of the security problems suffered by contemporary Indian women. From the individual level, national level, international level to elaborate and analyze.

**Keywords:** *sexual violence, developing country, Equality between men and women, India*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Since India gained independence in 1947, the status of Indian women has improved significantly in terms of liberation compared to the previous years. Through a series of laws and policies, many organizations have been established to protect the legal rights of women. It changed the low family status and social status of Indian women since the voyage. When women strongmen like Indira Gandhi and Pratibha Patil emerged in politics; With the emergence of many female business leaders in the economic field, the status of women is expected to improve both domestically and internationally, but the status of women in India has not changed fundamentally. Influenced by the caste system and traditional culture, and the current government's weak enforcement of the law, India still hides an ugly side of society behind the halo of being a populous country.

In Indian society, theoretical equality between men and women does not replace real inequality between men and women. A series of rape cases and domestic violence incidents constantly remind and highlight the disadvantaged position of women. Meanwhile, women have to bear the harm caused by traditional inertia. At the same time, the security crisis caused by the low status of women in contemporary India has affected Indians' attitude towards foreign women to a certain extent, and cases of foreign women being violated still occur intermittently in Indian society, all of which directly affect India's image in the international community. Therefore, the safety of Indian women is an important issue in the near and long-term Indian society, which has important theoretical and practical significance for its research.

In addition, the low status of women in the world does not exist in India, but widely exists in Asia, Africa,

Latin America and other developing countries. Therefore, the analysis and explanation of Indian women's security issue can actually provide some reference for developing countries.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of Indian women's security is of great practical significance to the development of India itself. In addition, it is also of great significance to the development of developing countries. However, as far as the domestic academic circles in China are concerned, the study of women's history is relatively late, and the study of Indian women's issues and their security issues is even later, and systematic research works are scarce. (history, Culture, and Identity, P.179)<sup>[1]</sup> For now, there are mainly Li Ling's *Indian women: history, reality, a new awakening*, this book mainly introduces the India in chronological order from ancient times to the independent Indian women's situation, this paper introduces the women's living conditions since India's independence, position change, and there are a series of problems. (Li, 1986)<sup>[2]</sup> The book also highlights and illuminates the abuses that exist in contemporary India, illustrating the seriousness of the problem of women's safety in India. This book is the first monograph to systematically introduce Indian women's issues. Due to its early publication and relatively old data, it only records the situation of Indian women in the early 1980s, without a concentrated discussion and explanation on contemporary women's security issues in Indian society.

In addition, there is also *Tao Xiaohong's Women in Colonial India*, which systematically introduces the situation of Indian women in the colonial period, as well as a brief introduction to the situation of Indian women before the colonial period. The book explains the reasons for the low status of women in India. (Tao, 2011)<sup>[3]</sup>

In addition, it focuses on the circumstances and causes of the changes in the status of women in colonial India, especially noting the importance of education and the formation of women's organizations in the awakening of women. In fact, it points out ways and means to solve the problem of women's security in India. *The Manu Code*, a book on the rules of Hinduism, contains many specific rules on the duties and obligations of Women in India, as well as the introduction of various acts of discrimination against women. It is an important reference for analyzing the safety of Women in India from a religious and cultural perspective. (Jiang, 1986, p. 174)<sup>[4]</sup>

*women with international human rights law*, the series of women's rights from the perspective of international law has carried on the detailed analysis and interpretation, and the crime against women and infringement behavior gave introduction and description,

focus on specific solutions are put forward from the perspective of international law, part of the content of Indian women security problems, It is an important reference material for studying the safety of women in India from a legal perspective. In addition, there are few treatises on the situation of Indian women, especially on the safety of Indian women. (Askin&Koenig, 2002).<sup>[5]</sup> Lee Kuan Yew (2014) once said in his book, "The caste system has made the situation in India more complicated, which is an important factor hindering its development."<sup>[6]</sup> It can be seen that the study of the problems brought by the Caste system in India has been transferred from India to the whole world, and has become an issue that has attracted the attention of the whole world. (Li, 2014, p.123-124)

## 3. METHODOLOGY

Guided by marxist historical theory, this paper uses historical materialism, dialectical materialism and historical analysis method to summarize and analyze the issues of women's security in India and its impact, so as to discuss the possible and effective governance approaches of this issue in India and the world. At the same time, it makes comprehensive use of the knowledge of law, demography, sociology, political science and other disciplines, and combines macro with onlookers. Fully show and explain the current Indian society women's security issues.

## 4. ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF WOMEN'S SECURITY PROBLEMS IN INDIAN SOCIETY

Gender-based violence is repetitive and cyclical. Domestic violence is also more frequent when men and women in a relationship are in an unequal position, or when women voluntarily accept violence. At the same time, domestic violence is less likely to lead to the end of a relationship if women are unwilling to change the relationship, or if they cling to traditional beliefs. The serious problem of women's security in contemporary Indian society is the result of many reasons. On the other hand, there has long been prejudice against women in Indian society. Even women themselves have acknowledged the fact that women are discriminated against, and such prejudice has become an important factor for men to endanger the safety of women. Indian religion, especially the combination of Hinduism and patriarchy, is an important reason for the impact of Indian women's safety. In addition, India's laws and regulations are not perfect and implementation is not in place, India's sexual culture, low administrative efficiency and other factors are also threatened to the safety of Indian women. It can be seen that a series of incidents concerning women's safety have shocked India and the world due to the combined effects of various factors.

#### ***4.1. The Combination of Religion and Patriarchy Reinforces the Construction of Inequality***

In the early religious period, women actually enjoyed more freedom. They were allowed to enter religious places, travel and study, and even fight. However, with the in-depth development of the patriarchal system and the improvement of religious doctrines and religious systems, the gender inequality contained in religion has been increasingly strengthened. The ideas of equality between men and women and being kind to women contained in early religious thoughts have been gradually ignored by theologians and believers, while the scriptures of responsibility and restriction of women's behavior have been exaggerated. So the combination of religion and patriarchy deepens the unequal gender system. For example, the Hindu Code of Manu states that "a woman should obey her father in her youth, her husband in her youth, her son in her old age, and a woman should never take liberties."

"In terms of marriage, women have basically lost their autonomy. They may be given to another by a brother by his father or with his consent. The inautonomy of women's marriage will inevitably lead to the passivity of their married life. After marriage, the husband is the head of the family, the master and authority of the family, and the woman is completely dependent on the husband and is in the dominant position in the family life." (Li, 1986)<sup>[7]</sup> so much so that the propagators of Hinduism believed that women had a powerful destructive force on society. Women are considered to be the source of all evil in society by keeping men spiritually incapable of achieving their goals. Hindu doctrine states that "for a woman there is only one God, her husband; Her sole duty is unconditional obedience to her husband, no matter how morally corrupt he may be or how unreasonable his demands may be." All these are the embodiment of the long-term thought of men's superiority over women in Indian society, and also an important reason for the serious security problems of women in today's Indian society.

Secondly, under the combined effect of religion and patriarchy, men and women have unequal rights to receive education. That is, men have the right to education, while women enjoy the right to education is deprived and neglected. In fact, when women's religious rights and social relations are deprived, their right to education is often ignored. Just like this, the reason for depriving the right to education is often firmly in the hands of men. The lack of educational opportunities for women will inevitably lead to the low status of women, and then threaten their security.

#### ***4.2. The Formulation and Implementation of Laws and Regulations Are Not in Place***

Since its independence, India has enacted a series of laws and regulations to guarantee women's various rights. These laws and regulations have helped Indian women's safety to some extent. These laws and regulations concerning the safety of Women in India mainly include: The Indian Constitution, which stipulates that men and women enjoy equal rights. Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees that both men and women have the right to life, and Article 15 stipulates the right to equality and equal protection before the law. In addition, there are a number of laws dealing with dowry, marriage and divorce, mainly the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 and the Child Marriage Prohibition Act of 2006. In addition, there are a number of protective laws covering crimes against Women in India, such as the provisions of the Indian Criminal Code on rape of a woman, which defines rape as having sex with a woman against her will and without her consent. Since the age of commitment under Indian law is 16, having sex with a girl under the age of 16 in India is considered statutory rape, regardless of whether the girl consents or not.

It can be seen that Laws in India have been constantly improved and developed along with the development of Indian society. The Indian government and relevant institutions have also taken corresponding measures to address the serious problem of women's security. (Wang, 2017, P.68-78)<sup>[8]</sup> On a legal level, Indian law is fairly strict in dealing with acts that harm women. If every law can be enforced, the phenomenon in society will not be as rampant as it is today, and it will effectively guarantee and realize the equality of men and women in Indian society. However, due to the lack of law enforcement and the influence of the ideology and culture of male superiority and female inferiority formed over a long period of time, many behaviors strictly prohibited by laws mentioned above still exist in different degrees. Even in the face of a mountain of laws and regulations, it is difficult to implement laws due to the "old thinking" of judicial enforcers.

If the Indian government fails to be more strict in legislation and law enforcement, and fails to advocate gender equality in ideology, culture and consciousness and achieve gender equality in real life, it will be inevitable for Indian women to be persecuted, and social chaos such as child marriage and polygamy may get worse. The reason is that "India's ostensible democracy, equality and rule of law is actually a flawed democracy, equality and rule of law, or not really implemented in practice.(2013)<sup>[9]</sup>

### **4.3. Income Level, Education Level and Other Factors**

The issue of women's safety in contemporary Indian society is also biologically asymmetrical with the bodies of men and women. In terms of overall physical strength, men are more explosive. There is no doubt that this asymmetry does play an important role in contributing to the prevalence and persistence of serious events at times when women are particularly vulnerable, such as pregnancy and pregnancy. In the early postpartum period, the situation is more severe. (Askin&Conig, 2007, P.687) That is to say, the physical advantages of men over women, especially the physical advantages, lead to the dominant position of men over women, and men threaten the safety of women with their inherent advantages. This threat is direct and natural, and women cannot stop or overcome it.

Other data show that the occurrence of domestic violence and other incidents is related to the level of poverty or economic conditions of the family. The identity difference in caste system also affects the safety of women to some extent, especially the lower caste women face more physical and psychological violence. According to the report, "Low-income women suffer more violence." Violence is also influenced by the structure of the family, where violence tends to occur more frequently than in smaller families. From the above explanation, economic, caste system, culture, education and other factors affect the frequency of male violence against women.

In addition to these factors, there are other factors that contribute to the safety of Indian women. For example, male drinking and gambling habits. According to the data, women are significantly more likely to experience violence in households where the male gambles and drinks heavily. Compared with other countries, the reason why women's security in India is particularly serious is that apart from the universal factors in some countries, India's unique cultural and historical factors for a long time are also one of the factors that lead to the violence against women.

## **5. THE IMPLICATIONS OF WOMEN'S SECURITY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN SOCIETY**

Violence against women is widely recognized as an important public health and safety issue because of its impact on women's physical, mental and reproductive health. This recognition has been strengthened in global discussions. Violence against women follows women from birth to old age. Women who experience violence suffer from a range of health problems and are thus less able to participate in public life. Generation after generation of violence against women harms families and communities and reinforces the prevalence of other

forms of violence in society. Violence against women also impoverishes women, families, communities and countries. Although modern liberal theory generally agrees with the equality of power between men and women, there is a big difference between modern liberal theory and reality. In fact, in reality, discrimination against women largely comes from religious worship and cultural inheritance.

### **5.1. The Impact of Women's Safety in India on an Individual Level**

In terms of contemporary Society in India, violence against women also causes harm to women in many ways. In addition to the direct physical harm, people should pay more attention to the psychological harm. Domestic violence and social violence, the most direct harm to Indian women comes from the physical harm. As a major health problem worldwide, domestic violence causes many harms, especially physical injuries. For example, headaches, bone pain, fractures, facial injuries, and injuries to tendons or bremsstrahlung are the most immediate manifestations of physical injury. In addition, chronic headaches, hearing and visual impairments are common effects of violent behavior. Violence also increases women's risk of becoming infected with HIV. Domestic violence can increase a woman's risk of contracting HIV because it limits women's ability to discuss marital infidelity, negotiate condom use and refuse sexual intercourse, according to research by Indian academics in southern India.

In addition to the harm caused by direct violence in the family, the harm of child marriage is also great. In India, UNICEF found in its survey that early marriage is emerging and difficult to control in India, and identified it as an important issue in the girls' movement. (Askin, &Conig, 2007, P.687)<sup>[10]</sup>

The consequences of child marriage are devastating in several ways. Early marriage not only ensures that the responsibility and cost of raising a daughter is shifted away from the family at birth, but it also reinforces harmful traditional gender roles. Where early marriage is an important institution, girls' education is curtailed, their opportunities outside of marriage dissolution and child-rearing are limited, and their ability to participate in their communities is greatly hampered. Second, early marriage also increases the risk of marital violence. The great age gap between husband and wife reinforces the wife's attachment and weakness to her husband. When a young woman is dependent on her in-laws, it causes her to become dependent and lose more sense of self. After being assaulted and raped, even a young woman does not know who to turn to for help. This dependence in the relatively backward education level of the root is further aggravated domestic violence and the resulting harm. Third, child marriage increases a woman's risk of reproductive diseases. Young women are often forced

into marriage or sexual relationships, leading to health risks, including the risk of HIV infection.

To sum up, it can be seen that the security problems faced by Indian women are extremely harmful to women themselves. In addition to the immediate physical damage, the psychological damage is often more terrible.

### ***5.2. The Impact of Women's Security in India at the National Level***

In addition to the physical and psychological impacts on individuals analyzed above, the security of Women in Indian society has also caused huge losses to the country, which is most directly reflected in its impact on economic development. The cost of violence against women is very high. These include "the costs of providing treatment and support services to these abused women and their children and the direct costs of bringing their abusers to justice". Indirect costs include women's lost jobs, reduced productivity, and human suffering. In addition, due to threats to their own safety, Indian women choose to work less outside the home, or reduce the time to work outside, which obviously plays a big hindering role in the process of economic modernization. The Washington Post wrote that "the impact of sexual assault in India has gone far beyond social security and is gradually affecting India's economic development." (2013)<sup>[11]</sup>

In India, the labor force participation rate of women is seriously insufficient, which leads to the serious lag of India's economic development and further hinders the process of India's modernization. The achievement of India's economic development goals will also be made more uncertain by the issue.

In addition, the serious domestic violence and social violence in Indian society have an obvious impact on India's political modernization in addition to its economic modernization. Due to security considerations, women have less enthusiasm and opportunities to participate in politics, which is extremely detrimental to the process of democratic politics. It can be seen from this that the development of labor productivity and politics in Indian society has been seriously hindered, and the development of Indian economy is beset with the issue of women's security. If women's safety is not dealt with in a strict way in India, the sustained high rate of economic growth will be difficult. Of course, the negative impact of women's security issues not only stays at the individual level of women and the national level, but also the negative impact at the national level cannot be ignored.

### ***5.3. The Impact of Women's Security in India at the International Level***

Embassies in India have warned women not to travel alone in the country because of horrific rape cases. This is self-evident blow to The Tourism industry in India, and even can be said to have caused a fatal blow to the tourism industry in India. On top of this, violence against foreign women tourists has led more and more foreign women tourists to abandon India as their first choice for tourism. Many tourists have therefore chosen Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam as their first choice for tourism," he said. (2013)

## **6. THE SOLUTIONS**

To tackle this thorny issue, India must approach it in many ways. First, the relevant institutions and organizations of the international community, especially those of the United Nations, must strive to do their part to address the security of women in India. At present, international laws are far from enough to protect the safety of women, and the number of laws passed is still limited. The revision of laws with universal international effect and the implementation of other measures to protect women are therefore particularly important. Second, the Indian state must strive to play its role as the main actor in resolving the problem. At the national level, Indian government women's organizations and ngos must work to improve their work and become strong guardians of women's safety. To improve the economic status of women, improve the administrative efficiency of the government, strengthen the safety education of women and slowly change the social atmosphere of discrimination against women are the direction they must strive for. Finally, individual efforts in Indian society are also essential. From the personal level, in order to solve the problem of women's safety, individuals should try to reinterpret religious classics and change the traditional cultural discrimination against women. In addition, women should also improve their ability to deal with security incidents through learning. It is believed that with the joint efforts of the international community as well as the Indian nation state and individuals, the long-standing and recently highlighted women's security issues in Indian society can be effectively contained and solved.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

In fact, the issue of women's security in Indian society has its deep historical and cultural roots. As we can see, in addition to the traditional historical and cultural factors, that is, the combination of patriarchy and religious and cultural factors, the ineffective enactment and enforcement of laws and regulations in India, the influence of traditional sexual culture, the inefficiency of Indian administrative institutions, and

even the family structure and the life habit of male alcoholism have all become important reasons. Of course, the low level of education and income of women are closely related to the implementation of the caste system. In short, the serious problems of women's security in Indian society are the result of historical and practical factors. Although the problem of Indian women is still serious, it is believed that with the development of secularization movement in India and the continuous improvement of the status of Indian women, the security problem of Indian women will definitely develop in an idealized direction.

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