

# Problem and Issues of Women Empowerment in India

## Abstract

"Women should be uplifted for the up-liftment of the nation, if a women is uplifted, society and nation is uplifted."

-By Nehru

Women role in our life will start from birth to till end in different ways in different span of life , Apart from these in Indian culture ,we admire and pray (preach) them in the name of different gods like Saraswati , Durga and Kali. So importance of women we can easily understand from religious ghant. No doubt about the women play a significant role in contribution of society and nation. Women will contribute their work in every field in our society, which have been seen in our day to day activities. After admiring all these concern, still in our country day to day violence against the women will increase rapidly. Violence against women can be minimized or eradicate only through the women empowerment. This paper aims to understand the different types of problem and challenges faced by women in our society and also understand to overcome through women empowerment.

**Keywords:** Women, Empowerment, Violence, Society, Problem and Challenges.

## Introduction

In 21<sup>st</sup> century India present himself as a powerful nation around the world. It also considered the largest democracy in the world, But Unfortunately women backwardness in all major areas is clear in the Indian society. Even after knowing the women are backbone of the society. Society never exist women and men in his life .but women in our society have considered as inferior than men even after more than sixty year of independence. The major problem of backwardness of women in our society is due to lack of women empowerment. Women will face the different types of problems from birth to till death. The problem basically sex discrimination, illiteracy, dowry system, safety, sexual harassment in workplace and many more. They have to go extra miles then men to prove equivalent to them. The work done by women were never recognized and appreciated. Only women empowerment is the tool which helps to determining the success of development in the status and position of women in our society. Because women empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their right. In simple sentences women empowerment has generally been understood as women's ability to control and master their own lives and situation, increased decision –making power etc. As a result time will come to frame women empowerment programmed at all level in our society. That is why the main objective of the study was to understand the problem and challenges faced the women and barrier in order to become women empowerment in our society and nation. The objective of the study also to understand the different types of violence like sexual harassments, dowry system, illiteracy, safety and others.

## Review of Literature

Sophia J.A. (2011) conducted a study to find out the challenges facing women in career development. She found that most of the women employees were dissatisfied with career development programmers and women were discriminated against in career development opportunities. The study recommended that organizations should strive to ensure that career development programmers were set to enhance career development among women employees. Top management should also be committed to the career development of women, and organizations should also introduce affirmative action to urgently address career development of women.



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Akula, R. And Reddy, M.A. (2016) conducted a study on women in higher education in India. He concluded that higher education department become seriousness in promoting women’s education and it’s seen in different parts in society.

Varghose, M. (2017) conducted a study to find out the women’s right are human rights. She concluded that government and non government organization try to understand the problem of women from grassroots level in order to become women empowerment in country.

Yadav, A. (2017) conducted a study on changing perception of parents regarding girl’s higher education. She concluded that attitude of parents is a favorable indicators towards ensuring higher education to girl’s. She also concluded that parents are positive attitude towards relaxing girls from household work in case of good performance in her studies.

Bharathi, J. & Krishna, S. (2018) conducted a study to find out the protection of married women from dowry death. He concluded that protective law fall and materialism influenced by greed seems to the primary cause for consistent dowry related violence against women.

Gupta, R. (2018) conducted a studied on violation of women’s right in India. He found that violence against the women can be removed only through the proper education and their legal literacy is too increased. He also concluded that women are made aware of their right and fair share in political power.

Patil, A. & Manjre, R.M. (2018) conducted a study on role of education in women empowerment from feminist perspective. He concluded that until and unless women are not educated and not empowered with equal position in the society the nation cannot be developed.

## Problems and Challenges Faced by Women

The dramatic increase in violence against women in India in the past decades has been all too well reported in domestic and international newspapers. Although the statistics speak for themselves, it’s nevertheless important to understand that the issue is more global than local. Crimes against women in India will serve here as merely case studies for this persistent social plague which afflicts nearly half of the population of the world.

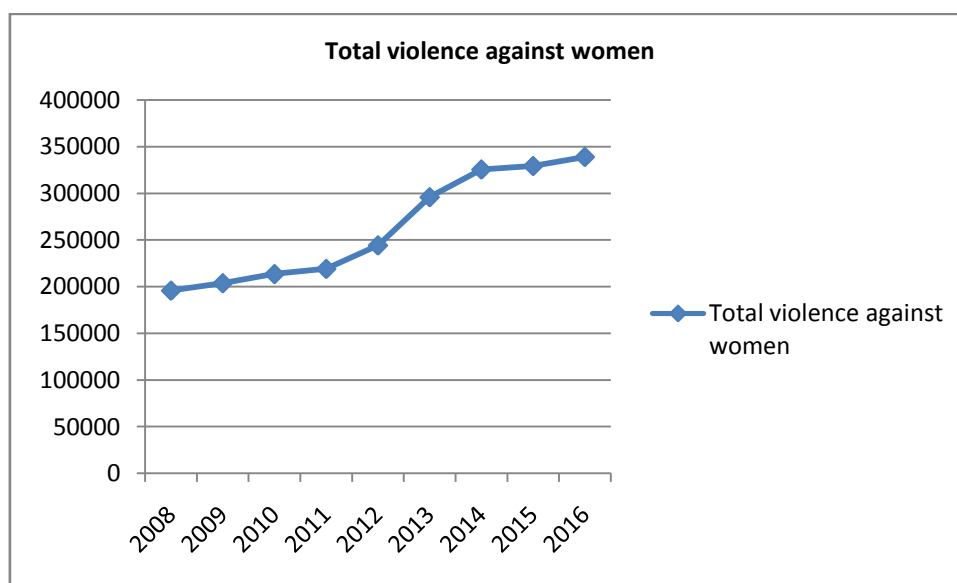
Conservation Mentally of society towards the women

In India most of the people educated simply because they are to get some employment, which further help in his old period. Those people who are not in favour of sending the daughter for employment do not feel the necessity of educating them. People in society thought that women are less capable and efficient in working as compared to men. The attitudes which consider women are unfit for certain job like defense service, politics and others. Even Indian constitutional rights are unable to provide the equal opportunity. It shame that in 21<sup>st</sup> century, not only illiterate people but also illiterate part of the society also thought are not change towards the women. People understand the importance of women but unable to understand the equal freedom of women after seventy year of independence.

## Violence against Women

The life of Indian women is full of sorrow and anxiety. There are various types of crime like rape, molestation, dowry harassment, wife-battering, kidnapping, female children to be sold into brothel homes, forcible embracement etc. problems faced by Indian women. Each coming year crime against the women will increase sharply in India.

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total violence against women	195856	203804	213585	219142	244270	295896	325527	329243	338954



## Sexual Crime towards The Women

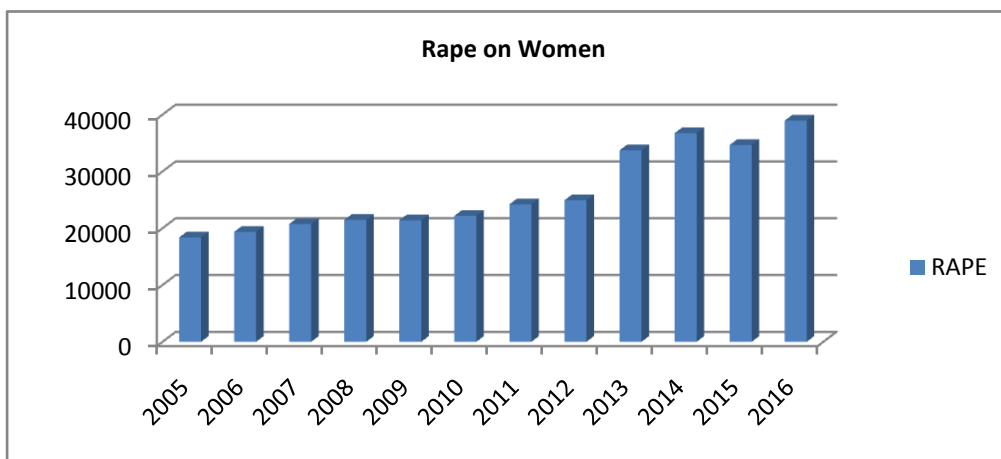
Sexual crime against the women can be categories in followings ways

### Rape on women

Rape is one of the most common crimes basically in India. According the Criminal Law (Amendment Act 2013) defined the rape as penile and non penile penetration in bodily orifices of a woman

by a man, without the consent of the women. Women raped every 25 minutes in different part of India. Incidents of rape are reported increase in every coming year. According to the central bureau of crime given the figure like

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RAPE	18359	19348	20737	21467	21397	22172	24206	24923	33707	36735	34651	38947

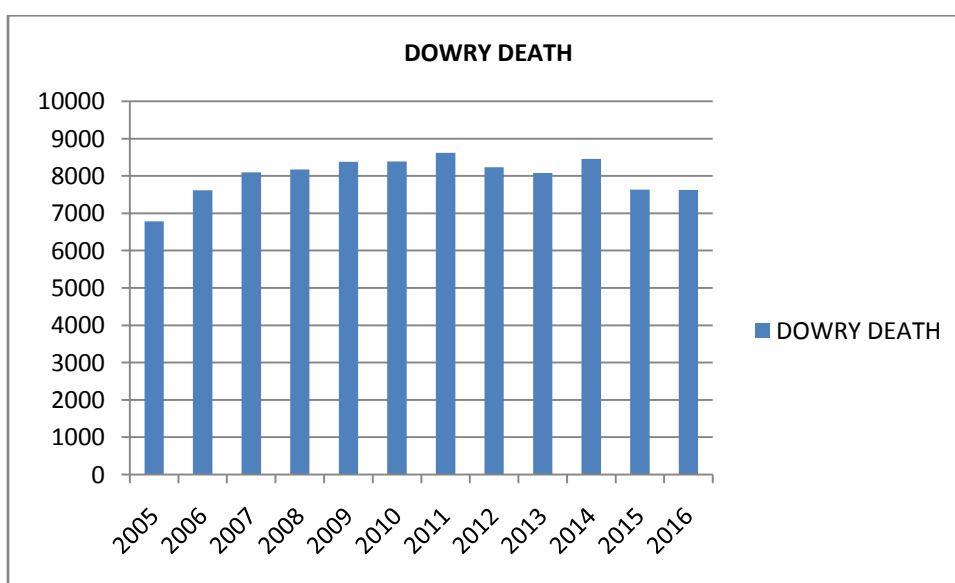


### Dowry Death

In India another problem generally faced by women of low or middle class family during or after marriage is dowry system. In 1961, the Government of India passed the dowry Prohibition Act , in order to stop the death caused by dowry demand before and after girl marriage. However, many cases of dowry-related domestic violence, suicides and murder have been reported. Because of huge amount of dowry

demand by groom family, in case of unable to paid the women will died. When after observing the sequences number of year for dowry death, unfortunately said the government will be unable to stop it or abolished till date. So it difficult for parents to fulfill both dowry and education, as a result difficult to think a word women empowerment. Women need real social, political, financial and moral support in their fight against the system.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Dowry Death	6787	7618	8093	8172	8383	8391	8618	8233	8083	8455	7634	7621

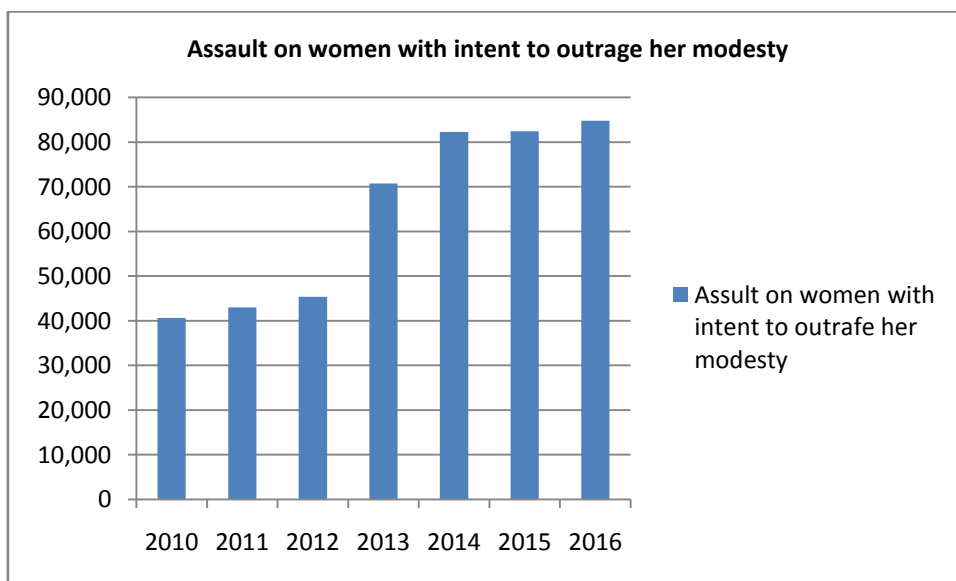


## Rapid increased assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty

According to law Section 354 of Indian Penal code ,1973 Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty means whoever assault or uses criminal force to any women , intending to outrage or knowing

it to be likely that he will there by outrage her modesty, shall be punished . After formation of such a law still in India rate of such types of case will increase rapidly from year 2010 to 2016, which is also one strong barrier for women empowerment.

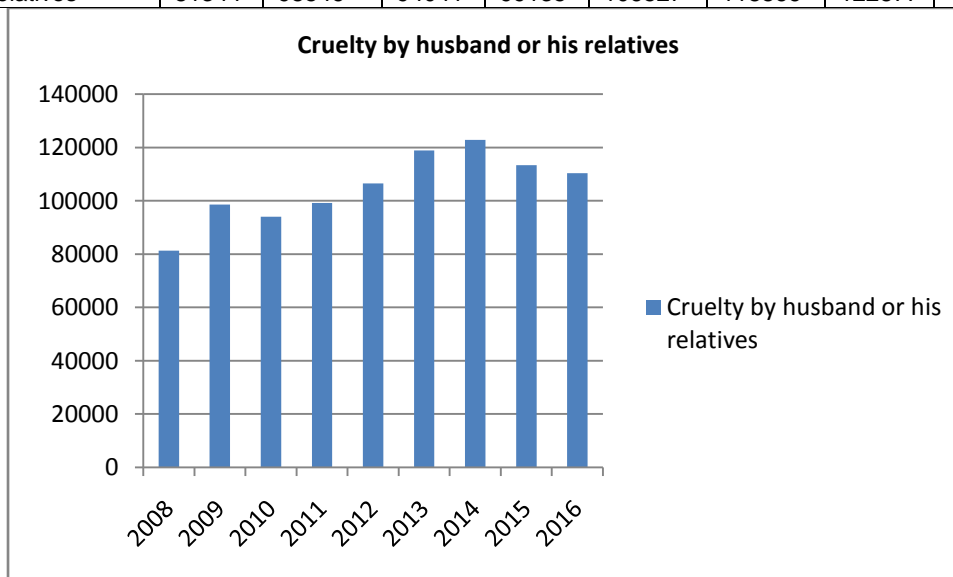
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty	40,613	42,968	45341	70739	82235	82422	84746



## Cruelty Husband

The majority of cases categorized as crimes against women were reported under 'Cruelty by husband or his relatives'. Every nine minutes, a case of cruelty is committed by either of husbands or a relative of the husband. Cruelty by a husband or his relatives is the greatest occurring against the women from 2010 to 2016

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cruelty by husband or his relatives	81344	98546	94041	99135	106527	118866	122877	113403	110378



## Sexual Harassment

It is the form of sexual exploitation of a woman at any place in the society. Today, almost all working women are prone to sexual harassment

irrespective of their status, position, personal characteristics and the types of their employment in their own palace. They face sexual harassment on way on transports, bus stop, at working places,

educational institutions and home, even a law protector are also not serious when they go to file complaints. It is shocking that the law protectors are violating and outraging modesty of women. Most of the women tend to be concentrated in the poor service jobs whereas men are in an immediate supervisory position, which gives them an opportunity to exploit their subordinate women.

#### **Gender Discrimination**

Gender discrimination refers to “the practice whereby one sex is given preferential treatment over the others. Women are considered as weaker section of the society than men and give less importance. Women are becoming real victims of the discrimination. Work and power are categorized according to the gender in Indian society. Gender discrimination affects women in the areas like nutrition, education, healthcare, job, public life etc. Girls have no equal property like boys forever.

#### **Un-attraction of Education**

Even after of 70 years of independence, still some parts of society have followed the slogan like “ladki to paraya dhan hoti hai”. They generally ignored the women education. According to Census 2011, the literacy rate of female is 65.46% whereas that of male is 82.14%, which is huge gap between two genders. There are many parents only prefer boy education. Women for them are only medium to keep family happy and healthy. Women education percentage is low, especially in the rural areas because they discouraged for higher education. As a result Women illiteracy stands in the way of women’s empowerment in business and commerce, agriculture and industries.

#### **Lack of Girls School**

The number of women’s educational institution is much less as compared with institution engage education in the spread of male education,. In rural areas the women are supposed to travel some distance, before reaching a women education institution. Many parents did not like their daughter should leave the village for going to school, in regard of safety. Many people still condemn and dislike the co-education. Parents thought that girls are not safe in co – educational institution. As a result large part of women is still lack of education.

#### **Lack of women teacher and basic facilities for women education**

The lack of women’s teachers in primary, secondary and senior secondary school level in rural part of India. Parents prefer only women teacher for teaching their girls child. Most of the girls drop out due to the unavailability of separate toilets and hostel facilities for them.

#### **Fast changing Technology**

Due to advancement of new technology, most of the field recruitment based the skilled people. Since the large majority of the women in the society are unskilled. As a result, it difficult for them to get a standard job, they are the main victims of these changes.

#### **Family Support**

Lack of proper family support is another issue that working women suffers from. At times, the

family doesn’t support women to leave the household work and go to office. They also resist for women working till late in office which also hampers the performance of the women and this also affects their promotion.

#### **No Safety of Working Women While Traveling**

Typically, the orthodox mindset in the Indian society makes it difficult for a working woman to balance her domestic environment with the professional life. In some families, it may not be acceptable to work after six o’clock. Those families that do accept these working hours may experience considerable anxiety every day about a woman’s safety while traveling. So many issues affect a working woman because she is closely protected or watched by her family and the society.

#### **Lack of Political Will**

The still pending women’s reservation bill underscores the lack of political will empower women politically. The male dominance prevails in the politics of India and women are forced to remain mute spectators.

#### **Suggestions for the effectiveness of Women empowerment**

1. Violence against women and girls is rooted in gender discrimination and social norms. In addition to challenges in ending all violence against women, ending sexual violence against women requires more gender equality in all parts of the society. Part of being human is our sexuality. Sex and gender influence many different parts of a person’s life. Sexual violence against women can happen when a woman’s value in society is seen only through her sexuality. Reflect the unequal relation of power between women and men, resulting in the domination, discrimination of women by men and they are more likely to be victimized through their sexuality. It will minimize only when the difference word will erase in dictionary of society.
2. Violence against women can be prevented by strengthening women’s access to basic human right and resources.
3. Family helps women to be economically independent.
4. Government change the way or set-up special fast track court handle cases involving women violence. Because women crime will increase due to delay in legal procedures and the presence of several loopholes in the functioning of a judicial system.
5. Introducing and supporting gender sensitization and public awareness programmes aimed at eradicating violence against women and children.
6. Encouraging the media to play a constructive role in the eradication of violence against women.
7. Women can be empowered through the creation of crime free environment. The workplace should be safe for the female members of the society. People will like to send their daughter and wives to work if they are assured of safe environment at workplaces.

8. Women can be empowered by decreasing the gender inequalities or disparities in all sectors of the society especially in education.
9. Women can be empowered by providing job skills or vocational training according to the local demand of the society.
10. Women Reservation Bill should be passed as soon as possible to increase the effective participation of women in the politics of India.
11. Government not only introduced the new welfare programmes but also continue monitor the programmed which had launched earlier for women. In India basically a huge or difficult job for their proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation of any women welfare programmed, due to corruption and population.

**Conclusion**

The present status of women in our society is far from being satisfactory and is not due to limitations on any one single component at work. In understanding the lack of women empowerment in our society, we need to introspect, the areas such as sex discrimination, rape, molestation, dowry harassment, wife-battering, kidnapping, female children to be sold into brothel homes, forcible embezzlement, will power etc. For the suitable construction of society, there is need to give special attention on women empowerment in India. Also conservation mentally of society towards the women will need to change. Not only will the government awareness programmes change totally but also education and positive role of every individual will help to development the status of women. Gender bias from the entire educational curriculum must be removed. The parents must not hesitate in sending the girls child to co-educational institutions. Government will more initiative awareness programmes to be develop basically for rural people and remote areas. Practical utility of women empowerment programmed are still missed on basic level of society. Lastly strictly implementation, creation and support of legislative, judiciary will be beneficial to sort out the women related problem in India. The government and non government agencies should try to organic awareness programmed, seminar, and workshop and motivate them to the activities related to children and women.

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