

36. CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Why crime against women is increasing in our society. Is it because of:-
Ineffective Police or Weak laws or Women themselves are responsible

Background:-

On any day you read newspaper or watch news on TV, there will be a case of reporting of Rape, Molestation, Eve teasing or Domestic Violence against women. So much was said about controlling crime against women especially after Nirbhaya Gang Rape of Delhi. Police Commissioner, Lt Governor and CM of Delhi all assured that steps will be taken to curb violence against women. But there is no reduction in crime against women. So who is to be blamed?

Police

- There is only one Constable for 1500 Persons in Delhi. It is physically not possible for Police to man every area.
- Police is not trained to deal with traumatized victims.

- Police is not equipped with latest communication system.

Suggestion

- Increase strength of police by recruiting more personnel
- Increase number of PCR vans to show more visibility.
- Conduct survey and identify crime prone areas and have Police post in those areas.
- Lesser vulnerable areas may be covered by CCTVs.
- Establish command centre where all complaints received from the victims are automatically directed to nearest PCRs thereby reducing reaction time.
- Police to be trained to be sensitive to the victims, provide them comfort instead of further traumatizing them.
- Train police to collect forensic evidence which might help in identifying the criminals.

Laws

- It takes lot of time to deliver justice. There are too many cases pending in the courts. Courts are few

and judges are under posted. As a result, most of the times witnesses stop appearing in the court. Sometimes the witnesses become hostile under the influence of criminals resulting in the criminals going scot free. Therefore crime against women should be tried by Fast track courts. As it was done in Rajasthan, where a Rapist who had raped a German Tourist in Jaipur, was sentenced with in Nine months.

- A committee headed by Mr. Verma, Late Chief Justice of Supreme court, had suggested many reforms in laws dealing with Crime against women. The same have been implemented. However there is no change in Juvenile Law which stated that crime committed by 18 yrs old person be heard by Juvenile Court and the criminal be treated as minor. Punishment also to be undergone in a reform home. Now the Juvenile Law is being amended and the amendment will pave the way for 16 to 18 yrs olds to be treated as adults when involved in heinous crimes.
- Laws have been there earlier also but what is more important is their implementation.

Women

In present times when we talk of Women empowerment and equality, it is absurd to blame women for crime against them. Very often we feel that women wear a short dress which leads to eve teasing / rape etc.

If that was so then why does a 2/3 year old child gets raped. There have been cases where fully clothed women have been raped. We cannot lay down different rules for women. Asking women not to work in call centers or in jobs involving graveyard timing is not the solution. At the same time women must take precautions and be careful while moving in vulnerable areas. Learning self Defence and following advice of Police to download latest Apps for safety measures are few such examples.

Recommendation / suggestion

What is most important is changing the mindset of men / boys. Parents must play an important role in imparting good moral values to their children. They must teach their sons to respect women as they respect their mother and sisters. School must include classes on moral education in the curriculum. Teachers too can play an important role. After all it is the collective responsibility of the society to ensure that crimes against women banish from our society.