

Does Power Propound Rape? Scrutinizing Social Behaviour

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ABSTRACT

Many cases like Delhi Nirbhaya kand, Kathuaa , Hathras, Unnao and Hyderabad rape case caught the eyes of society towards women. It has proved that power promotes these unethical acts.

Power, according to some is considered to be a possibility to influence others, some say it is something which entrenches control over others, some say it is something which promotes people to take action and facilitate decision making and planning. But many a time this power is used or misused in enabling or disabling an individual from doing or performing certain things. Thus, this paper aims to do an in-depth examination of the relationship between power and Rape, this paper aims to put forth certain theories which are concerning the commission of Rape. Furthermore, this paper aims to apprise the reader by conflating the sociological, psychological, and political impacts and consequences in a subtle way.

Keywords: Rape, Indian Society, Behaviour, Power, Theories

Vicious against women is not a recent concept that exists in our society, it has existed since 300-400 BC, which has led to many reforms for them but those reforms were amended with the change in time and thinking process of the society. Talking about Indian society, reforms have existed but the bad part is that we haven't followed those reforms genuinely. India is a country where women are preached as goddesses but there also exist several women who are subjected to vicious in everyday life, this vicious has led to the rise of many social reformers who envisaged a better India for a woman to live. But there always exists a behaviour which keeps the society away from making progress. Among the offences related to vicious against women, there exist offences of sexual vicious against women and among sexual vicious exists a concept or offence of Rape, Rape is considered to be the most heinous crime against any women.

Sexual vicious is something where there is an attempt being made to commit a sexual act, that is unwanted by the woman or to which she hasn't consented to, by the method of coercion, which includes threat or any kind of undue influence like unwanted sexual comments or advances, etc.

Looking at the statistics of the cases registered in India, in 2001 there were around 16000 which means 43 (approx.) cases per day. In 2009, the numbers went up by around 5000 bringing the 43 per day to 57 (approx.) per day and finally looking at the recent data i.e. data of 2018, in 2018 India had around 33000 cases of Rape registered which brings the daily count to 90 (approx.) cases per day.

Fathoming the data leaves us with 2 points, 1st being the increase in the actual cases, 2nd is the increase in cases reported. An increase in cases portrays that we lack in many things, that I will discuss in further sections. 2nd is there is an increase in awareness, earlier or even today, there exist many unreported cases but the awareness of reporting has increased when we compare & categorize it with the earlier data, the increase in both the cases is a matter of grave concern because it is not the India that our visionary leaders thought of.

Mahatma Gandhi in his works (constructive program, pg. 17-18) has argued that men have not realized the importance of women in their lives and that they're still taught to be slaves of their men and are asked for dowry which is again directly or indirectly linked with the caste system, these are the things that our society should get rid of and that they should accept a view where "woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capability"(Speeches and Writings of Mahatma Gandhi, p, 425).

Societal Behaviour

There exist many points but I'll be explaining a few:

- As it is said that development of an Individual starts from the early ages of life, so the thing which is taught in early ages impacts an individual and stays for a longer period, parents bring up their child by giving feminine toys and when she grows to an adult she finally loves baby dolls over truck toys, boys are taught to masculine things like boys are not required to take permission when they need to go out to play but girls are required to. Schools and neighbourhood too play a lot of roles through peer group structure, homophobic speech. (Connell and Messerschmitt 2005). These things create lack of confidence among them that allows the male to exercise power over his wife, daughter, sister, and to some extent mother, and then this exercise of power becomes a base for Domestic vicious. This concept is known as 'learned helplessness'. (Rao 2015).
- Child marriage; marriage at early ages (18-24): the concept of Child Marriage may have relinquished from the urban areas but it does exist in rural areas, where a man of 20-25 years is

married to Young girls, these things cause extraordinary sufferings for the girl child, like early age pregnancies, etc. exposing them to many physical and mental disorders (Rao 2015)

- Maximum Indian women are usually seen as emotional caretakers who are obliged to take care of the Parents of his husband, wash clothes, make food for all, and does the cooking work.
- The caste system, this is something that is the most debated issue; there have been cases where women of upper caste can deny sex as compared to the ones who belong to the lower class. There also have been instances where men of upper caste have raped women of lower caste. (PremChowdhary 2015).
- ..Advertisements cause a lot of disturbance in the minds of those who are unable to handle lustful ads or vulgar movies and songs. This creates imagery in the minds of the persons leading to the commission of the crime (Gangrade, Sooryamurthy, Radhamany and Renjini 1995).
- There exists a diaspora that believes in sex determination, people want to get satisfied that they are getting a male child if they aren't then this leads to infanticide (Chowdhary 2015).
- Brahmanical Patriarchal society; this concept has originated from the rule by princely groups, the system of *sati*, etc. these kinds of activities promote things like a widow cannot remarry (Chapman 2014).
- A certain amount of allowance given by women to men to exercise power or dominance over them is a social behavior that doesn't allow society to change.

Behaviours that have set certain theories related to Rape

1. Biological theory

The scholars here argue that Rape is a biological thing where a man, possesses the biological power to exercise dominance over a woman because the reproductive health of a male is higher than the female, also the increase in testosterone levels leads to the increase in dominance behavior of the male (Thornhill 1999).

2. Motivational Theory

This is also known as the commodity theory where sex is believed to be the commodity, now this motivates the offender to obtain that commodity, if he is not able to obtain it, then he will steal it (Baker 1997).

3. Radical feminist theory

Here it is believed that Rape is a kind of terrorism that increases the dependency of women over men, it is also believed here that rapist is not an individual but the whole political system which is based on patriarchal values (Ghosal 2009).

4. Social Learning theory

As the name suggests, an Individual learns to commit the offence when that individual sees and feels those circumstances in real life like home or neighborhood.

These theories describe some determinants

Hegemonic Masculinity: This is a historical concept and there is no means that this concept goes away instantly, it will fade away as the society becomes more progressive, it is also a proven fact that the males are more prone towards commission of crime, this commission of the crime is backed by their masculinity. People start by seeing their parents beating and exercising power over mother, these tendencies develop the child in a similar way.

Dominance: Theorists also believe that sexual harassment or Rape is not just about sex it is about power, this power is backed by their behavior or by biological levels like increase in testosterone levels and sometimes there exist some societies where the society has followed the ideology of male superiority, these things also provoke a man to go for the commission (Sanday, P. 1981)2.

Gender racism: Rape as a gender-motivated crime as discussed above in theories.

Deterioration of Marital relationships like unavailability of partners, illness of spouse can contribute to the commission of these crimes (Gibbons 1968)3.

Communal differences: with time the conflict between Upper caste has not decreased but has increased this has led to some uncontrollable events like upper caste people raping women of lower caste in Haryana, these things are still prevalent but aren't reported.

Alcohol consumption: it is a proven fact that alcohol has played a major role in the commission of these crimes example: that date Rapes are due to alcohol consumption (Chattoraj 2007)

Judicial process: The slow process in the judiciary also encourages the offenders to commit the crime, the stand of the judiciary is a bit unstable as no one can predict the outcome (Gangoli 2011).

Abuse to women Politicians: There has been a significant increase in the kind of things that have and will discourage women's participation in politics and the judiciary. (Amnesty International India 2020)

Impact on the victim

- **Agony can be mental or physical**

Humiliation and Anti-Social behaviour: society wouldn't empathize with the victim, won't understand what is going in the mind of the victim, statements like don't marry her would be heard first, acceptance in the society would be comparatively less due to the societal behavior I stated above (Chattoraj 2007).

CONCLUSION

Women at workplaces also get dominated by senior officers to provide them sexual pleasures to get promoted. What India should improve at is the societal problem, People, if there's a Rape committed, folks will demand Justice in a form of hard Punishment for the Offender(s) but we fail to improve society's attitude towards the victim or a woman. A nation-wide program should be organized like the Men's action to stop vicious against women (MASVAW) was organized in UP in 2002, Nirbhaya kand 2012, unnao kand 2020, kathua kand 2019 and Hathras kand opened peoples eyes which helped the men understand the women because men and women can act as allies to dismantle the hierarchal gender regimes. I also believe that in the past and the present, the feminists have been successful in demanding strict laws against the accused but their revolution have also led to division of the society into a gender-specific thing which is also bad as these acts again create Gender Racism because Rape many a time is something that one does out of revenge (which may be personal or is a result of depression), the demand for stricter laws for the Offender has given chance to law enforcement to determine women's sexuality.

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