

A Critical Analysis on Women's Safety in Haryana

Dr. Neelam

*Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Hindu Girls College, Sonipat-131001, Haryana-India*

ABSTRACT

Crimes against women in Haryana have emerged as a critical social and legal issue, reflecting deep-rooted gender inequalities and patriarchal norms. Socio-cultural factors, including rigid caste hierarchies, son preference, and low female literacy, contribute to the perpetuation of violence against women. This paper examines the trends, causes, and consequences of crimes against women in Haryana, analyzing the effectiveness of existing legal and policy frameworks. It also explores potential solutions, including awareness campaigns, educational empowerment, and judicial reforms, to create a safer environment for women in the state. The IPC Crime rate (per lakh women) in Haryana escalated from 47 in 2011 to 103.3 in 2022. The crime rate of molestation in the Haryana state, almost quadrupled from 4.06 in 2011 to 19.51 in 2022. Cruelty by husband and relatives is highest reported crime which escalated in past years. 42 women among one lac female population reported this cruelty, which is an alarming situation. The crime rate of kidnapping and abduction escalate from 12.34 in year 2011 to 21.72 in 2022. It is again a grave issue. Thus, there is a pressing need to know the root cause of the growing rate of crimes against women.

Keywords: Haryana; Rape; Dowry death; Molestation; Sexual harassment; Cruelty

INTRODUCTION

The status of women in modern India has changed considerably. Her position in modern India is equal to that of men, socially, economically, educationally, politically and legally. The importance of women's participation is now recognized and thus the status of Indian women started changing for the better. Today women have the right to receive education, inherit and own property and participate in public life. She has become economically independent. She is free to choose any employment anywhere. She enjoys the equal status with man in all.

Today, women have earned a respectable position in society. They are now treated equal and are actively participating almost in all walks of life. There are numerous provisions made in the Indian Constitution to make them feel safe, provide equal opportunities, status and liberties. Constitution of India also empowers the State to adopt measures in favour of women to neutralize socio-economic, educational, and political disadvantages faced by them.

In India, there is diversity of culture, tradition, and ethics, castes and religion that has tremendous impact on gender inequality in the society. The worth of a civilization can be judged by the place given to women in the society. [1] The patriarchal system has confined the women to specific areas such as kitchen and the bed room and fixed gender roles like bearing and rearing children, cooking and cleaning. Even today, a woman is regarded as a commodity and not a human being who has her own likes and dislikes. [2]

The status of women in Haryana can be understood by having a glimpse not only on their population but also by the gender ratio and literacy rate. In census 2011, Haryana has the lowest sex ratio in India. The state is notorious all over India for female foeticide. However, with Government schemes and initiatives, the sex ratio in Haryana improved from 879 in 2011 to 887 in 2020. Even in 2020, gender ratio of Haryana is far less (887) compared to national data (945). Further, the female literacy rate has always lower as compared to male literacy rate which clearly indicates gender inequality.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature survey reveals that women enjoyed equivalent status & rights like their male counterparts in ancient India. [3]In ancient India, though patriarchal system was highly prevalent yet women enjoyed a position of respect and reverence.[4]With the passage of time, the position of women underwent changes in all spheres of life. In the Vedic period, women lost their political rights of attending assemblies. Child marriages also came into existence. The position of women gradually deteriorated as the Vedic ideals of unity and equality began to fade off with the passage of time.

The most prevalent form of violence against women is domestic violence. Researchers studied various kind of domestic violence against women.[5] Kalaiyarasi observed that domestic aggression towards women and girls, due to various hidden reasons.[6] Women have to bear the burns of domestic, public, physical, emotional and mental violence against them. S. S. Sharon examined that the types, causes, and consequences of domestic violence on abused women and also highlighted the role of social workers, professionals to intervene and eradicate this menace from society.[7]

Haryana state has been in news for rising crimes against women. Though Haryana government has taken several positive initiatives even then crimes against women are not abating. A steep rise of 45% in crime against women is reported by Indian Express in Haryana in the two years (2020 to 2022).[8] Studies conducted by various authors on crimes against women suggest that reported crimes are much less than the actual figures and major reason behind these crimes are dominant patriarchy, illiteracy, lack of awareness, poverty etc. [9-10]

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Violence against women is a critical global social issue. Haryana, despite strides in education and industrial development, continues to face serious gender-based challenges. Women in the state are subjected to various forms of abuse. Therefore, it has become emergent issue to examine the challenges and root cause of such violations and to examine the trends of various crimes against Women in Haryana. This manuscript aims to identify patterns and trends of crimes against women in Haryana, analyze the underlying causes and to recommend future strategy and social reforms. The major focus of this study is to discuss women's safety in Haryana state.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data for this study was collected through the secondary sources. Statistical data of crimes against children have been collected from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Comparative analysis and trend graphs have been used to interpret the data. This empirical study will be helpful to researchers as well as administrative bodies to suggest and formulate policies and to take suitable preventive measures to curb these abuses and violations against women. The required information was also collected from other sources like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, scholarly research articles, internet survey and other publications relating to crimes against women.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Although various new legislations have been brought and amendments have been made in existing laws with a view to handle these crimes effectively yet safety of women in Haryana is a critical issue. Some of the major parameters on women's safety have been extensively examined year wise from year 2011 to 2022.

IPC crime Rate against Women from year 2011 to 2022

Table 1 presents the data on total IPC crimes against women along with crime rate per lac female population in the Haryana state. From 2011 to 2022, Haryana witnessed a steady rise in IPC crimes against women, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. The IPC crime rate increased sharply in Haryana state from 47 in year 2011 to 103.3 in 2022. Figure 1 reveals a small dip in crime rate in 2020 which is probably due to corona pandemic.

Table 1. Total IPC Crimes Rate against Women from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	IPC Crimes against women in Haryana		
	Female Mid-Year Population (lacs)*	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	116.85	5491	47.0
2012	119.3	6002	50.3
2013	121.12	9089	75.0
2014	122.9	8974	73.0
2015	124.7	9446	75.7
2016	126.5	9839	77.8
2017	128.2	11370	88.7
2018	133.3	12381	92.9
2019	135.3	12607	93.2
2020	137.3	11127	81.0
2021	138.6	14361	103.6
2022	140.42	14510	103.3

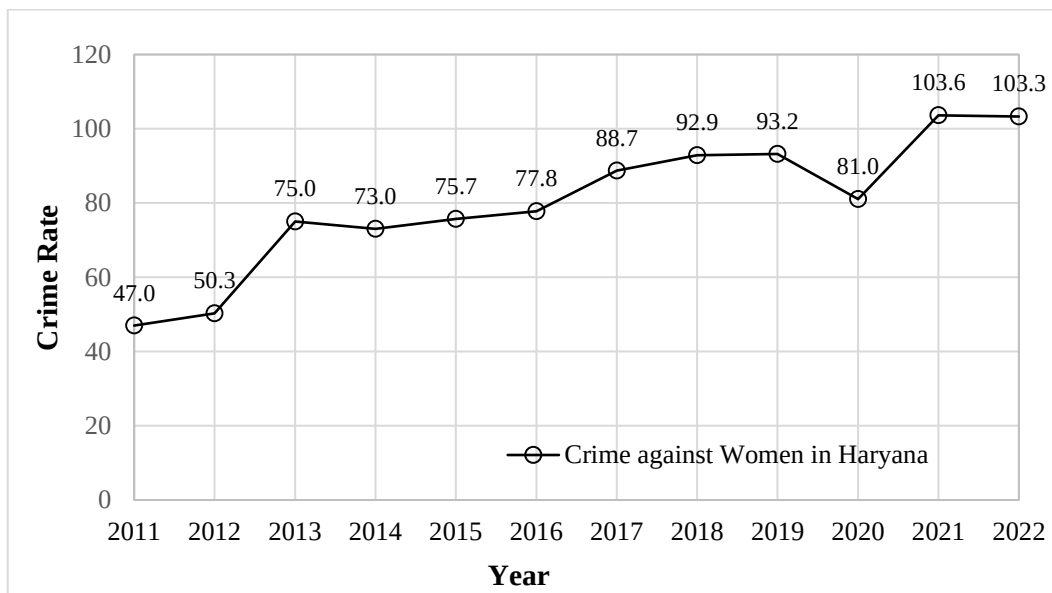


Figure 1. The IPC crimes rate against women from year 2011 to 2022.

Assault on Women to outrage the modesty from year 2011 to 2022

Table 2 elucidates the variation of cases of assault on women to outrage the modesty i.e., molestation. The crime rate in Haryana almost quadrupled from 4.06 in 2011 to 19.51 in 2022. NCBR data shows a six-fold increase in such cases from 474 in 2011 to 2739 in 2018. The crime rate of molestation cases in Haryana state outnumbered the national data after 2014. Whereas cases of molestation at national level almost attained a steady state but in Haryana, they continually escalated except in year 2020, the corona pandemic.

Table 2. Assault on Women to outrage the modesty (Molestation) in the past 10 years.

Year	Cases of Molestation in Haryana
------	---------------------------------

	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	474	4.06
2012	525	4.40
2013	1560	12.88
2014	1688	13.73
2015	1886	15.12
2016	1860	14.70
2017	2031	15.84
2018	2671	20.04
2019	2581	19.08
2020	2339	17.04
2021	2882	20.79
2022	2739	19.51

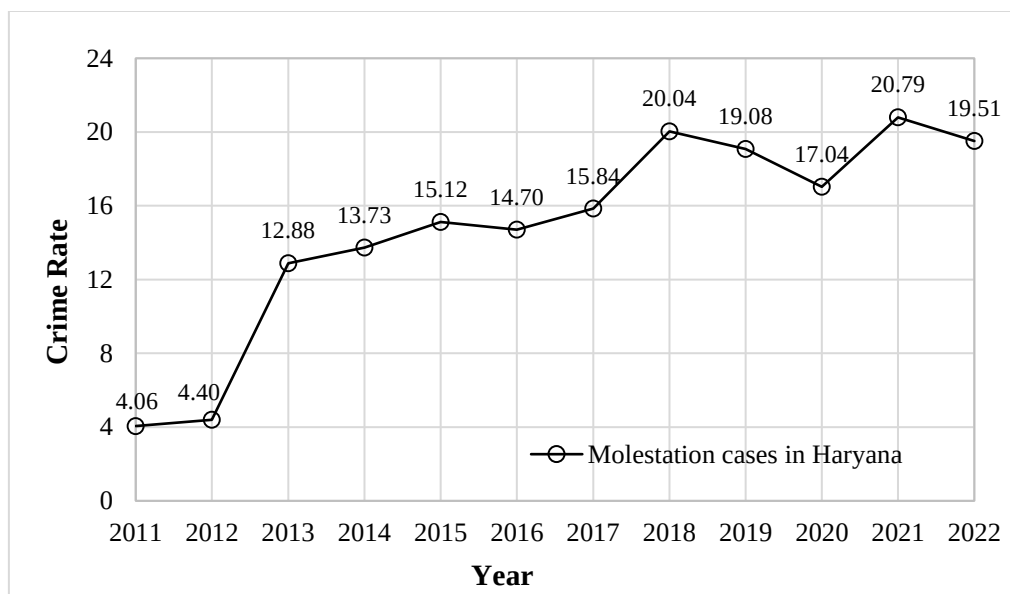


Figure 2. The Variation in Crime Rate of Molestation from year 2011 to 2022.

Sexual Harassment from year 2011 to 2022

Sexual harassment remains a deeply embedded societal problem, not just a legal one. While India has made legislative strides, the gap between law and lived reality is wide. True progress lies not just in punishment, but in creating safe, equal, and respectful environments at work, in public, and at home. Table 3 presents the picture of the variation of cases of sexual harassment of women from year 2011 to 2022. The crime rate in Haryana state increased from 4.19 in 2011 to 7.72 in 2018 and then declined to 2.29 in 2022 as can be seen in Fig. 3. The crime rate of sexual harassment is markedly higher in Haryana state compared national data.

Table 3. Sexual Harassment from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Sexual Harassment in Haryana	
	Crime Incidence	Crime rate

2011	490	4.19
2012	434	3.64
2013	643	5.31
2014	599	4.87
2015	688	5.52
2016	699	5.53
2017	675	5.27
2018	1029	7.72
2019	913	6.75
2020	890	6.48
2021	290	2.09
2022	322	2.29

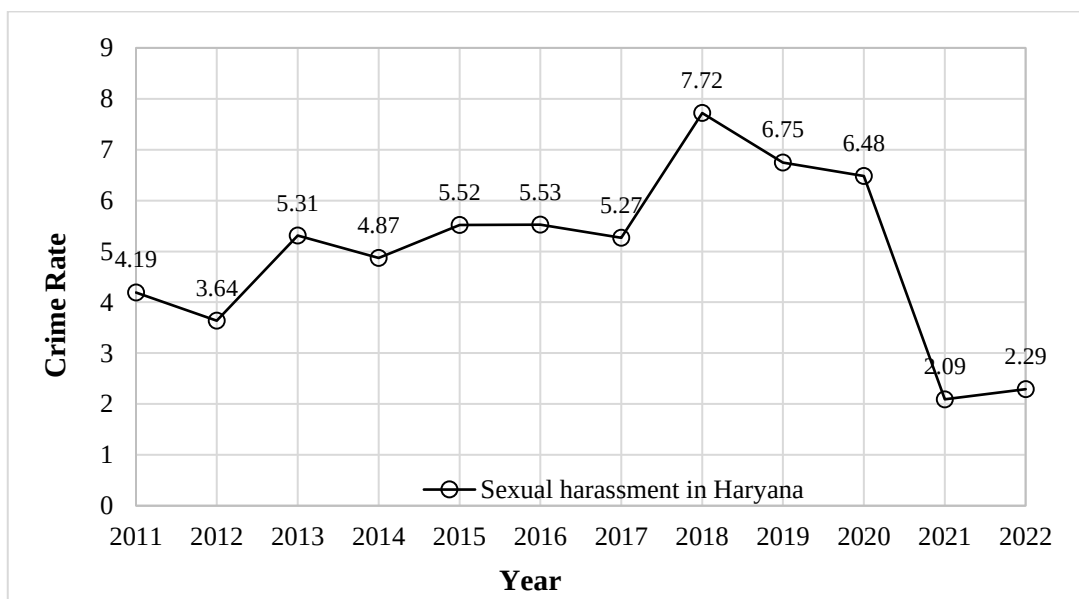


Figure 3. The variation in crime rate of sexual harassment.

Cruelty by the Husband and Relatives from year 2011 to 2022

It is noteworthy here that the exact figure of crimes against women isn't provided in any of the report. Cruelty by husbands and relatives remains the most reported crime against women in India as well as in Haryana. Table 4 presents the picture of the variation of cases of cruelty on women by the husband and relatives from year 2011 to 2022. The crime rate significantly accentuated from 23.45 to 41.9as can be seen in Figure 4. The crime rate in Haryana state was found almost double compared to the national data.

Table 4. Cruelty by Husband and Relatives in Haryana from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Cruelty by Husband and Relatives	
	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	2740	23.45
2012	3137	26.30
2013	3617	29.86

2014	3478	28.30
2015	3525	28.27
2016	3313	26.19
2017	3326	25.94
2018	4154	31.16
2019	4867	35.97
2020	4119	30.00
2021	5755	41.52
2022	5883	41.90

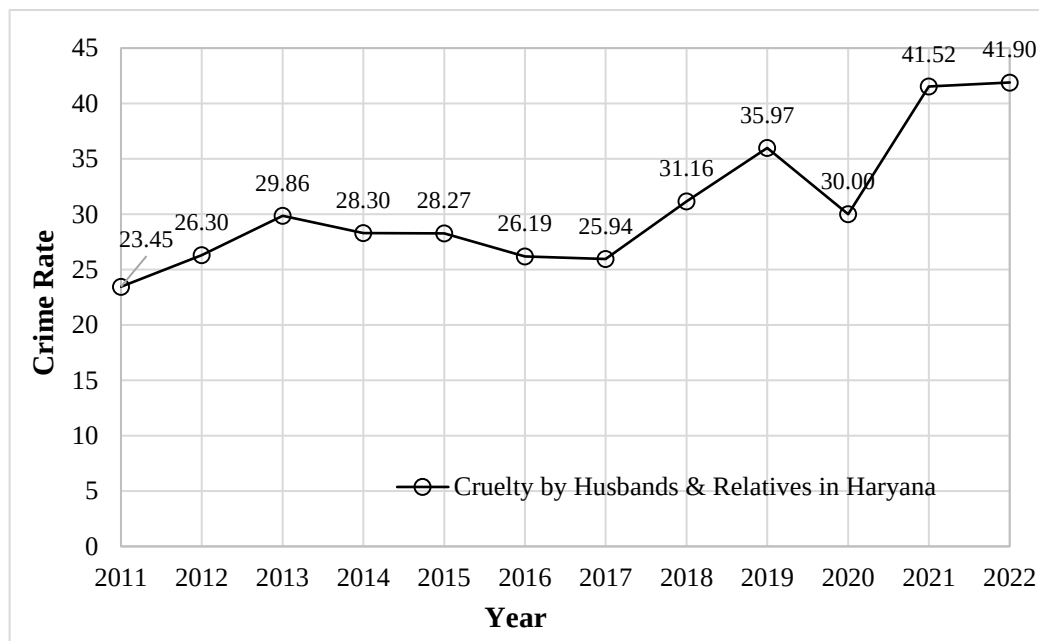


Figure 4. Crime Rate of Cruelty by Husband and Relatives from year 2011 to 2022.

Kidnapping & abduction of women & girls from year 2011 to 2022

Kidnapping and abduction of women and girls in Haryana remain serious concerns, with the state reporting a significant number of such cases every year. The issue is often linked to crimes like forced marriages, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and honor-related violence. Table 4 reveals the variation of cases of kidnapping and abduction of women and girls from year 2011 to 2022. The crime rate almost doubled from 12.34 to 21.72 in last 12 years. The crime rate in Haryana state is almost double compared to national data as can be seen in Figure 5.

Table 5. Kidnapping and Abduction of Women and Girls in Haryana from year 2011 to 2022.

Year	Kidnapping & Abduction of Women & Girls	
	Crime Incidence	Crime rate
2011	1442	12.34
2012	1620	13.58
2013	1957	16.16

2014	1922	15.64
2015	2336	18.73
2016	2697	21.32
2017	2949	23.00
2018	3419	25.65
2019	2803	20.72
2020	2423	17.65
2021	2958	21.34
2022	3050	21.72

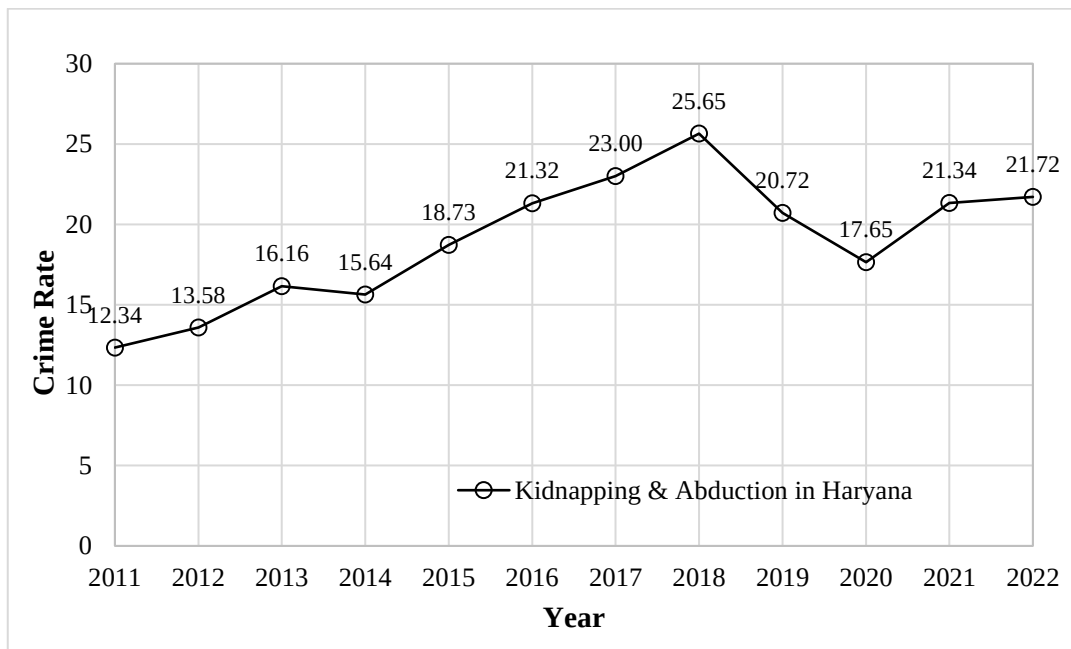


Figure 5. Crime Rate of Kidnapping and Abduction of Women and Girls.

CONCLUSIONS

Crimes against women in Haryana, have shown a disturbing upward trend over the past decade. Despite legal reforms, awareness campaigns, and governmental schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, women continue to face threats to their safety, dignity, and rights. The NCRB data shows a persistent rise in crimes, signaling that many women still remain vulnerable in both public and private spheres.

Haryana, despite economic progress, ranks among the states with the highest crime rates against women. In spite of stringent laws, cases of domestic violence, Molestation, Sexual Harassment, Cruelty by Husband and Relatives, and Kidnapping and Abduction of Women and Girls are escalating day by day.

Haryana government has taken various initiatives and constituted various commission like State Commission for Women, Reservation of Women in local self-government, policy for empowerment of women, initiative to promote girl education, setting up of new schools and girl's colleges. There is much more to do to bring women at par with their male counterpart. Government has to frame more stern regulations, so that people think twice before committing such crimes. Low conviction rates and delayed justice further erode women's trust in the system.

Acknowledgements

This work is based on statistical data from the National Crime Records Bureau, whose records have been invaluable in understanding IPC crimes against women.

REFERENCES

1. N. Desai and U. Thakkar, Women in Indian Society, NBT, New Delhi, 2001.
2. R. Dhanoa, Violation of women Human Rights in India, Res. J. International Journal in Multidisciplinary and Academic Research, 1(4), 2012, pp. 1-8.
3. R. Kaman, Status of women in India in the Rigvedic age and medieval age, The International Journal of Humanities & Social Studies, 2(9), 2014, pp. 31-32.
4. R. C. Mishra, Towards gender equality, Authors Press, 2006, ISBN: 81-7273-306-2.
5. Parvin and G. Sarkar, Domestic violence against women in India, International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, 10(3), 2021, pp. 15-20.
6. R. Kalaiyarasi, Violence against Women in India, IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 20(2), 2015, pp. 51-55.
7. S. S. Sharon, Domestic violence against women in India: A family menace, Social Science, 4(12), 2014, pp 147-149.
8. Indian Express, Haryana: In 2 years, 45% jump in crimes against women, January 18, 2022.
9. Dhingra, Comparative study of crime against women in Punjab and Haryana state in Indian Context, International Journal of Commerce and Management, 14, 2020, pp. 1-7.
10. Baljit Singh, An analysis of crimes against women in India and Haryana, International Journal of Scientific Research and Review, 8(1), 2019, pp. 48-52