



RAPISTS AND VICTIMS

ABSTRACT

The report analyses rapes in India and across the globe, both with non-statistical and statistical information. It deals with explanation, causes, effects of a rape and motivation for offender to commit a sexual offense. Further, the statistical analysis compares data with other parameters like age, state-wise distribution of number of cases, comparison of cases of rapes in India with other countries, and even more detailed study on location of assault, relationship with offender, age group of offender and other several data groups.

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Report Writing (COE – 221)

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Introduction

The report deals with cases of rapes in India and around the globe. As found in further analysis, incidents of rapes have tremendously increased in last few decades, posing an alarming threat to security of women in the nation. Thus this report attempts to give an overview of the problem and the ways to overcome. It also aims at spreading awareness about this Social issue.

To solve any problem , we must first understand it well , hence the report aims *to find answers to several questions on incidents of Rapes with the help of data found from different parts of the nation and suggests reasons as to why controlling rape activities is difficult.*

Since sexual offense is one of the greatest ethical and social challenges India and several other nations are facing since decades , coming up with a solution to the problem will not only benefit a sect of population, but may encourage other researchers for further studies on the same. Report aims to firstly understand the problem and look out for its cause. Then using the data from different parts of world, we try to substantiate the problem and attempt to find solutions to it. This is the approach of the report.

The report is divided in two main parts:

- (i) **Non statistical data** - this part deals with definitions, human psychology and other background necessary to find the reason of the problem. Report cites several researchers of the field and their work for relevant information.
- (ii) **Statistical data** - here we look out for practical data and survey data which try to find relationships between literacy rate, gender ratio and also on documentation of the reports of rapes, such as location of incident, relationship between the victim and offender and several other parameters.

Discussion Analysis

Non Statistical Analysis

What is rape?

Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse, which is initiated by one or more people against another person without that person's consent (1a). The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion (1b), abuse of authority or against a person who is incapable of valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, or below the legal age of consent (1c).

Types of rape :

- **Acquaintance Rape** - Rape committed by a person, who could be a friend, acquaintance or stranger, against a victim.
- **Gang Rape** - Gang rape occurs when a group of people participate in the rape of a single victim. Rape involving at least two or more violators (typically at least three) is widely reported to occur in many parts of the world. Systematic information on the extent of the problem, however, is scant.
- **Marital Rape** - Marital rape, also known as spousal rape, is non-consensual sex in which the perpetrator is the victim's spouse. It is a form of partner rape, of domestic violence, and of sexual abuse. It can be equally, or even more, emotionally and physically damaging than rape by a stranger.
- **Incestual Rape** - Non-consensual sexual activity in which the victim is either a family member or a close relative is accounted as Incestual rape. Rigveda (2a) regard incest to be "evil". Hinduism speaks of incest in abhorrent terms. Hindus are fearful of the bad effects of incest and thus practice strict rules of endogamy and exogamy, as well as same family tree or bloodline.
- **Child sexual abuse Rape** - Child sexual abuse or child molestation is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent uses a child for sexual stimulation. Forms of child sexual abuse include asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities (regardless of the outcome), indecent exposure (of

private parts) to a child with intent to gratify their own sexual desires or to intimidate or groom the child, physical sexual contact with a child, or using a child to produce child pornography.

There are several other forms and types of rape, which however aren't dealt with in this report.

Motivation and Causes of Rapes

Causes of sexual violence are debated and explanations of the cause include socioeconomics, anger, power, sadism, sexual pleasure, psychopathy, ethical standards, laws, attitudes toward the victims and evolutionary pressures.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that the principal factors that lead to the perpetration of sexual violence, including rape, are:

- Beliefs in family honour and sexual purity;
- Ideologies of male sexual entitlement;
- Weak legal sanctions for sexual violence.

There is no single scientific theory that conclusively explains the motivation for rape; the motives of rapists can be multi-factorial and are subject to debate. Several factors have been proposed: anger; a desire for power; sadism; sexual gratification in tandem with evolutionary proclivities.

Individual factors :

Known victim

Data on sexually violent individuals show that most direct their acts at individuals whom they already know.

Alcohol and drug consumption

Alcohol has been shown to play a disinhibiting role in certain types of sexual assault, as have some other drugs, notably cocaine.[Ref 2] Alcohol has a psychopharmacological effect of reducing inhibitions, clouding judgements and impairing the ability to interpret cues. The biological links between alcohol and violence are, however, complex. Research on the social anthropology of alcohol consumption suggests that connections between violence, drinking and drunkenness are socially learnt rather than universal. Some researchers have noted that alcohol may act as a cultural break time, providing the opportunity for antisocial behaviour. Thus

people are more likely to act violently when drunk because they do not consider that they will be held accountable for their behaviour.

Some forms of group sexual violence are also associated with drinking. In these settings, consuming alcohol is an act of group bonding, where inhibitions are collectively reduced and individual judgement ceded in favor of the group.

Psychological factors

There has been considerable research in recent times on the role of cognitive variables among the set of factors that can lead to rape. Sexually violent men have been shown to be more likely to consider victims responsible for the rape and are less knowledgeable about the impact of rape on victims. Such men may misread cues given out by women in social situations and may lack the inhibitions that act to suppress associations between sex and aggression. They may have coercive sexual fantasies, and overall are more hostile towards women than are men who are not sexually violent. In addition to these factors, sexually violent men are believed to differ from other men in terms of impulsivity and antisocial tendencies.

Research on convicted rapists

The research on convicted rapists has found several important motivational factors in the sexual aggression of males. Those motivational factors repeatedly implicated are having anger at women and having the need to control or dominate them.

Factors increasing men's risk of committing rape include alcohol and other drug consumption, being more likely to consider victims responsible for their rape, being less knowledgeable about the impact of rape on victims, being impulsive and having antisocial tendencies, having an exaggerated sense of masculinity, having a low opinion on women, being a member of a criminal gang, having sexually aggressive friends, having been abused as a child and having been raised in a strongly patriarchal family.

Effects on the victim

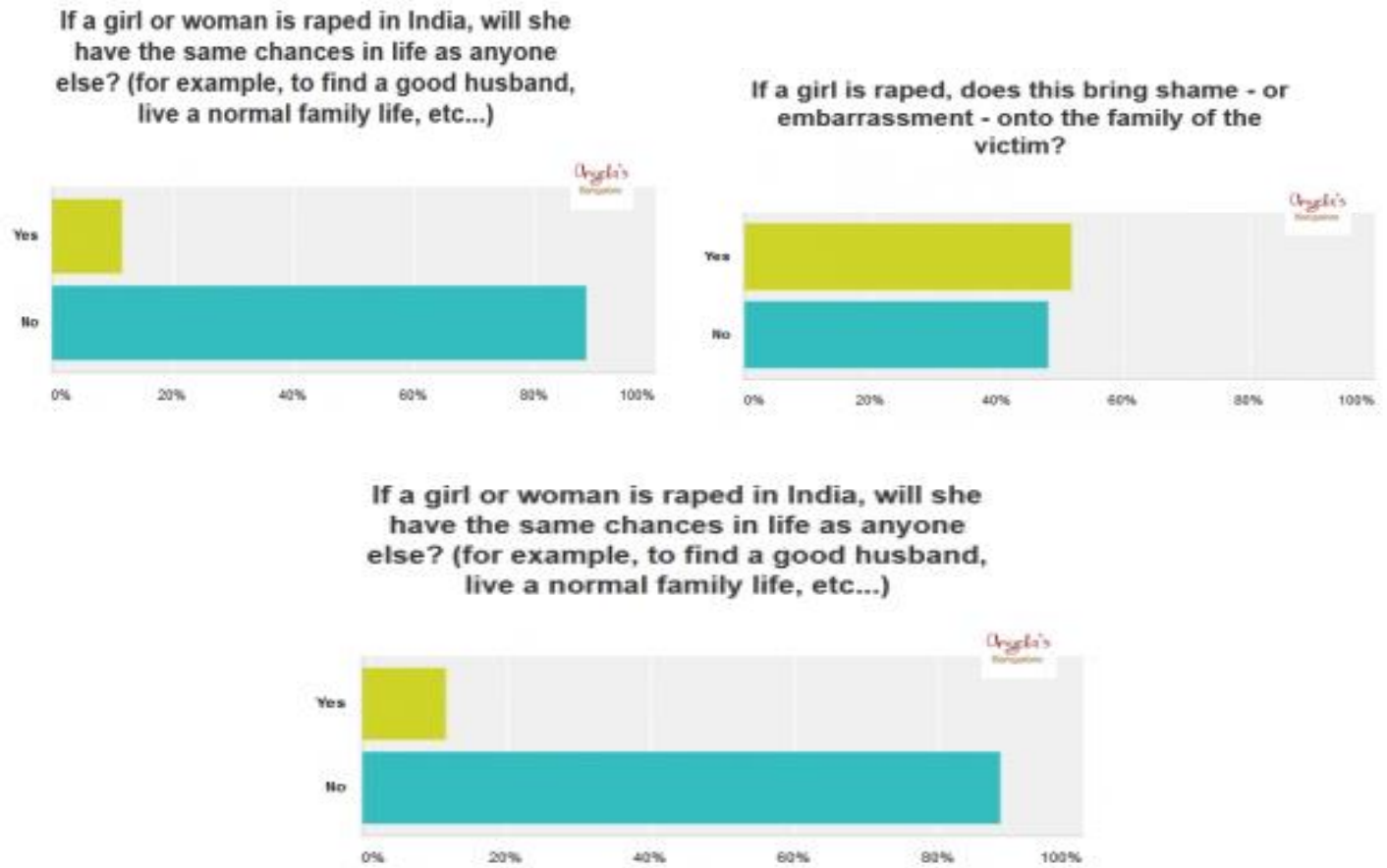
Physical - Due to coercion, victim is often injured physically. Depending on the severity of the coercion, the physical damage may lead to fatality in most cases. Victim may suffer from HIV AIDs post the incident, sabotaging victim's immune system and health.

Emotional - Victims of rape can be severely traumatized by the assault and may have difficulty functioning as well as they had been used to prior to the assault, with disruption of concentration, sleeping patterns and eating habits, for example. They may feel jumpy or be on edge. After being raped, it is common for the victim to experience acute stress disorder, including symptoms similar to those of posttraumatic stress disorder, such as intense, sometimes unpredictable emotions, and they may find it hard to deal with their memories of the event.

Social - In India, the victim is the one who suffers after the mishap. As per a report by www.angela-carson.com, following astounding facts were reproduced:

- Each week countless **victims of rape commit suicide** because of the way they are treated following the rape by the police, doctors, their own parents and the community Victims are often **encouraged to marry their rapists**.
- Over the past five years, India's leading political parties have offered tickets to 27 candidates accused of rape and a 260 candidates facing charges for crimes against women (assault, harassment, etc.). **Today, two members of parliament and six members of the various state legislative assemblies are facing rape charges**, while 36 others face charges for lesser crimes against women.

The following survey by the above source further establishes the fact that the society's mentality towards rape victims is putting the victim further down.

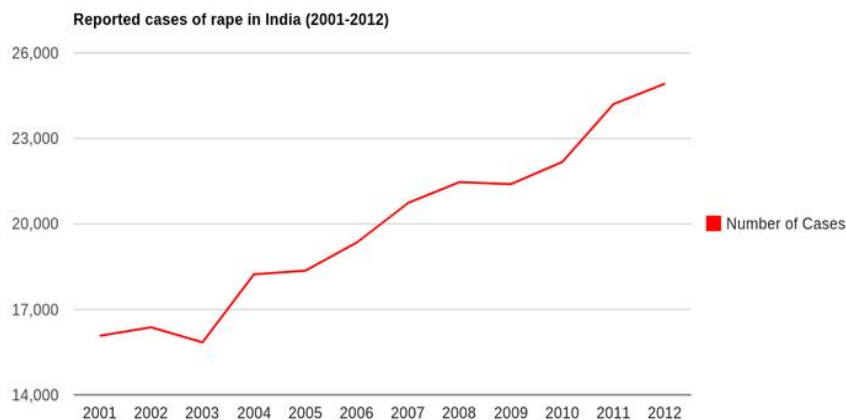


Statistical Analysis

India and World



According to the above stats India is one of the top unsafe countries in the world. Adding to that, the rate of rape cases are increasing Year-over-Year. The following statistics establishes the fact that in just a decade, numbers of cases have almost doubled.

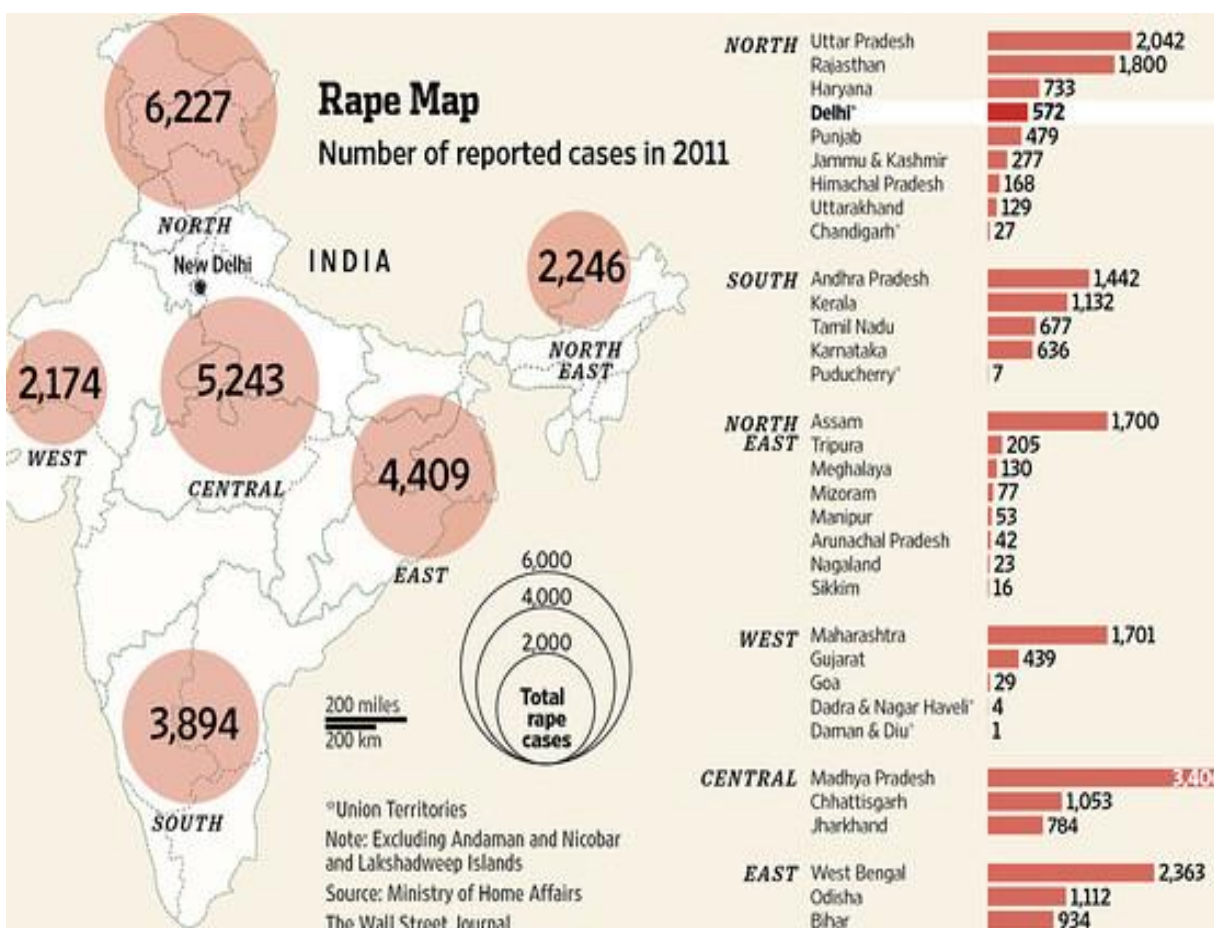


This is pretty alarming as our population growth has increased over the same time span as well. The number can be far more than what is reflected here because most of the cases are not reported by the people.

According to 2012 statistics, New Delhi has the highest number of rape-reports among Indian cities, while Jabalpur has the per capita incidence of reported rapes. Sources show that rape cases in India have doubled between 1990 and 2008. According to the National Crime

Records Bureau (<http://ncrb.gov.in/>) , in 2012, 25,000 rape cases were reported across India. Out of these, 24,470 were committed by relative or neighbour. Men accounted to commit 98 per cent of reported rapes. The latest estimates suggest that a new case of rape is reported every 22 minutes in India.

Rape cases within the nation

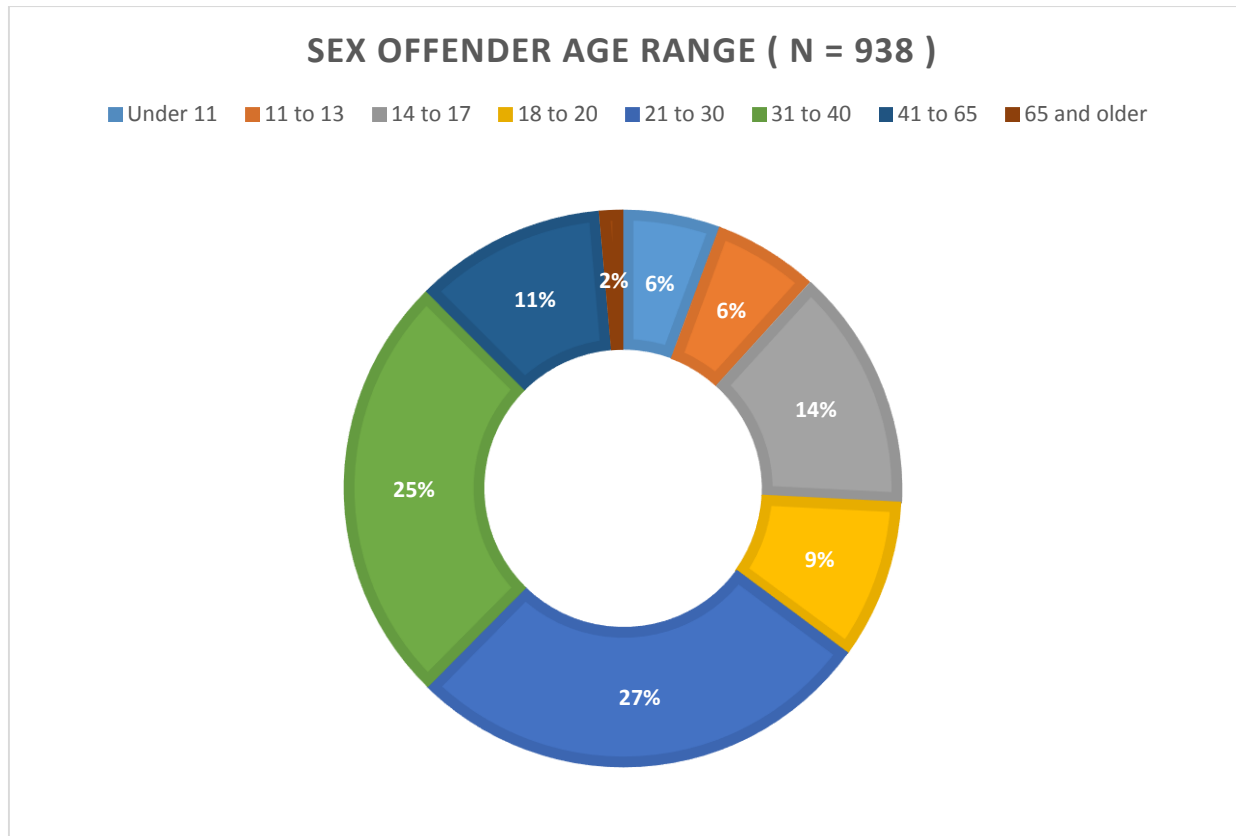


North and Central India account for top number of rape cases lodged, followed by Easter and Southern India. This data when overlapped with literacy rate and gender ratio shows that even though both are pretty strong for Southern India, it still fails to provide safety against rape cases. This raises several questions over other factors which govern a rapist's intent; male dominance, poor judiciary system and other parameters discussed in Non Statistical section of the report.

Due to lack of proper documentation of rape cases in India, we are relying on data provided by New Mexico Clearinghouse on Sexual Abuse and Assault Services. Following demographics are based on cases reported in New Mexico.

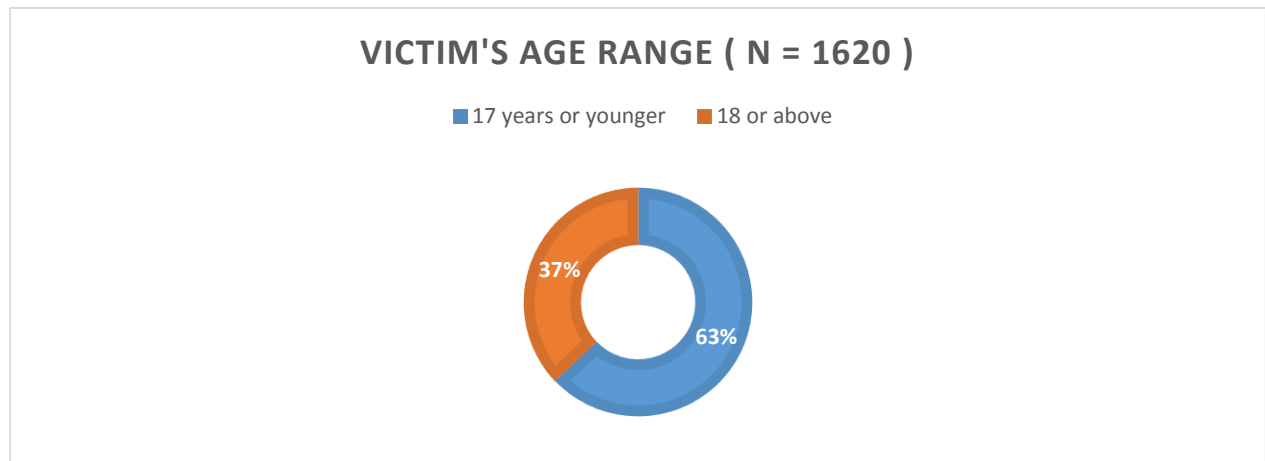
Sex Offender's Demographics

From the 938 documented rape reports, 27% of the offenders lied in 21-30 age groups, whereas 25% belonged to 31-40 age groups. Minors took 14% of the reported cases, while whooping 9% were accounted for offenders of age 18 years to 20. This high density in such small age span reflects that about 50% of total offenders were in 14-30 age groups.

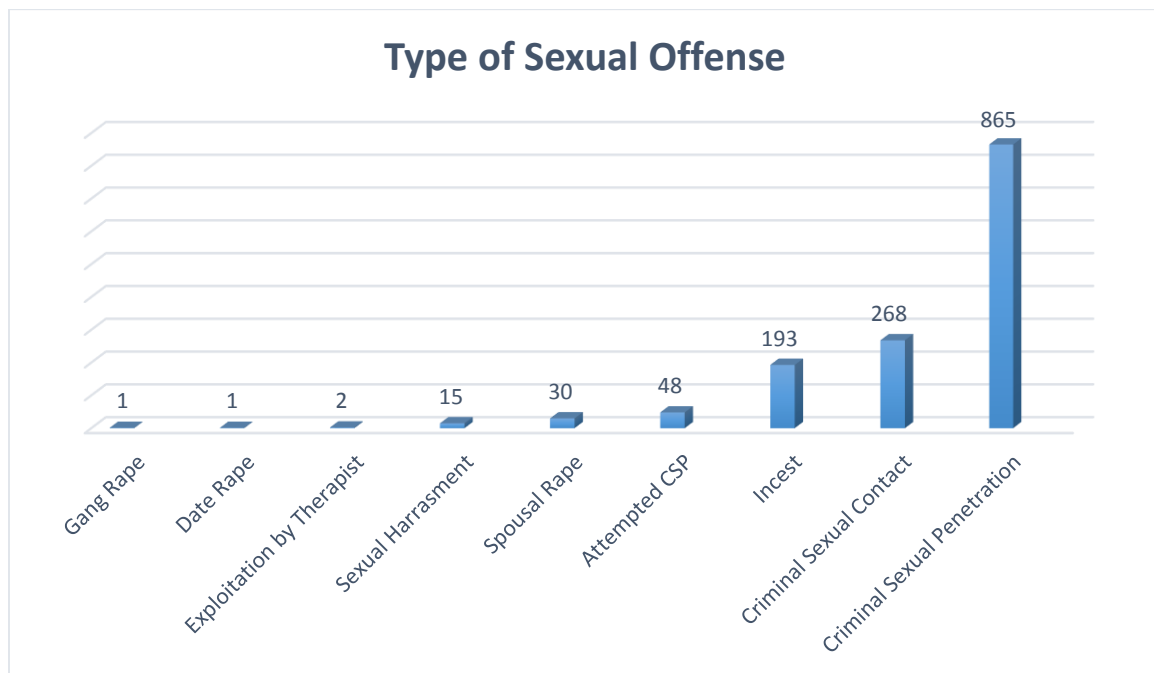


Victim's Demographics

Age of survivor was documented in 1,620 (96%) of the sexual offenses reported. Of these cases, 63% were children (17 years of age or younger), and 37% were adults.

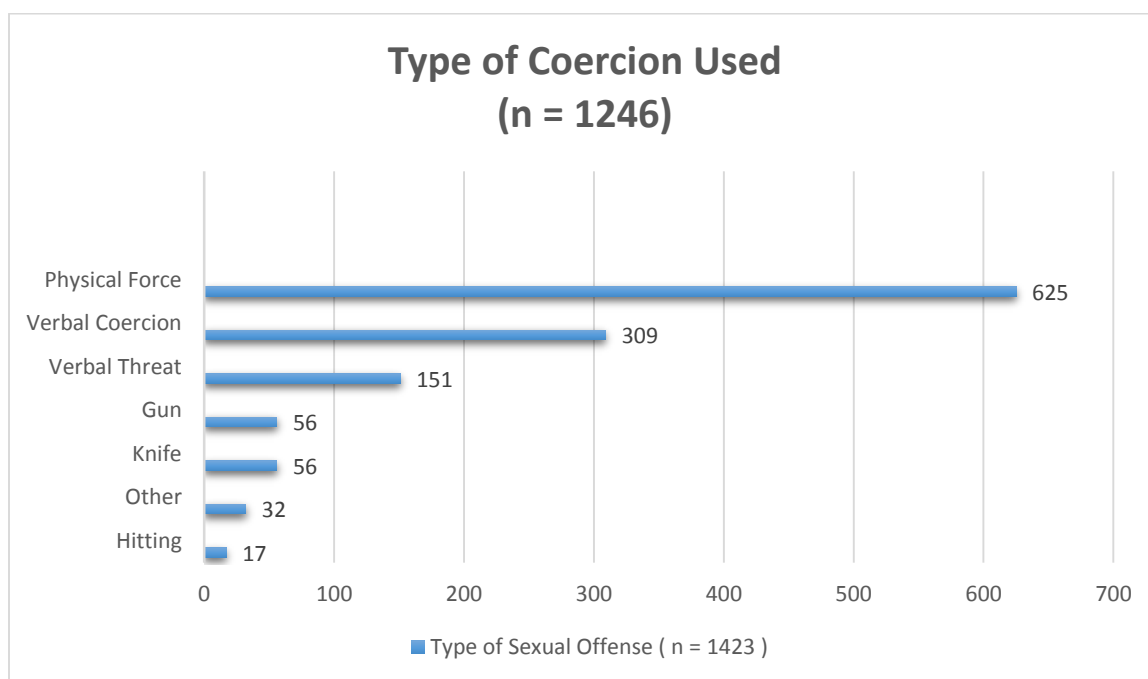


Type of sexual offense



Type of coercion used

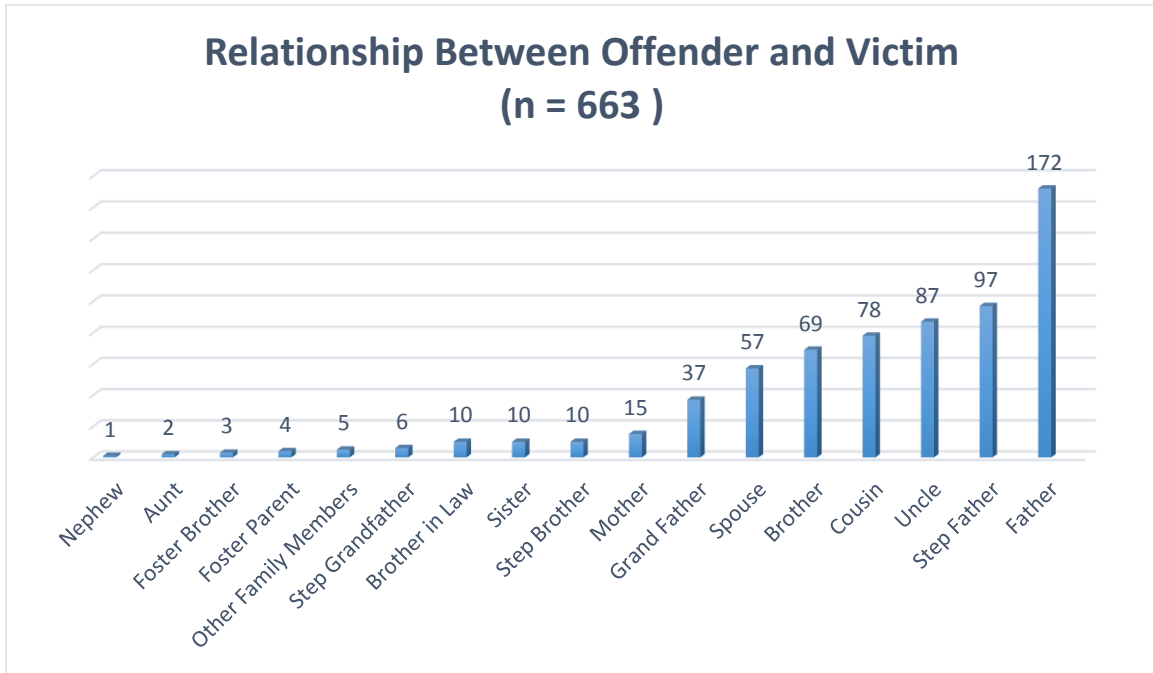
Physical Force remains the most widely used type of coercion, followed by verbal coercion in about 22% of cases. This shows that males use their physical strength to initiate the offense. A clear suggestion would be to escape from cases where a potential offender can make use of his/her physical force. And if, somehow, it isn't possible, a tackling weapon must be equipped in almost all cases. However this poses a great challenge, as the succeeding data suggests that mostly an acquaintance or a family member is involved in such crime and the location of assault being usually the survivor's own house. Here the victim just cannot escape the situation, which suggests that avoiding a rape case is majorly not possible, unless the offender has a fear of getting caught and being severely punished. This opens doors for strict rules for the guilty so as to create fear.



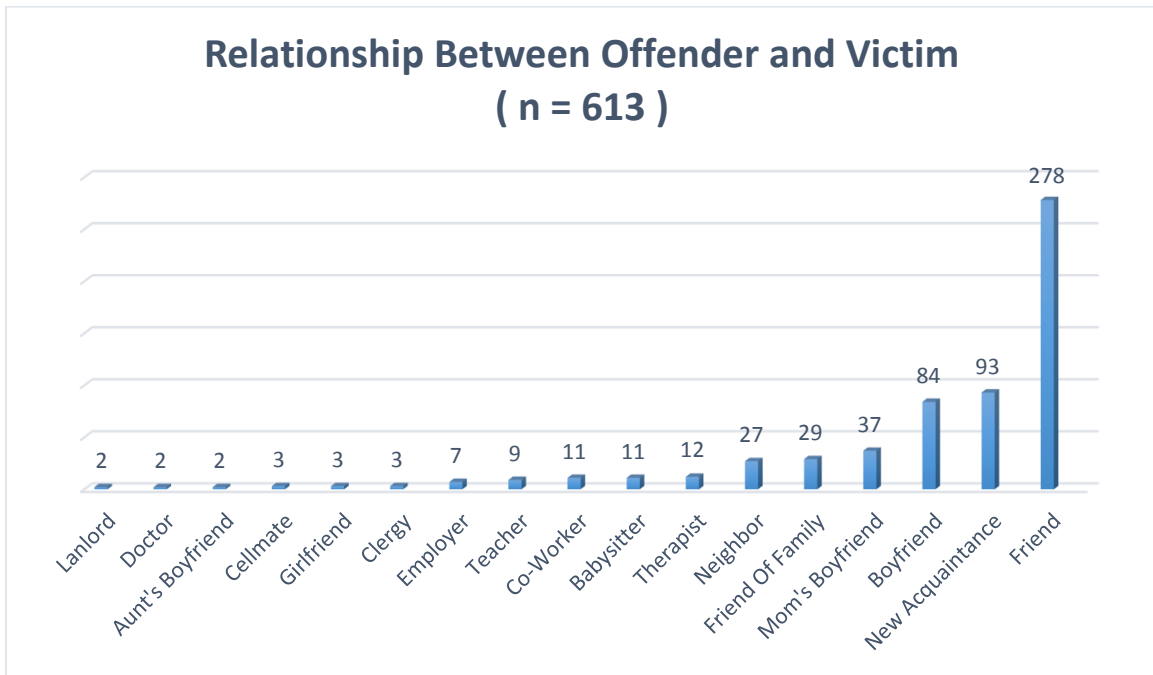
Relationship between offender and victim

Following data suggests that for incestual cases, about 26% incidents are involved with Father, followed by step – father (97 out of 663). The data suggests that it is usually the male which is involved in crime and that too an elderly to victim. Apparently, male strength and dominance is being reflected from the figures.

(Family Member)

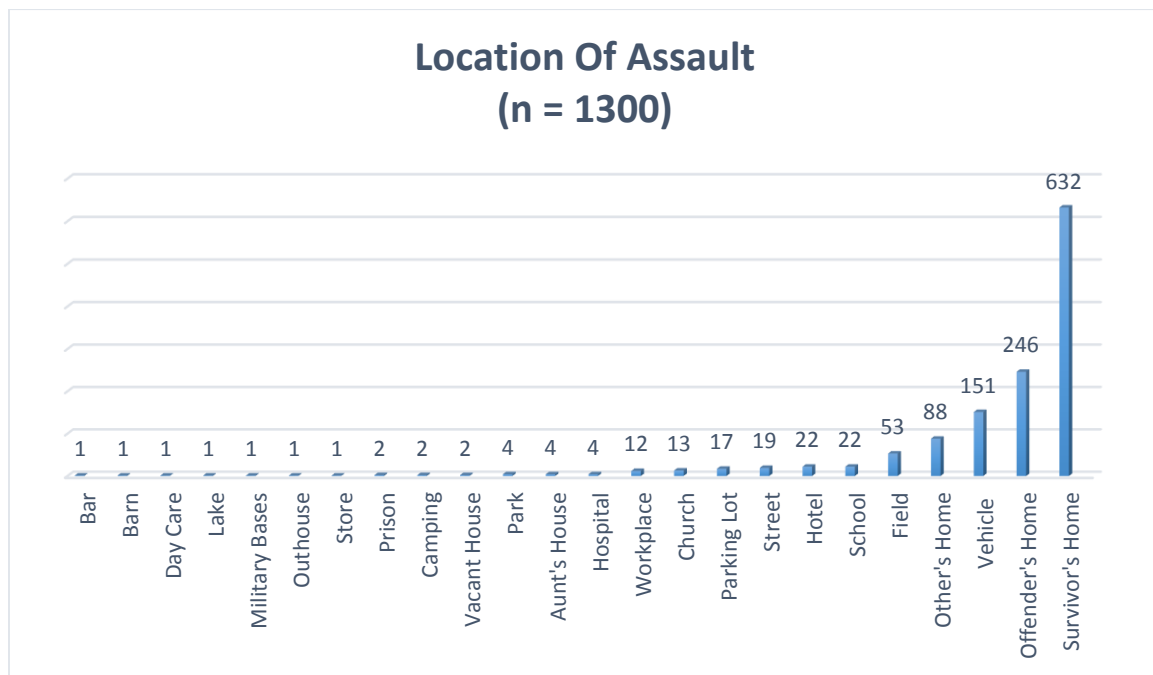


(Non-Family Member)



Location of Assault

Maximum numbers of incidents occur at survivor's home, followed by offender's home. Thereafter, vehicle takes the third spot. These points reflect that the survivor is least safe at his/her own house, as mostly the victim is known to offender (Offender has high chances of being a friend or father)



The statistical analysis confirms the fact that most of the rape cases are:

- Initiated by a known family member or an acquaintance.
- Occur in either survivor's or offender's house.
- Initiated by elderly males or youth.
- Involving victims of almost all age groups.
- Involving physical or verbal coercion.

Summary

The report analyses rapes in India and across the globe, both with non-statistical and statistical information. It deals with explanation, causes, effects of a rape and motivation for offender to commit a sexual offense. Further, the statistical analysis compares data with other parameters like age, state-wise distribution of number of cases, comparison of cases of rapes in India with other countries, and even more detailed study on location of assault, relationship with offender, age group of offender and other several data groups.

Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse, which is initiated by one or more people against another person without that person's consent. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority or against a person who is incapable of valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, or below the legal age of consent.

The report further analyses different types of Rapes and finds data relevant to that. It was proven that Criminal Sexual Penetration and Contact are the most widely abused types of rapes.

Causes of sexual violence are debated and explanations of the cause include socioeconomics, anger, power, sadism, sexual pleasure, psychopathy, ethical standards, laws, attitudes toward the victims and evolutionary pressures.

There is no single scientific theory that conclusively explains the motivation for rape; the motives of rapists can be multi-factorial and are subject to debate. Several factors have been proposed: anger; a desire for power; sadism; sexual gratification in tandem with evolutionary proclivities.

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Report further analyses rape cases with parts of India. It was established that North and Central India account for top number of rape cases lodged, followed by Eastern and Southern India. This data when overlapped with literacy rate and gender ratio shows that even though both are pretty strong for Southern India, it still fails to provide safety against rape cases. This raises several questions over other factors which govern a rapist's intent; male dominance, poor judiciary system and other parameters discussed in Non Statistical section of the report. Maximum numbers of incidents occur at survivor's home, followed by offender's home. Thereafter, vehicle takes the third spot. This reflects that the survivor is least safe at his/her own house, as mostly the victim is known to offender (Offender has high chances of being a friend or father!)

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References

The report makes use of several points made by the following references. Refer to them for further reading and research.

Ref 1 : <http://www.who.int/gender/violence/vawpriority/en/>

Ref 2 : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes_of_sexual_violence#cite_note-21

Ref 3 : <http://www.nmcsap.org/newmexico.html>

Sources

The report has been successfully made due to data from following sources.

Source 1 : <http://tonyat10.blogspot.in/2013/06/and-still-more-evil-blog-number-86-june.html>

Source 2 : www.angela-carson.com

Source 3 : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_in_India

Source 4 : <https://www.rainn.org/statistics>

Source 5 : <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape>

Glossary

1.
 - a. Coercion - It is the practice of forcing another party to act in an involuntary manner by use of intimidation or threats or some other form of pressure or force.
 - b. Age of Consent - the age at which a person is considered to be legally competent to consent to sexual acts, and is thus the minimum age of a person with whom another person is legally permitted to engage in sexual activity. (18 years for India)
2.
 - a. Rigveda - The Rigveda is an ancient Indian sacred collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns. It is counted among the four canonical sacred texts of Hinduism known as the Vedas.
3.
 - a. Criminal Sexual Penetration (CSP) - "The unlawful and intentional causing of a person to engage in sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio or anal intercourse. This also includes causing penetration, to any extent and with any object, of the genital or anal openings of another, whether or not there is any emission."
 - b. Criminal Sexual Contact - "The unlawful and intentional touching or application of force, without consent, to the unclothed intimate parts of another who has reached his eighteenth birthday, or intentionally causing another who has reached his eighteenth birthday to touch one's intimate parts (defined as primary genital area, groin, buttocks, anus, or breast)." (NM Statute 30-9-12). Regarding a minor, CSC can occur over the clothes of a minor's intimate parts. (NM Statute 30-9-13)

- c. Spousal Rape - CSP of one's intimate, household partner.
- d. Incest - "Knowingly intermarrying or having sexual intercourse with persons within the following degrees of relation: parents and children including grandparents and grandchildren of every degree, brothers and sisters of the half as well as of the whole, uncles and nieces, aunts and nephews."
- e. Sexual Harassment - Any unwelcome, unwanted sexual behaviour. This may be verbal, non-verbal (looking someone up and down), physical (patting someone's buttocks), or visual (displaying graphic images).
- f. Exploitation By A Therapist - The perpetration of criminal sexual penetration or criminal sexual contact by a psychotherapist on his patient, with or without the patient's consent, during the course of psychotherapy or within a period of one year following the termination of psychotherapy. A patient is defined as one receiving professional treatment or assessment of a mental or an emotional illness, symptom or condition."