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### Editorial

## Current scenario of crime against women

Reeta R Gupta<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Forensic Science, Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Directorate of Forensic Science Services (DFSS), MHA, New Delhi, India



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Every Citizen has a constitutional right to equality and dignity. The Government of India, law enforcement agencies including police system & judiciary are duty bound to ensure the safety and security of citizens without any bias to caste, creed and gender. Women in India constitute approximately 48 per cent of the total population and they are vulnerable to various types of crime against women. Offences against women and children are initiated at prenatal diagnostic test of sex of the foetus on female foeticide at parental level, at birth female infanticide, trafficking, sexual exploitation, rape, acid attack, child labour and also on virtual space including cybercrime- pornography, indecent representation, sending indecent messages and cyber bullying etc. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2011, there were more than 228,650 reported incidents of crime against women, while in 2021, there were 4,28,278 reported incidents, an 87% increase.

The principle of gender equality is a precious object enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its preamble, Fundamental rights, Fundamental duties and Directive Principles. However, the scenario of crime against women is drastically changing. Crime against women is direct or indirect, physical or mental, in any means is cruelty towards women. Crimes that are directed specifically against women and in which the women are the only victims

fall under the category crime against women. It has been noticed that during the COVID pandemic the crime rates against women had enhanced in the form of domestic violence as well as cyberspace bullying. Throughout India, various legislations have been proclaimed and amended from time to time to redress this specific issue.

Large campaigns have been circulated for spreading awareness for crime against women. Government has recently taken a large step towards women empowerment and equality through the very recent Women's Reservation Bill (2023). People have become more aware and more sensitive towards the injustice with the victims. Gender sensitization is becoming the voice of the upcoming youth and generation in India.

### Conflict of Interest

None.

### Author biography

Reeta R Gupta, Assistant Director <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8546-9841>

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\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [reetaabi@gmail.com](mailto:reetaabi@gmail.com) (R. R. Gupta).