

Economic Impact of Sexual Crimes Against Women in India

Garima Chaudhary

Economis Independent Researcher

ABSTRACT

Sexual violence against women is a reality but is rarely discussed. Almost 50 percent of the world's population are women, which is considered one of the most vulnerable groups of society, the society predominantly residing mostly in the hands of men. Sexual violence or crime affects more than 50% of women across the globe and has a significant impact on the world's economy. This research paper is centrally focused on the adverse effects on economic growth and development due to the increasing number of sexual violence cases against women in the context of India. Based on NCB reports, this research paper studies sexual crime cases against women that happen in India daily and which parts of the country are most affected. Moreover, the research paper delves into the economic repercussions

Keywords: SEXUAL CRIME, ECONOMIC IMPACT, RAPE,

INTRODUCTION

MAHATMA GANDHI famously said, *"The day a woman can walk freely on the roads at night, that day we can say that India achieved independence"*.

The Mathura rape case (1972), the Bhanwari rape case (1992); The Nirbhaya rape case (2012), The Bilkis Banu rape case (2012), the Shakti Mill Rape case (2014), the Hyderabad rape case (2019), Hathras Gangrape case (2020) and the most recent Kolkata rape case (2024) and a name added in the list, on every 58th minute. With the consistent problem of sexual violence or sexual assault against women in India, India is considered the 4TH most dangerous country for women according to Trust Law's poll (Zirulnick,2011) and the most unsafe country for women in the world according to the recent Thomson Reuters Foundation survey. According to the report, India is in denial of the fact that the majority of its women do not feel safe alone on the streets, at work, in markets, or at home, even though they have learned how to cope with existential anxiety. India's Ministry of Women and Child Development declined to comment on the survey results.

Even after the 78th year of celebrating Independence Day, why doesn't India feel like being independent of sexual crimes or violence against women, who comprise 48.42% of India's population (based on data from the World Bank) and have almost equal potential to contribute to the GDP of the country. Women's participation in the economy is crucial for the growth and development of society. Becoming economically independent is an essential factor for overall well-being. Economically independent women can contribute to their families, they can enjoy their rights, and hold more power with a high level of self-confidence, they are more financially stable than those women who are not engaged in the workforce furthermore they actively contribute to the GDP of a country and makes a way for a better society to live in. However, women's contribution to the GDP was directly or indirectly affected by these increasing incidents of sexual

violence or crime against women. Due to this, Indian women contributed less than their actual potential to the GDP, which was adversely reflected in the overall GDP of the country or the slow pace of economic growth.

Economic empowerment is the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the growth process in ways that recognize the value of their contribution, respect their dignity, and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. The economic empowerment of women is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Gender equality and empowered women are catalysts for multiplying development efforts. Reducing the gender gap in participation in economic activities contributes towards many other benefits of economic prosperity such as improvement in child survival, overall family health, reduction in family fertility, etc.

Women's economic empowerment depends on work participation, and work participation depends on the environment in which we live.

METHODOLOGY:

LEGAL DEFINITION OF SEXUAL CRIME AND ITS TYPES

Sexual assault is an act in which a person intentionally and forcefully grasps another person sexually without their consent and against their will. There are many different types of crimes happening around us, and sexual crime is one of them that also needs equal attention as others, as it plays a crucial role in the economic development of a country. There are many different types of sexual crime as per the Indian penal code, which are mentioned below.

A few instances of sexual crimes along with their respective provisions as per the Indian penal code have been mentioned below:

RAPE- As per 1860(IPC) sections 375 to 377 deal with the offence called rape. The definition of rape is derived from a case which is the ravishment of a woman against her will or without her consent or with her consent obtained forcefully by fear or fraud or carnal knowledge of a woman by force against her will.

MARITAL RAPE- When sexual intercourse is done by a man with his married wife who isn't below the age of 15 years as per law even though consent is not given by a married wife, then also such intercourse doesn't amount to rape. It isn't covered under section 375, but it is covered under domestic violence.

GANG RAPE- Last in 2013 a separate section was created for this horrific sexual crime, section 376D defines gang rape as: intercourse by one or more persons constituting a group or acting in furtherance with the common intention and each person shall be liable for imprisonment for not less than 20 years which can be extended to imprisonment for life and they would also be reasonable to the medical expenses of the victim and rehabilitation of the victim.

RAPE OF A MINOR- Due to many cases of rape of a minor, in the year 2018 there were amendments made. Section 376DA and section 376DB were included in the Indian penal code related to this sexual crime.

ASSUALTING A WOMAN – SECTION 354 of IPC criminalizes any such acts that amount to the use of a battery or criminal force against women with the intent to destroy or harm their modesty. Sexual assault can be in any form, which includes visual, verbal, or any other form that forces a person to do unwanted sexual attention or contact.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT – Under section 354A of IPC a man committing any of the following acts would constitute sexual harassment:

- Unwanted sexual contacts and advances involving explicit actions.

- Demanding sexual favors.
- Showing pornography content against women's will.
- Making sexual remarks.

INTENTION TO DISROBE- Section 354B of the IPC deals with any kind of offense related to assault or criminal force that creates an intention to disrobe a woman and her modesty. This includes an intention of forcing a woman to be naked against her will attempting to disrobe her or depriving her of her clothing. For causing such an act, the minimum amount of imprisonment is 3 years, and the maximum amount is 7 years, which may even include a fine.

VOYEURISM- This is explained in Section 354C which addresses a specific offence related to invasion of privacy. Voyeurism is defined as an act done by a man where he indulges himself in watching or capturing an image of a woman while she is engaged in a private moment without her consent. Punishment includes imprisonment of 1 year, which might extend up to 3 years or from 3 to 7 years of imprisonment; depending upon the frequency of doing this criminal act by the same person.

STALKING - Section 354D prohibits stalking of a woman by men. This includes continuous contact or following of a woman by a man despite her clear disinterest. Also, it can be physical or digital persistence, and the law frowns upon it; many of the victims even reported that they are being stalked via social media. As punishment for the first time, a convicted person is offered a shade of imprisonment up to 3 years, and if a person is convicted more than once, then it would extend to 5 years. Recently, India has reported a stalking case every 55 minutes. Every 55 minutes, someone's peace is disrupted, and their privacy is invaded.

HUMAN TRAFFICING - Section 370 of the IPC addresses the grave offense of human trafficking. It is defined as an act of illegally transporting people without their consent. These victims are exported to make them work as laborers or forcefully indulge in the harrowing world of prostitution. According to the National Crimes Records Bureau, a total of 5264 cases were reported in India in the year 2018. Disturbingly, out of them, 48% were below 18 years of age. The punishment awarded for this crime is a minimum of 7 years imprisonment which may even extend to 10 years, depending on the severity of the offense.

SEXUAL CRIMES AND STATISTICS

INCIDENCE OF SEXUAL CRIMES: The number of registered cases against women rose 4 percent to 4,45,256 in 2022 as compared to 4,28,278 in 2021, according to a report released by the National Crime Records Bureau. The majority of these cases fall under:

- 1) Cruelty by husband or husband's relatives: 31.4%
- 2) Kidnapping and abduction of women: 19.2%
- 3) Assault on women with intent to outrage: 18.7%
- 4) Rape: 7.1%

Rape is the fourth most common crime against women in India. In 2012 India witnessed 24,923 rape cases; In 2021 the numbers show no decline, and it increased to 31,677. i.e. around 86 reported rape cases every day and in 2022, the numbers are 31,516 (a slight decline from last year). Five north Indian states have the highest crime rate against women- in absolute numbers.

Uttar Pradesh - 65,743

Maharashtra – 45,331

Rajasthan – 45,058

West Bengal – 34,765

Madhya Pradesh – 32,765

Together, these five states contribute to 50.2% of total cases lodged in India against women. Unfortunately, these are very large numbers but what's more unfortunate is that the true gravity of the situation is far more than these numbers. These figures fail to capture the complete reality. It is widely acknowledged that many sexual crime cases are significantly unreported and that may be due to many reasons; some victims or their families choose not to come forward due to fear, trauma, or societal pressure; Due to fear of revenge from predators; Maybe they do not have awareness about where to report or how to seek professional help in case of sexual assault; because the perpetrators were often in close relationship with the victims etc.; it's a multifaceted phenomenon.

Now the National Crime Bureau statistics for 2012-16 show that approximately 40% of female reported rape victims were minors and 95% knew the rapist. The rapist falls in the “circle of trust” of extended family and friends. The issue continuously makes news headlines, some also leading to public protests, but it's not showing any kind of improvement at present or in the near future. In India, victims of rape not only experience a social stigmatization but their fight for justice is as difficult as the incident due to the system that often faults the victim for their misfortune. Over the last few decades, India has witnessed phenomenal economic growth along with a disastrous growth in sexual crimes against women. Below are two tables to get an approximate idea about how threatening the issue is, which urgently and critically needs to be considered, as it is not only destroying the victim’s life but also the economy in various ways.

TABLE 1: Statistics of sexual crimes against women (2021)

Types of crime	Girl below 18 years	Girl above 18 years	Total no. Of cases	%age out of lakhs
Buying a minor girl	2	0	2	–
Rape	3038	28840	31878	4.8
Attempt to rape	185	3616	3811	0.6
Intention to disrobe a woman	3935	86740	90675	13.4
Insult to the modesty of a woman	89	7797	7886	1.2
Total IPC crimes against women	7247	126993	362891	53.8

SOURCE: NCRB REPORT 2021

TABLE 2: Trends in annually reported rapes of women in India, 2011-2021 (approx.)

YEAR	ESTIMATED POPULATION	REPORTED RAPES	CRIME RATE PER 100,000 WOMEN
2011	587584719	24171	4.11
2012	597622700	24866	4.16
2013	607841233	33640	5.53
2014	618243693	36683	5.93

2015	628833522	34569	5.49
2016	639614225	38856	6.07
2017	650589372	32537	5.00
2018	661762619	33282	5.03
2019	673137668	31986	4.75
2020	684718312	28012	4.09
2021	654240000	31677	4.84

Table 2 shows the upward trend of reported rape cases in India from 2011-2021 and a consistent crime rate per lakh women. These numbers not only depict the pathetic situation of women in India but also the lost potential of human resources with the multiplier effect, which can be utilized to contribute to GDP growth.

ECONOMIC IMPACT FRAMEWORK

Let’s delve into the economic impact of sexual crimes against women in India. While this is a distressing issue, understanding its consequences is crucial for advocacy and change. Major economic indicators like gross domestic product (GDP), income per capita, consumer spending, labor productivity, employment rate, and many more are directly or indirectly affected by such hazardous incidents prevailing in India, and that too on a large scale and yet untreated. It has a ripple effect throughout the society. The crime rate in the country depicts the functioning of the administrative system and government. Sexual crimes against women depict the condition and economic value of a woman of that country and the loss of potential that country is facing due to the malfunctioning of laws and order in the state.

India, being the most populated country in the world, has a demographic benefit. It is said that the 21st century is ‘The century of India ‘because of its demographic advantages, but if the condition remains the same, we will lose this golden opportunity due to our actions and behavior toward our country's responsibility and because of some malfunctioning of the system. From an economic perspective, here are some direct and indirect impacts of sexual crime on the economic growth and development of a country (here in the context of India).

DIRECT IMPACT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Loss of productivity:

Sexual crime against a woman is a very tormenting and shivering experience for its victim as well as for society. It smashes the willpower of the victim, and it becomes difficult for her to restart her work or job and if she does, it's difficult for her to work to her full potential. Sexual harassment at the workplace can lead to a 30% - 40% drop in her productivity due to decreased concentration, job dissatisfaction, and absenteeism. It will affect the entire organization's productivity, and along with the GDP and national income of a country will also be affected.

Turnover and retention costs

There are many different types of costs that a company or a firm spends on their employees like training and skills upgradation, training of employees onboard, salary and compensation, break-even period for new hires, maintenance of the working environment, and many more. Indian IT companies spend about Rs 1.97 crore on average on their employee. An employee also provides better turnover and profits to the company using his/her skills and education. When an employee leaves a company and chooses not to work

again then all these turnover and retention costs go in vain. After experiencing any kind of sexual crime or assault, a woman does not find it safe to work outside the home. Many sexual harassment cases in the workplace were being reported in India, which has a direct impact on women's labor participation in India. **CASE STUDY:** On 8 August 2024, a horrific incident happened in India again. A 31-year-old female postgraduate trainee doctor was raped and murdered in West Bengal at the time when she was at her workplace.

Health costs and burden

Sexual crimes impose severe social and financial repercussions, affecting both the individuals' lives and the broader economy. Sometimes these sexual crimes cause serious damage to the health of a victim, either physically or mentally, leading to unintended pregnancies, induced abortions, gynecological problems, and sexually transmitted infections, HIV infection; often experience trauma, anxiety, and depression which also affects their ability to work effectively, leading to productivity losses. Treating survivors involves medical expenses, counseling, and rehabilitation, which strain the public healthcare system. Also, the Victim and her family's problems will pile up with this health cost, mental health costs, very long court cases, etc.

CASE STUDY: ARUNA SHANBAUG, an Indian nurse, died of pneumonia on 18 May 2015, after being in a persistent vegetative state for nearly 42 years because of sexual assault by a male sweeper on 27 November 1973 at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, where she was treated after the incident for 42 continuous years.

Education disruption

Education is the main driving force to change the mindset of the people from traditional narrow thinking to modern broad thinking, consequently, the economy will achieve remarkable progress by increasing employment as well as GDP.

According to the National Crime Bureau report, around 7274 minors had experienced sexual crime. These minors may be students who were studying with the hope of having a bright future. The Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights conducted a survey and interviewed 94 girls and 6 boys in 2019. The survey revealed that 33% of minor rape/sexual assault survivors, dropped out of school and only 9% have plans to resume studies.

TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF REPORTED CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN CASES (2022) AND LITERACY RATE OF INDIAN STATES IN 2022 (BASED ON NSO SURVEY)

INDIAN STATES AND UTs	REPORTED CASES	RATE OF TOTAL CRIME	LITERACY RATE (MALE)	LITERACY RATE (FEMALE)
ANDHRA PRADESH	25503	96.2	73.4	59.5
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	335	44.4	73.60	59.57
ASSAM	14148	81.2	90.1	81.2
BIHAR	20222	33.5	79.7	60.5
CHATTISGHAR	8693	58.2	85.4	68.7
GOA	273	35.1	92.81	81.38

GUJRAT	16743	118.7	89.5	74.8
HARYANA	16743	118.7	88	71.3
WEST BENGAL	34738	71.8	84.8	76.1
RAJASTHAN	45058	115.1	80.8	57.6
UTTARPADESH	65743	58.6	81.8	63.4
DELHI	14247	144.4	93.7	82.4
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	178	93.7	90.11	81.84
MAHARASTRA	45331	75.1	90.7	78.4
MADHYA PRADESH	32765	78.8	81.2	65.5
MEGHALAYA	690	41.6	77.17	73.78
SIKKIM	179	55.4	87.29	76.43
KERELA	15213	82	97.4	95.2
TELANGANA	22066	117	80.5	65.1
UTTRAKHAND	4337	77	94.3	80.7
ODISHA	23648	103.3	84	70.3

Table 4: GROSS ENROLLMENT RATIO (percent) 2021-22

STATES/UTs	SR. SCHOOL (BOYS)	SEC. SCHOOL (GIRLS)	HIGHER EDUCATION (BOYS)	HIGHER EDUCATION (GIRLS)
ANDRA PRADESH	55.2	58.3	37.7	35.2
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	51.1	56.1	38.4	34.5
ASSAM	42.2	42.2	16.2	17.6
BIHAR	36.2	36.2	17.6	16.3
CHHATTISGARH	73.6	73.6	25.2	21.6
GUJRAT	47.8	47.8	30.3	22.7
HARYANA	76.0	76.0	37.3	37.0
HIMACHAL PRADESH	95.3	95.3	22.6	49.7
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	52.9	52.9	18.6	27.2
JHARKHAND	48.0	48.0	36.1	18.7
KARNATAKA	58.8	58.8	34.1	36.1
KERALA	81.8	88.4	24.1	34.1
MADHYA PRADESH	51.9	50.7	29.7	28.0

MAHARASTRA	72.0	70.7	37.1	33.3
MEGHALAYA	39.4	52.7	22.7	28.1
RAJASTHAN	74.0	66.3	29.0	28.1
UTTARPADES H	52.8	48.3	23.9	24.4
GOA	71.2	76.7	36.0	35.5
WEST BENGAL	53.7	70.6	25.9	26.8
DELHI	91.2	70.8	48.3	49.7
PUDUCHERRY	64.6	68.7	61.0	62.1
SIKKIM	56.6	72.0	35.1	42.5
KERELA	81.8	88.4	34.1	49.0
UTTRAKHAND	77.2	80.6	40.1	43.7
ANDAMANN AND NICOBAR	62	70.2	19.8	25.7
ODISHA	41.8	45.5	23.5	20.6
TELANGANA	63.1	66.7	38.5	41.6

SOURCE: Unified district information system for education (UDISE)+ 2021-22, Department of school education and literacy and all India survey on higher education (AISHE) 2020-21

Mental health

Previous quantitative studies established a positive relationship between sexual violence and mental illness. For qualitative research, 26 in-depth interviews of eligible respondents from IMH records (Institute of Mental Health, Mau, Uttar Pradesh) were done.

Diagnosed mental health status of respondent:

Depression and anxiety	-	8
Sleeping disorder	-	9
Obsession	-	2
Acute stress disorder	-	2
Mental retardation	-	5

Not only these, but many sexual assault survivors experience psychological anguish, and many experience posttraumatic stress disorder at some point in their course of life. On top of that, we do not have adequate mental health services available in India, which only adds to the suffering of mentally disordered women facing sexual outbreaks of violence and lasting negative impacts on the victim’s perception of themselves, events, and others.

Unsuccessful Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 and 8: SDG 5 – Gender equality and SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth were directly and adversely affected by the rising numbers of sexual crime cases against women in India.

TABLE 5: SCORES OF SDG

SDG	2018 SCORE	2023-24 SCORE
5) GENDER EQUALITY	56	64

8) DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	55	65
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The data shows a slight improvement in the scores achieved in SDG, but the question arises: Is that enough to surpass the adverse effects or even nullify the effect of this upswing in sexual violence? Studies show a theoretical relation between the gender gap and economic growth. The greater the gender gap in a country, the slower its economic growth.

The target of achieving SDG 5 and SDG 8 in India is by 2030; these goals will empower all women and girls, but it doesn't seem to be possible with the increasing trend of sexual violence against women.

INDIRECT IMPACT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Women's labor force participation

Women's labor force participation rate has shown a declining trend for an extended period between 1983-84 and 2004 before it started to decline between 2005 and 2010. The low level of women's labor force participation rate has a serious implication for India's GDP.

TABLE 6: WOMEN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

YEAR	RURAL		URBAN		RURAL+URBAN	
	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN
2017-18	80.2	26.6	80.1	22.3	80.2	25.3
2020-21	82.1	39.3	81.1	24.5	81.8	35.6
CHANGE IN 2020-21 OVER 2017-18	1.9	12.7	1.1	4.2	1.6	10.3

SOURCE: Ministry of Labor and Employment 2023 (pg. 11)

The impact of sexual crime on women's labor force participation is multifaceted and deeply concerning. It is increasing in India year by year, which is creating an environment of fear and insecurity for women. Women do not feel secure working late at night or going out at night. Sometimes, the harassment happens in the daylight with thousands of people around. When women avoid work due to safety concerns, it hampers overall workforce participation, and along with its economy will also show adverse effects. The recent Ujjain rape case depicts the failure of being a human and a system. Women also limit their mobility due to safety concerns, and working away from homes becomes less attractive to them which restricts their economic opportunities. Blame and stigma by traditional society are often faced by a woman in India, which makes women avoid work to avoid scrutiny. All these perceived threats affect women's decision to participate in the labor force, and reduced labor force participation hampers overall economic growth.

Investment climate and reputation

These increasing numbers of sexual crimes in India are not only adversely affecting the reputation of the country but also indirectly affecting the investment climate for an open economy. It tarnishes India's reputation globally. Investors consider safety and stability when choosing investment destinations. A negative image affects foreign direct investment and business confidence.

Phaneesh Murthy is a famous IT industry veteran. In 2002, he was accused by two female colleagues of sexual harassment when he was an ace salesman at Infosys. Infosys subsequently settled the lawsuit off court for \$3 million and fired him in 2002.

'But there is no escape from India's rape culture; sexual terrorism is treated as a norm. Society and

government institutions often excuse and protect men from the consequences of their sexual violence.... India’s favorite profanities are about having sex with women without their consent.’ [Essay in The New York Times]

CASE STUDY

The Nirbhaya rape case of Delhi (Dec 2012), a high-profile rape case, got international media coverage, and the event spread, throughout the world along with the negative impression of India towards women's safety. Of 351 included in media reports of this horrific incident, 51 are from the United States, 42 are from Canada, 28 are from the United Kingdom, 13 are from Asia (except India), 3 are from Australia, and **from France.**

134 media reported about the protest because of the nationwide outrage. Out of these 74 reports i.e., 55.2% highlights of the protests were based on the criticism of the current government and its perceived inaction in safeguarding women’s rights. This outraged representation is not limited to India; ten reports underscore international response and criticize the Indian government.

Bilkis Bano (gang rape survivor) on the release of men who brutally killed 13 members of her family and gang raped her stated her lawyer, saying she hadn't been consulted about the decision, and it had ‘shaken’ her faith in justice.

Sustainable development goals (SDG)

Goal 1: No poverty	Goal 2: Zero hunger	Goal 3: Good health and well-being
Goal 4: Quality education	Goal 5: Gender equality	Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy	Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth	Goal 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities	Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production
Goal 13: Climate action	Goal 14: Life Below Water	Goal 15: Life on land
Goal 16: Peace, justice, and a strong institution	Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals	

Here is a list of all SDGs that all UN member states have agreed to work towards by 2030. The increasing rate of sexual crime against women in India is directly or indirectly having an adverse effect on economic growth and development which is also reflected in the low scores in these SDGs.

STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

According to McKinsey, creating a safe environment for women in India could potentially increase the country’s GDP by US\$ 770 billion—nearly ten times India’s current health sector outlay¹.

Ultimately, addressing sexual crimes requires a holistic approach that combines legal reforms, societal education, and support systems. By doing so, India can aspire to create a safer environment conducive to sustainable economic growth and societal well-being.

- Encouraging reporting of such cases is very important for addressing various issues. This can be possible with the help of various methods like sustainability reporting, public outreach campaigns,

whistle-blower protection, creating a reporting culture, etc.

- Tolerance for Eve-teasing*, rape jokes, and casual sexual harassment at the workplace (like butt smacking) must be zero, that behavioral pattern will ultimately motivate the person to go a step ahead, to do bigger crimes.
- Initiative by WHO and United Nations Women: Each letter of RESPECT stands for one of seven strategies: Relationship skills strengthening; Empowerment of women; Services ensured; Poverty reduced; Enabling environments (schools, workplaces, public spaces) created; Child and adolescent abuse prevented; and Transformed attitudes, beliefs, and norms. Executing the plan with appropriate actions is required.
- Stricter punishment Laws against at least the proven guilty in rape or gang rape case. Leniency against criminals seems to be normalized more in India, with an increasing number of sexual violence cases. Here are a few examples:
Out on bail, rape accused shoots dead minor victim in UP's Sambhal (The Indian Express news article; 20 September 2024)
Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh gets 15 paroles in 4 years; barred from entering Haryana (Business Today News; 1 October 2024)
Abuse of power': Supreme Court scraps release of Bilkis Bano Case rape- murder convicts.
Rehabilitation mental health camp centers provide mental support or effective therapies to the victims or survivors so that they can restart their lives.

*The term eve-teasing describes sexual harassment of women by men in public spaces, which is often viewed as a normal, romantic, and moderate crime unlike rape or sexual harassment and murder even though it violates women's modesty.

CONCLUSION:

India is currently ranked as the 5th largest economy globally in 2025 in nominal GDP additionally, it is maintaining its status as the fastest-growing large economy in the world, and despite all these remarkable achievements, the true potential of our country is still behind bars. Many achievers of our country are still behind the curtains. More than 90 % of educated women are homemakers, some by choice, but far too many due to societal pressure and fear. Fear of being teased at the workplace by seniors or asked for sexual favors to get a promotion in their career. Those educated women who have the potential to contribute to the GDP of their country, are ineffective in doing so.

The working environment, better lifestyle, and the sense of freedom we admire in Western nations can also be achieved in our country. The day when women stop concerning about day and night shifts for work, will be the day of change and improvement in our country. Sexual crimes create a ripple effect, its impact goes beyond the immediate harm, leading to backlashes from other countries, migration of population and mostly the quality people in search of better opportunities, unattainable sustainable development goals, etc.

In closing, it is crucial to emphasize Mackinsey's theory that if we are able to create a safe environment for women in India, it will potentially be able to increase our GDP tenfold, which means the quality of

lifestyle and environment we desire can be achieved.

RESEARCH GAPS:

To solve any problem more effectively, we need to understand the root cause of it, In the same way, to find out the exact reason for this upward trend of sexual violence cases in India, we need to understand the background of the culprit, his educational qualifications, age, family background, status in the society, and most importantly his beliefs and ethics and their origin.

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