

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND WOMEN RIGHT PROTECTIVE MECHANISM IN TAMILNADU

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Abstract:

Our Indian scenario accurately depicts a hushed civilization in serious need of revealing secret realities to the unknown. Today's environment is made up of millions of stories told by people with happy faces. Regardless of gender, sexual harassment has affected men, women, and transgender people, as well as children and senior citizens. A female housekeeper was offered a note of ten rupees instead of the house owner forcing himself on her during her working hours, according to some true reports. Mental anguish and the dread of losing her work had kept her from telling his wife about the occurrence. People are often pressured to not raise their voices and stand up for themselves due to poverty and fears such as fear, low esteem, and so on.

Keyword: Rights of women, Organisation, Issues, Sexual harassment, Causes and consequence, conclusion.

Introduction:

Sexual harassment is defined as rude, embarrassing, or intimidating sexual behavior. It can take the form of written, verbal, or physical communication, and it can take place in person or online. Sexual harassment can happen to anyone, regardless of gender. When sexual harassment occurs at work, school, or university, it may be considered discrimination. Since the dawn of time, the position and status of women have been a fluid concept. Women's standing has changed dramatically throughout history, from the Vedic period to the present day. Women have tasted every flavor of life, from the glory and respect bestowed upon them in the Vedic period to denial and subordination in the post-Vedic period, and finally the fight for equality, acknowledgment, and survival in the modern world. However, one thing that has been consistent throughout this period is women's marginalization.

Violence, physical abuse, denial of the right to life, subordination, and neglect have all been perpetrated against women. The most horrible and humiliating of these atrocities is an assault against women. Violence against women is a broad word that refers to a variety of acts of violence, abuse, and torture directed towards women. It encompasses not only physical violence against women, but also verbal abuse, emotional agony, economic hardship, and social disrespect. No woman is born to be treated inhumanely and to have her right to life taken away. Any form of violence directed towards a woman is a direct violation of her human rights, and it is the most heinous of human rights violations. Women of all ages, from all walks of life, and all backgrounds experience some form of violence at some point in their lives.

Domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical and verbal abuse, rape, human trafficking, forced prostitution, dowry-related violence, dowry deaths, female foeticide or infanticide, and other inhumane practices are examples. They are victimized and ignored in all aspects of life, and they are subjected to discrimination in all areas of human endeavor. As a result, women all over the world are subjected to these practices in practically every aspect of their lives, including education, employment, at home, at work, in marriage, and even in childhood. Women are seen as being at a disadvantage because of their social roles as well as physical and biological differences from men.

Violence is defined as an act of hostility that violates the autonomy and identity of another individual. In technical words, violence is the use of force against another person that is not permitted by law and is inflicted with the intent of obtaining something against the other person's will or without their agreement. "To summarise, the idea of 'violence' is famously difficult to describe since it is a multidimensional, socially interpreted, and extremely ambivalent reality." ii It is a complex and diverse concept because no single act can be classified as violent or abusive. It can take the shape of verbal or physical abuse, it can be individual or collective, it can be a continuous process or a one-time occurrence, and it can even go beyond that. It is an act that a bystander, as well as the victims themselves, are unable to fully describe and understand. It is a complicated and dynamic idea that requires careful consideration and management. Gender-based violence has risen to prominence on the global human rights agenda. Although there is little credible data on the prevalence of gender-based violence in India, there is an emerging body of reports and opinions indicating that it is prevalent in all types of communities and among all classes of people. It

happens in a broader context of gender-based discrimination in the home, as well as in the public realm, concerning access to education, resources, and decision-making power.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), also known as the Treaty on Women's Equality, is a groundbreaking international agreement that upholds fundamental human rights and equality for women all around the world. CEDAW is a step-by-step guide for countries to make development for women and girls. iii In the year 1993, India ratified the convention. Even after the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1979, significant progress has been achieved in practically all major nations in recognizing gender-based violence as a human rights issue. However, the current situation demonstrates that just adopting norms and policies has not fulfilled the intended aim.

Because the number of cases of female victimization has been increasing dramatically, there is still a broad and deep-rooted problem that demands attention. Acts of abuse such as eve-teasing, molestation, sexual assault, domestic violence, and rape have grown quite widespread and are recorded daily. They include both physical and verbal abuse. They are, however, all aspects of what is often referred to as sexual harassment or sexual misbehavior. Gender-based violence is a form of violence that represents men's superior status in society and women's victimhood. It's also worth remembering that any type of violence, whether verbal or physical, can be perpetrated against a woman by a stranger or by individuals she knows.

Many cases have been reported in which the accused culprits are family members, relatives, or even family friends. Given these facts, it is reasonable to conclude that a woman is not safe in today's world, even at home. Sexual harassment can include someone

- i. Touching, grabbing, or otherwise making physical contact with you without your consent
- ii. Making sexually charged statements to you
- iii. Requesting sex or sexual favorsiv.
- iv. Squinting and looking at you displaying obscene and abusive content for you or others to view
- v. Approaching you with sexual gestures or suggestive body moves
- vi. Laughing at or making sexual jokes about you
- vii. Inquiring about your sexual life ix.
- viii. Insulting you with sexual remarks, When you're on the phone, someone's behavior makes you feel uneasy.
- ix. Harassing you sexually.

Rights of women:

1. Right to maintenance:

Food, shelter, clothing, education, health care facilities, and other fundamental necessities of existence are included in maintenance. Even after her divorce, a married woman is entitled to maintenance from her husband as long as she does not remarry. Maintenance is determined by the wife's standard of living as well as the husband's circumstances and income. Except when the wife lives in adultery or refuses to remain with her husband without sufficient cause, or when both of them live apart by mutual accord, Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, requires the husband to support his divorced wife. Any Indian woman, regardless of caste or religion, can seek maintenance from her husband under the aforementioned law. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 likewise provides for support, but only for Hindu women. The Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act of 1939, on the other hand, solely applies to Muslim women.

2. Right to equal pay

We now have gender-neutral laws. For the same labor, both men and women are entitled to the same remuneration. The Equal Remuneration Act stipulates this. It ensures that men and women workers are paid equally for the same or equivalent labor. There shall be no discrimination based on gender in terms of recruiting or working conditions.

3. Right to dignity and decency

Women's jewels are dignity and decency. Anyone who tries to snare and undress her modesty is deemed a sinner, and the law clearly states that they will be punished. Every woman has the right to a dignified life devoid of fear, compulsion, assault, or prejudice. Women's dignity and modesty are well respected by the law. Sexual Harassment (Section 354A), assault with the purpose to disrobe her (Section 354B) or insult her modesty (Section 354), Voyeurism (Section 354C), Stalking (354D), and other crimes against women are all punishable under the law.

If the woman is suspected of a crime and arrested, she is treated with civility. Her arrest and search should be conducted by a woman police officer with the utmost courtesy, and her medical examination should be performed by a woman medical officer or under the supervision of a woman medical officer. In rare instances, a female police officer should register the FIR as much as possible. Furthermore, she cannot be arrested after nightfall and before daybreak unless a woman police officer obtains special permission from the Magistrate.

4. Right against domestic violence

Because of the 2005 enactment of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, every woman has the right to be free from domestic violence. Domestic violence encompasses not only physical abuse, but also psychological, sexual, and economic assault. So, if you are a daughter, a wife, or a live-in partner who has been subjected to any of these abuses by your partner, husband, or his relatives, or by someone related to you by blood or adoption who lives or has lived with you in a shared household, you are well covered under the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act and may seek various remedies provided thereunder. You can file a complaint by calling the "1091" women's helpline. They will report your matter to the authorities. You can also contact the local women's cell, which you can locate via the internet.

Since domestic violence is a cognizable offense, the police must file an FIR and investigate it; however, if they refuse, you may write a letter to the Superintendent of Police and post it; if the SP believes the information discloses a cognizable offense, he may either investigate himself or direct his subordinate police officer to do so. If the SP also rejects your request, you may go directly to the Magistrate in your area and apply to Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act with the help of a lawyer to obtain the required relief(s) against Domestic Violence, such as protection, custody, and reparation orders. The Indian Penal Code also protects women who are victims of domestic violence under Section 498A, which punishes the husband or his relatives with imprisonment.

5. Rights at workplace

You have the right to a women's restroom where you work. It is necessary to provide facilities for child care and feeding in workplaces with more than 30 female employees. So, if someone at your workplace asks you for sexual favors, makes sexually colored remarks, whistles at you, sings obscene songs at you, touches you inappropriately, or shows pornography, that is considered Sexual Harassment, and you have the right to file a complaint with the Internal Complaints Committee, which is required to be formed by the employer at each office or branch with ten or more employees. A Local Complaints Committee must be formed by the District Officer in each district, and if necessary, at the block level. Apart from that, under section 354A of the IPC, Sexual Harassment is punishable by imprisonment for a period of one to three years.

6. Right against dowry

The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 makes it illegal for a bride or bridegroom, or their parents, to give or take dowry before, during, or after marriage. The Act defines "dowry" as any property or valuable security given or agreed to be granted by one party to the other, either directly or indirectly, but does not include dower or mahr in the case of persons who are subject to Muslim Personal Law (Shariat). If you provide, take, or aid in the giving or taking of dowry, you will be sentenced to a minimum of 5 years in prison and a minimum fine of Rs. 15,000 rupees.

7. Right to free legal aid

If you are a woman who has been wronged, you have the right to free legal assistance from legal services authorities authorized under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, regardless of whether you can afford legal services on your own. District, State, and National legal services authorities have been established at the local, state, and national levels. Assisting in the conduct of any case or other legal processes before any Court, tribunal, or authority, as well as providing legal advice.

8. Right of private defense/self-defense

It's a retaliatory right. To protect your body or another person's body from the assailant, you may cause harm, severe harm, or even death. However, in certain circumstances, such as when you believe the assailant is about to cause your death or grievous bodily harm or commit rape, kidnapping, or abduction, or if he intends to lock you in a room, or throws or attempts to throw acid at you, you can kill that person and the law will protect you.

Women are well-protected under Indian law. Every Indian woman should be aware of these eight basic rights for women. A person who understands the law does not require a weapon. His weapon is the law, which makes him the most powerful person on the planet. You become wise and just when you are aware of your rights.

Organization:

Over the centuries, an alarming number of women have been subjected to violence and abuse in both the private and public spheres, and the number of documented cases is on the rise. Survivors of such trauma frequently require help on numerous levels, including medical, legal, and emotional assistance. Over the years, several levels of government

have established emergency helplines for women to call in times of distress, providing emergency services, police intervention, medical, and legal aid.

Furthermore, Chennai is home to some non-profit organizations that assist women who have been victims of gender-based violence and/or harassment. There are additional mental health organizations in the city, with a concentration on women. The following is a partial list of services that women can use to get support and assistance when they need it.

In December 2018, the women's helpline number 181 was inaugurated, with the necessary infrastructure built for Rs 62 lakhs. Women who are victims of domestic abuse or sexual harassment can call the helpline 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Police assistance, legal support, and medical assistance, including ambulance services, will all be available through the helpline. The hotline will also provide information on government programs that support women.

In 2004, the women's helpline 1091 was established to assist women in reporting crimes. The lines are manned by police officers who have undergone extensive training. The helpline was created to make it easier for women to contact the police and to remove any shame or anxiety they may have about doing so. The calls will be handled in the same way and with the same urgency as calls to the general police helpline, 100.

The Chennai Police Department launched a special helpline for women in distress in December 2019. The hotline number is 8300304207, and it is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This number will function in addition to the other helplines now provided. The Union Government has introduced a single emergency number for all emergency services in 16 states, including Tamil Nadu. This includes access to the women's helpline's services. The helpline will give emergency aid as well as legal, medical, and police assistance as needed. This number was created to work similarly to the integrated national helplines used in the United Kingdom and the United States.

PCVC was created in Chennai in 2001 to provide a "support network for women and queer people who are victims of domestic and interpersonal violence." Both emergency and rehabilitation services are provided by the organization. Dealing with the police, devising an exit plan from abusive relationships and households, as well as medical and legal assistance and counseling, are all part of the crisis intervention services provided. The organization also assists women with skill development and job prospects. PCVC's Dhvani toll-free hotline is 044-43111143, and their Whatsapp chat support is 9840888882.

The Banyan is a well-known non-profit organization in the city that provides mental health assistance to the homeless. The Banyan's initiatives have helped many women who have been abandoned by their families owing to poor mental health. The NGO operates a hospital and shelter that assists women by offering mental health care and putting them on the road to recovery. Women are placed in group homes and other living alternatives at the Banyan if they are unable to reunite with their families. They also provide vocational training to the women in their care so that they can earn a living. 9840888882 (Emergency Care) Whatsapp.

Nakshatra is a non-profit organization that seeks to prevent sexual abuse and human trafficking. It was founded in 2012. The organization helps people with legal, medical, and counseling issues. The NGO also promotes sexual violence prevention through education and awareness events held throughout the city. To assist survivors of sexual violence, the organization established a dedicated rape crisis center. The crisis center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and survivors can get help filing complaints and getting medical exams. 9003058479 / 7845629339 / 9003058479 / 7845629339 / 9003058479 /

AWARE raises awareness about gender-based violence and offers support to women who have been victims of it. The organization conducts safety assessments at numerous locations throughout the city and has lobbied authorities to improve women's safety on public transportation. The NGO in Semmenchery is working on a holistic community development project that prioritizes women's safety. 8122241688 is the phone number to call.

Issues of Sexual harassment:

Eve-teasing, or the sexual harassment of a woman in public, is a highly widespread issue in India. It might be done by an individual or a group, and it could be directed towards a single lady or a number of them. It could also be a verbal declaration of a socially unacceptable comment or a sexually explicit statement. It may even include touching or brushing up against a lady, stalking her, or making her feel uncomfortable by making inappropriate comments. It is a highly common occurrence, however, it is not a socially acceptable phenomenon. Eve teasing, according to the Oxford Dictionary, is "the making of unwanted sexual remarks or approaches by a male to a woman in a public place." iv In the 1960s, the concept of eve-teasing achieved widespread popularity. Today, however, Eve teasing has become a major problem in many Indian towns.

This is a threat that many Indian women have faced or are facing. Women feel vulnerable to the potential of eve-teasing anywhere, whether it be public transportation, public areas, shopping malls, streets, or the workplace. There have been numerous reports of young females being harassed in public locations. Eve-teasing is a threat to society as

a whole, and it must be eliminated. However, save for the state of Tamil Nadu, which has its legislation to deal with this offense, there is no explicit legislation in the country. It is important to highlight here that this is not just a one-time occurrence that is forgotten the next day. It might have a negative emotional and psychological impact on a woman.

It could be so terrible that it drives a woman to commit herself as a result of the harassment and agony she has endured. Eve-teasing is a terrible offense against a woman's honor, decency, and self-respect. On November 30, 2012, the Supreme Court, in Deputy Inspector General of Police & Anrv.S. Samuthiramv, directed the central government to enact effective legislation to combat eve-teasing, holding that with the changing times, more and more girl students, women, and others go to educational institutions, workplaces, and so on, and their protection is critical to a civilized and cultured society.

The experiences of women and girls in overcrowded buses, metros, and trains are harrowing and terrible. vi The Supreme Court addressed this issue in the preceding case, in which a police officer misbehaved and eve-teased a married woman beside a bus stop in the presence of her husband. He was found eve-teasing a married woman, which resulted in criminal and disciplinary action that resulted in his expulsion from service. The Court established certain guidelines, including the deployment of plainclothes police officers in public places, the installation of CCTV cameras, the reporting of information to police stations or the women's helpline, and the direction of the State Governments and Union Territories of India to take adequate and effective measures by issuing suitable instructions to the concerned authorities to curb such incidents of eve-teasing.

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As a result, it is important to recognize that eve-teasing has developed as an almighty social menace that can affect any woman, at any age, and in any area of the world. Eve-teasing, which is commonly seen as a fairly widespread crime, is a kind of assault against women. It is a very significant issue that causes enormous mental pain and humiliation to women and girls who are harassed on highways and public transportation. A key issue is that the majority of these occurrences go unreported for a variety of reasons, including fear of social shame and disgrace, a lack of parental supervision and support in submitting complaints, and so on. It is a blatant violation of a woman's right to life with dignity and a violation of a woman's fundamental right to life. The same is reflected in newspaper reports virtually every day, where a plethora of such occurrences occurs.

Molestation, often known as sexual abuse or sexual assault, is another kind of violence against women. It is the enforcing of sexual conduct on women by a guy. Molestation is the sexual exploitation of a kid or a woman for sexual enjoyment by an adult or a masculine person. Sexual abuse can take many forms, including fondling, mutual masturbation, sodomy, coitus, child pornography, and child prostitution, among others. It could be an attack on one's dignity and modesty by a stranger, an acquaintance, a close family member or friend, or even a stranger. It is even more difficult to expose and file a complaint against the abuser if he is a family member or someone known to the family.

Though persons who are victims or witnesses of such crimes should report such crimes, doing so is a difficult undertaking; normally, people believe that such cases should not be reported due to societal pressure because they bring a bad name to the victim. Victims are looked down upon in society. Even the molesters intimidate the victims and force them not to report the incident. Thus, molestation is defined as the act of subjecting someone to unwanted or obscene sexual advances or activities, which forces the victim to suffer in silence. Recently, situations have been documented in which victims' uncles or even grandfathers have been accused of molestation.

A similar event occurred on August 1, 2013, when a man set fire to a girl after she rebuffed his attempt to molest her. Several ladies have reported incidences of sexual assault by their superiors at work in venues such as offices and even educational institutions. Women are insecure from practically everyone around them, including professors, employers, and even family members and friends. They are abused, mistreated, physically hurt, and even tortured. This shows a flagrant disregard for female modesty and femininity. When molestation occurs within a marriage, it is one of the most serious forms of molestation. This is commonly referred to as spousal sexual abuse. It is a situation in which a husband physically beats his wife within the four walls of the house and hides his heinousness behind the cloak of "marriage."

In such cases, not only may women feel hesitant to report such instances, but they may also be unaware that an offense has been committed against them. They silently experience daily life trauma and accept it as a normal part of existence. They are verbally mistreated, physically assaulted, and forced to work like animals while caring for the family and children. In circumstances where the male members of the home are ignorant and unaware of their basic human rights, they are easy victims for them. Furthermore, where the male dominant individuals in a household are frequent alcoholics, this problem exaggerates for women. In such circumstances, the woman is a defenseless victim who is subjected to stress and shock at the hands of male members of society. There are no formal laws in the country dealing with molestation offenses.

The matter may, however, be handled under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which allows for punishment for employing violence or criminal force against a lady to offend her modesty. Previously, the Section allowed for the punishment of this offense to be imprisonment for a term of up to two years, a fine, or both. However, after the new Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013, the sentence was enhanced and altered from two years to a punishment ranging from one year to five years, coupled with a fine. This has been a well-received and appreciated move by the country's administration. Such significant actions demonstrate the state's intolerance for inhumane conduct and violations of women's rights.

Crime against women in general, and rape in particular, has recently increased... Rape is more than just a physical attack. It is frequently devastating to his victim's entire personality. A murderer destroys the victim's physical body; a rapist ruins the vulnerable female's inner soul. As a result, when a person is charged with rape, the courts have a significant deal of responsibility." Rape is one of the most heinous kinds of sexual assault against women. It is an act of physical aggression and attack that is conveyed sexually. Rape is defined under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. Initially, this section simply stated that a man is considered to have committed rape if he engages in sexual intercourse with a woman against her will, without her agreement, or under the different circumstances specified in the section.

However, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 broadened the definition of rape. Because of the many types of instances that have recently been documented, legislators have added a variety of sexual abuses under the definition of rape and enhanced the sentence for the same offense. Following the change, acts such as penetration, insertion of objects, application of the tongue, or even manipulation of a female's body for the aim of penetration were brought into the definition of rape. In addition, the penalty for rape has been increased. Grave penalties are specified for crimes such as acid assaults, gang rapes, and rapes in which the victim is left in a prolonged vegetative condition. Rape occurrences have been escalating at an alarming rate in recent years. Following this, there has been a significant shift in crime reporting.

On December 16, 2012, a 23-year-old girl was gang-raped and severely wounded in the southern portion of New Delhi before succumbing to her injuries. This caused great upheaval in the country, with the entire people protesting and revolting to modify the existing laws. As a consequence, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 went into effect. Rape occurrences have increased in India in recent years. This threat affects women of all ages and from all walks of life. Even two-year-old girls are victims of such horrible atrocities. According to the World Health Organization, a woman is raped every 54 minutes in India. Even after a percentage of incidents go unreported, these are the figures. Sexual offenses against women are on the rise in India, according to data.

According to the National Crime Bureau, there has been a 3% increase in such crimes, with daily reports of rape incidents. In a few documented cases, girls as young as a year old or as young as a few months old have been raped by relatives, servants, or even strangers. A woman may be victimized by one of several types of rape. Custodial rape, Gang rape, Marital rape, or Individual rape are all possibilities. According to the Verma Committee Report, on which this amendment was based, 2010 research found that 18.8 percent of women have been raped by their partners on one or more occasions. The most severe type of abuse on a woman can be done by her spouse.

A guy she believes to be protective and compassionate transforms into a beast to rob her of her dignity and human rights. Gang rapes are another growing trend in the method in which such an offense is committed. Every day, almost every newspaper includes a story about a gang-rape victim. In such cases, the victim feels powerless owing to the victim's weakness in comparison to the number of offenders, as well as dread and menace, combined with a sense of helplessness. As a result, women may face varying degrees of sexual harassment. A significant element to remember is that in the vast majority of rape cases, the perpetrator or rapist is a person known to the victim. It might be a family member, a close friend, or anybody else you know.

However, it might also be a stranger in general. Thus, rape is a crime not just against a person's body, but also against her spirit. Because of these crimes against women, women are viewed as a lesser segment of society, while men enjoy a powerful position. As a result, there is an urgent need to address issues of sexual harassment of women through crimes such as rape, eve-teasing, sexual assault, and molestation. The rate at which these instances are

spreading throughout the country is a serious source of concern. This is crucial not just for the protection of women, but also for lowering the crime rate in the country and ensuring a safe environment for everybody.

Provisions and laws:

The Government of India has designated shortcode 181 as the Women Helpline, and the Scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline is intended to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking with appropriate authorities such as Police, One Stop Centre, Hospital, etc.) and information about women related government schemes programs across the country via a single uniform shortcode. It is proposed that the Women Help Line be launched in cooperation with Amma Call Centre.

Every school, regardless of the board of education, shall form a "Student Safeguarding Advisory Committee" (SSAC), and the School Education Department will establish a state-level Central Complaint Centre (CCC) for advice, according to the Tamil Nadu government. Furthermore, an orientation session will be organized for all stakeholders involved with each school for them to have a thorough grasp of the terms of the POCSO Act.

In this context, the law has taken efforts like the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, and, in simpler terms, the Vishaka Guidelines. However, changes are essential to benefit both males and transgender people. The Transgender Bill of 2019 was approved in support of transgender legislation, but it also included loopholes, infringing on their rights and putting them in a gap without any laws to protect them and assist combat injustice. Concerns have been raised that transgender people may acquire gender certificates from the District Magistrate indicating that they are 'transgender.' Transgender persons are opposed because of the embarrassment they would endure as a result of this procedure to receive the certificate.

Furthermore, the punishment for crimes against trans people ranges from six months to two years in jail, with the offenses including forced or bonded labor, denial of access to public areas, evacuation of houses and villages, and physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and economic abuse. Herein lies a violation of trans people's dignity and an obvious unfairness to them in comparison to males and females, because it is evident in this act merely because the duration of the punishment is so short.

(i)Sec 503 IPC

If a woman's unequivocal denial of someone's sexual approaches is answered with threats to damage her physically, or her reputation and property, it is a felony under this Section, and the accused faces up to two years in jail and a fine. In the event of sexual harassment, the victim has the right to register an FIR with the local police station, and the officer in charge is obligated to act in favor of accepting the complaint. According to Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the initial information report is the information delivered to police personnel and reduced to paper as needed.

(ii)Sec 499 IPC

Morphing images of women and disseminating them with the purpose to harass and slander her is a crime that carries a two-year jail sentence as well as a fine. 'Whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person with the intent of harming, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person, is said, except in the cases hereinafter expected, to defame that person,' the Section states.

(iii)Sec 67 IT Act

Posting, publishing, or sending any obscene or defamatory content on a public virtual platform with the intent of harassing women is a crime under this section, punishable by two years in jail and a fine. In other words, in a larger sense, the provision specifies that if any individual attempts to display an overt sexual interest in the other person through the electronic media, this might degrade the victim's image. In the case of a first conviction, this criminal will face three years in jail and a fine of up to five lakh, and a second or subsequent conviction would result in five years in prison and a fine of 10 lakh.

Causes:

One of the key explanations and justifications offered by society for such offenses is the character and dressing style of the ladies who are victims of such offenses. Some political officials and social professionals have made statements pointing out that it is women's lifestyles that invite males to approach them and conduct sexual harassment. Wearing short skirts; enjoying social life at parties and nighttime outings; having pleasant contacts with male members, and so on are some of the excuses made by individuals to transfer the weight from offenders and abusers to victims. Rather than sympathizing with and supporting the victim, they are vilified and blamed for the crime's conduct. It is important to emphasize, however, that both elderly ladies and young girls are victims. All types of women are at risk of being abused, from young girls who go out to party late at night to elderly ladies who go to the temple early in the morning. Those dressed in western attire and those dressed in traditional sarees are both

suspects for the abusers. Another explanation for the increase in sexual harassment events is the female victims' incompetence or refusal to disclose these incidents.

They are cautious to disclose such incidents because they believe that reporting the incidence will enhance their victimization. Society would treat them with disdain, and the processes initiated by them would result in more harassment when personal and unwanted interrogation was conducted on them. Aside from these motivations, what drives males to overwhelm and exploit women is a need to demonstrate their superiority over the other gender. Some typical motivations for these offenses include vengeance, anger, or simple enjoyment. This is because civilizations have not yet evolved and matured enough to recognize the importance of female respect. Another significant aspect is the alcoholism and intoxication of those who commit such crimes while under the influence of such addictive drugs. It is also because the bulk of abusers is ignorant or illiterate persons who have not been given sufficient education and hence are unable to appreciate women's feminine loveliness. As a result, such crimes have become all too regular throughout the country. If you are being sexually harassed, you may have the following symptoms:

- i. Tension, anxiety, or depression; and
- ii. Withdrawal from social situations.
- iii. Lose confidence and self-esteem
- iv. Have physical stress symptoms such as headaches, backaches, or insomnia
- v. Be Less productive and unable to concentrate

Consequence:

One of the primary causes of sexual harassment is victims' silence. In the majority of cases, when a woman becomes a victim, she keeps things to herself. In public buses or trains, the typical reaction is for the woman to leave her seat or move her seat, with just a few others raising their voices in protest. Even if she does, the chances of someone coming to her aid are slim. Women are trained to endure things and are socialized to live in a deeply established patriarchy from a young age. Even the elderly do not anticipate anything to change in their favor and believe that the situation will remain the same for future generations.

Conclusion:

The rising threat of physical and sexual assault against women requires immediate intervention. Society and the government should take the necessary measures to enact and enforce specific legislation addressing sexual abuse concerns. The police and the media can also play an essential role in educating women about their rights and possible remedies. The state is responsible for regulating the work of police officers who deal with crimes against women. Even though the state and state authorities have made earnest attempts to adopt measures to guarantee a safe environment for women in society, the wicked practice endures and corrupts social peace. It is also critical to empower women via legal reform and social transformation to provide a sense of security.

Our young people, with heated blood in their veins, are eager to choose new initiatives, to achieve a level of fresh innovation, but they often get stuck when their methods are not recognized by the elders, their bosses, or the authorities, and so on. Because, on the other hand, the elderly already have a mature mind entangled with worries of conventions and some fictitious circumstance that used to occur but is now impossible. So here is an opportunity for these people to be fed fresh information with a new perspective on understanding, which will help to close the generational gap. If society begins to educate the current generation about this topic, a suitable understanding will be developed in the minds of those who will build the future.

Also, fighting for the helpless without being judgemental, but with empathy for those who are unaware of the measures, will increase the willpower of the innocent to fight for themselves. Furthermore, it will teach lessons to the shameless predators who believe it is their prerogative to subdue those people whom they consider vulnerable, that the society is not blind and dumb for their acts, and as a result, they will face severe consequences, which may lead to c Along with appropriate law enforcement, there are maximum opportunities for justice to reach every part of the globe. As a result, it is past time to fight back and reject the shame of this patriarchal culture.

Equality must exist in all aspects of society. Everyone, whether males, women, or transgender people, ought to be treated with decency and respect. The first initiative for the tender age will be sex education, not only in schools and institutions, but also in the older generation, to create a safe environment and to spread knowledge about this aspect that exists and that if we do not raise our voice, it will dominate us, and even after that, organizations should hold seminars to feed the members of the workplace regarding this context and the consequences in case of violation of rules and regulations.

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