

Profile of Sexual Assault cases Reported to Vijaynagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Ballary

Gururaj Biradar^{1a}, Yogiraj V^{2a}, Shankar M Bakkannavar^{3b}, Ranjit Immanuel James^{4c}, Pavanchand Shetty^{3d}, Vinod C Nayak^{2b}

Abstract

The incidence of sexual assault cases as well the reporting of such cases is on the rise after the 2012 Delhi gang rape case. So profiling such data carries an utmost importance in statistical as well as in judicial point of view in our country. Hence, we will discuss and give a profile of such reported sexual assault cases in Vijaynagar Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS), Bellary, Karnataka, India.

Key Words: sexual assault; gang rape; profiling

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Introduction:

Sexual assault is the most common violence against women in India. Recent statistics suggests that every 22 minutes a rape case is getting reported in our country.¹ Reporting of such sexual assault cases is never an easy task for the victim due to various social stigmas in our country.² Because of this, the reported cases only constitute the tip of the iceberg. Though there were laws to curb this heinous crime, the enactment of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in 2012 after post Nirbhaya case, increased the volume of tip of the iceberg as for as reporting is concerned. The POCSO Act came into existence in view of controlling the incidence of sexual offences against the children, to punish the offenders and to conduct trials in a much faster way. According to the statistics in 2012 New Delhi has the most reported rape cases among the various cities in our country.^{3,4}

¹Assistant Professor, ² Professor, ³Associate Professor, ⁴Senior resident, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, ^a VIMS, Bellary, ^b KMC, Manipal, ^c CMC, Vellore, ^d KMC, Mangaluru

Correspondence: Dr Shankar M Bakkannavar
Tel: +91 9845303881
Mail: shankar.mb@manipal.edu

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2012 reported that the most common rape accused are either a relative or neighbor.⁵ Similar views are expressed by RAINN⁶ (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. According to it 7 out of 10 rapes are committed by someone known to the victim.

In the present study the profile is generated to know the prevalence of sexual assault cases in this part of country.

Materials and methods:

This 4years retrospective study comprised the data of sexual assault cases reported for examination to VIMS, Bellary, Karnataka from 2010 to 2013. The total number of cases examined during the study period was 86. This includes both victim and accused brought for examination. The details of these cases were collected from the Medico legal certificates issued from the department and were tabulated and analysed.

Results:

Total of 86 cases were reported in these four years of study. The frequency of cases along with age wise distribution is depicted in

Table no. 1. The maximum number of cases reported was during the year 2011. The maximum number of cases reported for examination is between 10 – 20 years of age (56.97 %), followed by age group of 21 – 30 years of age (22.09 %). Age distribution with respect to the reported cases is depicted in Table No. 1.

Table No. 1: Age distribution with respect to the cases reported

Age group (Years)	2010	2011	2012	2013
< 10	0	0	0	1
10 - 20	14	14	15	6
21- 30	4	4	4	7
31 – 40	1	4	3	0
41 – 50	0	3	2	1
> 50	0	1	1	1
Total	19	26	25	16

There are more number of male cases as study includes both accused and victims as depicted in Table No. 2. The cases reported as accused or victim is depicted in Table No.3.

Table No. 2: Sex distribution

Year	Male	Female
2010	13 (68.42 %)	6 (31.58 %)
2011	19 (73.08 %)	7 (26.92 %)
2012	13(52 %)	12 (48 %)
2013	11(68.75 %)	5 (31.25 %)
Total	56 (65%)	30 (35%)

Table No.3: Case distribution

Year	Sex	Accused	Victim
2010	Male	10	3
	Female	0	6
2011	Male	17	2
	Female	0	7
2012	Male	12	1
	Female	0	12
2013	Male	9	2
	Female	0	5
Total		48	38

The relationship of the accused with the victim is depicted in Table No.4. Relative includes father, uncle, cousin, brother etc and known persons include teacher, boyfriend or girlfriend, student

Table No. 4: Relationship with the victim

Relation	2010	2011	2012	2013
Relative	9	11	9	10
Known person	6	13	13	4
Stranger	4	2	3	2
Total	19	26	25	16

In only 22 examined persons (victim or accused) the injuries were present over the body as shown in shown in Figure 1. Place of incident is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Presence of injuries on the body

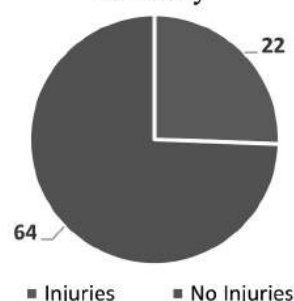
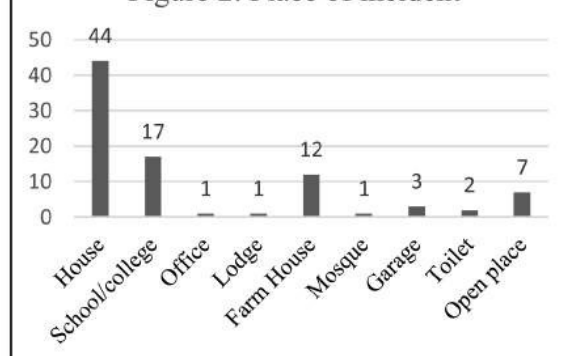


Figure 2. Place of incident



Discussion:

One woman per 14 is getting assaulted sexually by person other than their partner.¹ It is found that around the world approximately 7.2 % of women come across

non-partner sexual violence in their life time.⁷ It is believed that whatever cases which are being reported is not the real incidence because many of the cases go unreported due to social stigma and various other reasons.⁸ In our study also the reported cases were 86 but it may be the tip of the iceberg because in India the social stigma prevents the victim or their family to report such issues to the concerned authorities which affects the statistical evaluation. But it is observed that across the nation after the amendment of Criminal Law in 2013 after that Delhi gang rape case (2012), the number of sexual assault cases reported is on the rise. This rise in incidence of reporting has a major contribution from the POCSO act 2012.

It is observed that the most common age group as a target in sexual assault is 10 – 20 years (56.97 %) in our study which is in agreement with other studies^{2, 9, 10} and not in agreement with Sukul et al¹¹ study where they showed the group involved is 18 – 30 years

As the study includes both accused and victims examined, more no. of males in our study is attributed to accused and more than one accused in a given case.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report in 2012, in most of the rape cases the accused is either a relative or a well-known person and it is controversial to the usual belief that in rape cases most of the times the accused will be a stranger.¹² The similar finding is observed in our study which is in consistent with similar studies.^{2, 13 - 17}

In our study very few victims faced violence during the sexual assault, as in very few victims suffered injuries or restraint marks for that matter. Similar findings were present is a study done in Pakistan¹⁸ in which only 10.8% of victims suffered physical injuries.

The present study shows that the place of incident is house of the victim or accused in most of the cases. The similar findings were observed by studies in Western Maharashtra

and Himachal Pradesh.^{13, 14} But in a study done in Pakistan, the place of incident was an isolated place in most of the cases.

Conclusion:

It is observed that the common offender or accused in sexual assault cases is either a known person or a relative. The age group which is vulnerable to this kind of offences are teenagers. Examination and collection of evidences at the right time in a proper manner carries an utmost importance in the trials to prove the accused guilty.

More and more such studies at various regions of the country give an idea regarding the prevalence of the crime and bringing awareness among the victim regarding lodging the complaint is utmost important to catch the culprit and punish him. So that society walks towards the elimination of this heinous crime.

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