

CHAPTER – 7

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

“Women will work out their destinies – much better too than men can ever do for them. All the mischief to women has come because men undertook to shape the destiny of women.”

-Swami Vivekanand

7.1 GENERAL

Irrespective of religion, culture and economic system, women suffer deprivation, humiliation and denial of basic human rights in almost all walks of life, everywhere, at every stage, in varying degrees. Women are considered as goddess in one hand, but in reality treated as a less human even. What is required is to give women regard as a equal human, who is having all rights to decide about herself. Women want and deserve a life of dignity, equality and freedom, not just being a maimed animal to be tamed and instructed for every dos and don'ts. On the name of security women are devoid of their most precious and important virtue i.e. Freedom. As well said by Swami Vivekanand, *“The idea of perfect womanhood is perfect independence.”*¹ He believed in the self-respect and self-dignity of women and wanted no man to trample upon it, be it in the guise of protection or in the guise of reformation.² Till very recently, traditional societies regarded women as weak and emotional. In Hamlet, Shakespeare described women as: “Frailty, thy name is woman.”

Due to excessive rise in crime against women now a day's Indian capital is being called as ‘rape capital.’ Rape cultures are nourished by norms, attitudes, and practices that trivialize, tolerate, or even condone violence against women. They are further normalized if there is impunity for perpetrators either due to a lack of effective legal mechanisms or apathy to prosecuting crimes against women. Crime or violence against women are on a rise unabated in one form or another, despite various laws and legislations to curb it. There are innumerable reasons for this, just taking one aspect is not going to help since total overhauling of the system is required to control crime against women. According to author and activist Rita Banerjee, “within the span of

¹ <http://www.womensweb.in/2013/01/a-feminist-from-the-19th-century-vivekananda/> (visited on Nov. 12, 2013)

² <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/swami-vivekananda-promoted-selfrespect-of-women/article4297997.ece> (visited on Jan.11, 2014)

three generations India has systematically targeted and annihilated more than 50 million women from its population.” One illustration of this is the skewed sex ratio: the 2011 census found that there are 940 women for every 1000 men, and this national figure hides significant regional discrepancies. Rape has increased by 1255.3% (from 2,487 cases in 1971 to 33,707 cases in 2013)³

According to a Report, there are reported cases of one rape every 54 minutes, a molestation every 26 minutes; and an act of cruelty every 33 minutes. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistic says – every 20 minutes, a woman is raped somewhere in India, not to mention the countless number of cases of molestations or rapes going unreported. Child rape cases have increased by 336% in the last 10 years. Government data shows crimes by juveniles – especially rape and abduction of women – has seen exponential rise in the past decade – from 48.7% in 2002 to 66.5 in 2012. There is dire need to address the issue of rape in a more powerful manner. Number of dowry-deaths is quite alarming in the country – a dowry death every one hour forty two minutes.

7.2 CONCLUSION

Apartheid of gender exists in almost all societies. In our society women have always been provided a secondary status. A woman is not treated as a human being with her own identity but as a property of the family she belongs to and so through ages she has been confined on the name of honor. Credit of her contributions goes to society, nation or to their male counter-parts, who have retained power, prestige and pleasures of the world, leaving women remain ignorant, illiterate and ill-informed, invisible and unrewarded. Moreover perpetrators of heinous crimes are mostly known or related to victim women.

Women in one form or other have been given back seat in our male chauvinistic society. The status of women in modern India is a sort of a paradox. If on one hand she is at the peak of ladder of success, on the other hand she is mutely suffering the violence afflicted on her by her own family members. At various high positions we have women as officers, prominent leaders etc. but in a population like ours these are just an exception to rule and exceptions can't change the rule. As compared with past women in modern times have achieved a lot but in reality they still have to travel a long way. Their path is full of roadblocks. The women have left the domain of their

³ <http://ncrb.gov.in/> (visited on Feb. 12, 2014)

home and are now in the battlefield of life, fully armored with their talent. They had proven themselves globally. But in India they are yet to get their dues. The sex ratio of India shows that the Indian society is still prejudiced against female. There are 940 females per thousand males in India according to the census of 2011⁴, which is much below the world average of 990 females.

Decreasing sex ratio has a very adverse effect on the society and give rise to various other social evils and the major among them is procurement of bride from other regions in other words increasing human trafficking. The worst effect of this tradition is that these women are devoid of all kind of human rights and are needed solely for their ability to perform free reproductive and productive labor and are kept as bonded laborers⁵.

Women's emancipation is not a new concept. Decades ago Mahatma Gandhi saw its significance and also linked social reform movement with the national movement for independence.⁶ Modern women have come out of their man-created protective shell – four-walls of the house. They are trying best to restore their lost prestige and secure due place in modern world. They have marched ahead, though slowly but steadily with tremendous self-confidence and inner strength. They are actively participating in nation-building activities and have paved way even into the precincts, which have been considered as an exclusive male preserve. Their entry there is resented by some persons, but women are facing it bravely. They work very hard to prove their worth and make their presence felt.

Swami Vivekananda while talking about equality among human beings has said that "Soul has no sex, it is neither male nor female. It is only in the body that sex exists, and the man who desires to reach the spirit cannot at the same time hold sex distinctions⁷." The best thermometer to the progress of a nation is its treatment of its women." "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved." "Woman has suffered for eons, and that has given her infinite patience and infinite perseverance."⁸

⁴ "India's Population 2011", view at file:///C:/Users/sahara/Desktop/population%202011. htm (Visited on June 2,2013)

⁵ Aarti Dhar, In male-dominated Haryana, Rajasthan, cross-regional brides are deprived of rights, *The Hindu*, Feb.11, 2013

⁶ Reicha Tanwar, The Catalytic power of women, *The Tribune* (New Delhi), April 9, 2013

⁷ (CW ,V.4, P.176), Available at file:///C:/Users/sahara/Desktop/Thoughts%20on%20Women%20-Swami%20Vivekananda%20%E2%80%94.htm (Visited on June 29,2011)

⁸ file:///C:/Users/sahara/Desktop/Thoughts%20on%20Women%20-Swami%20Vivekananda%20%E2%80%94.htm (Visited on June 29,2011)

Women's rights are an essential component of universal human rights. They reflect the fact that men and women have very different experiences—and the fact that women and girls often face gender-based discrimination that puts them at increased risk of poverty, violence, ill health and a poor education. Amnesty International's women's rights work encompasses a range of human rights as they relate to the equity needs of women, working at once to advance new rights and opportunities for all women and to combat the abuses of specific groups of women and girls.

Living free from violence is a human right, yet millions of women and girls suffer disproportionately from violence both in peace and in war, at the hands of the state, in the home and community. Across the globe, women are beaten, raped, mutilated, and killed with impunity.⁹

In our country women are in situations worse than cattle. This is not just restricted to the rural area but extends to the so-called urban civilized world. Even here the so-called educated, well-fed, well-dressed, highly paid white collar job holders behave with gruesome savagery and unbelievable ruthlessness when it comes to matters related to women in their families. At that time, they cannot accept the equality of man and women. They cling on to the 18th century dogmas and beliefs of subjugation of women. They are not prepared to give women the basic safety, security and respect that is needed to normal sustenance. They want the women to earn those things by serving them and pleasing them through her scarifies. If the woman fails to comply to those rotten norms she can be shown the door without assigning any reason. Though there are laws that protect women's rights, but the efficiency of Indian's judicial system is not hidden.

All these gory stories of real life situations makes a strong case for building a discourse for addressing the socio-legal problems concerning women. Unfortunately a significant section of men belonging to today's generation believe in this kind of subjugation of women. They along with their parents create havoc in women's lives. And ironically women often themselves are a party to it. Mothers instigating their sons to beat up the wife are a common sight. Numbers of studies say that a boy-child is treated with more care than a girl-child. Women often feel that giving birth to a boy-child will enhance their status in the society. They even look down upon women

⁹ http://m.paycheck.in/main/work-and-pay/women-paycheck/articles/4-key-social-forces-to-improve-the-status-of-working-woman-in-india?switch_skin=mobile (Visited on May 24,2011)

with girl child. These people think that since they have a son they are a privileged class and they naturally have the right to inflict pains on the family of the girl to whom their son is married to.¹⁰

- **Women illiteracy and adaptability to crime**

Women have been victims of these crimes for ages. This constant suppression and oppression has made them acknowledge that they deserve the kind of treatment meted out to them moreover same kind of mentality, new generation of male have framed seeing the kind of convention followed over generation. They think it ok to punish female like pets over small mistakes. Due to this kind of mentality of both male and female they have different perceptions regarding crime against women, Infact they don't even consider certain behavior as violence. Treating women with cruelty , punishing them for non-performance of certain small acts seem normal to them as they have been are part of this culture of violence where women have been depicted as a second class citizen, which is totally dependent on male for her very existence.

The concept of equality seems missing as women is treated as dependent and as the property or more precisely speaking a burden of initially father and then her husband, her very independent existence seems missing, that's why sister is not considered equivalent to brother, there can be peaceful distribution of assets among brothers but when it comes to sister normally they are not given the share and those taking their share are not seen with much dignity in our society. Means to say in monetary and property ownership terms women is not seen as entitled to any property either in parental or matrimonial home, all this is to keep her away from power position and to maintain her dependency on her male shelter providers.

- **Women silence / Non-reporting of crime**

Violence against women remains one of the invisible and under recognized pandemics of our time. Women in India tend not to appeal to the legal and criminal system because, far from being a source of protection and empowerment, they find that this system makes them even more vulnerable to abuse. The deep chauvinism that runs through India's public institutions is apparent from the level of local councils (*khap panchayats*) to the highest levels of the judiciary. So to save themselves from

¹⁰ <file:///C:/Users/sahara/Desktop/Steps%20to%20radically%20improve%20women%E2%80%99s%20status%20in%20India.htm> (Visited on July 1, 2011)

rape second time during process of so called getting justice they prefer to keep mum. Another reasons is the pressure to seek proof, the fear of fighting a superior, the likely impact on career, and adverse publicity prevent women from reporting sexual harassment.¹¹ Another very common reason is that most of the perpetrators of such violence are known to victim. Approximately 2/3 of rapes were committed by someone known to the victim¹². 73% of sexual assaults were perpetrated by a non-stranger. 38% of rapists are a friend or acquaintances 28% are an intimate 7% are a relative¹³. But this silence on part of women emboldens perpetrators of such crimes and their atrocities continue unabated.

- **Lack of responsibility in Society**

We are constantly trying to classify the perpetrator an outsider, someone on the fringes, a monster. Even the Prime Minister in his address spoke of “monstrous crimes.” But rather than say “they are beasts” we should really be saying ‘they are men’. That brings the responsibility of the crime squarely back on us, for tolerating societal norms that have led to a fierce culture of violence against women. Perpetrators of these heinous crimes are from among us living with us in this very society and their steps are embolden because of our ignorance and tolerance to violence against women , so in a way we as a society are equally responsible for these ghastly incidents. we don’t identify with the culprits and think them different from us. It’s like the thief is only one who is caught. We fight only for the immediate cause and ignore the larger perspective altogether , that’s why the problem of crime against women is far from being solved as individually taking of problems can’t help. Crime against women has to be solved as a whole taking all dimensions like economic, political, social, educational and problem related to working women.

- **Fighting for larger goal or bigger cause is lacking**

Whenever any incident come in light , for a moment we all feel that anger and anguish but after sometime all that anger dissipate and we forget the incident and return to daily routine without taking any further action to stop the similar crimes in future. We ask for new stringent laws but how much change we bring in our daily family life. How mach liberty we provide to our females, we never do this self-

¹¹ Mythili Sunder, Why Women Remain Silent, *The Hindu*, Nov. 26, 2013

¹² U.S. Department of Justice. 2005 National Crime Victimization Study. 2005.

¹³ <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/statistics/sexual-assault-offenders> (Visited on Jan.12, 2014)

analysis and never those big talks actually got implemented, resultantly situation remain static or get even worse with time. Moreover in asking punishment for a single aspect we neglect the whole big canvas.

The tens of thousands of protestors who marched in several cities and signed online petitions were acting not just in response to this incident but also to express their anger at the way women in India are treated more generally, criticizing in particular state apathy in the face of rape, and the severe deficiencies in law and order. There is a widespread perception within and outside of India that the country has 'a woman problem.' The death penalty is given to rapists as a short-cut way to quiet public anger that does not deal with the complex socio-political factors driving violence against women.

- **Women role is undervalued or unrecognized**

Women's role is undervalued or unrecognized in our societies. Gender inequality is still very evident in this respect, as indicated by the following United Nations statistics: Women perform 2/3 of the world's work; Women earn 1/10 of the world's income, women are 2/3 of the world's illiterates; women own less than 1/100 of the world's property.¹⁴ There is a need to acknowledge their role in the development of country and this can be possible by concept like gender budgeting etc., where role of women is provided recognition in monetary sense which is really necessary for the growth and development women community as a whole.

Women's roles in most societies fall into three categories: productive (relating to production of goods for consumption or income through work in or outside the home), reproductive (relating to domestic or household tasks associated with creating and sustaining children and family), and community management (relating to tasks and responsibilities carried out for the benefit of the community). Women must balance the demands of these three different roles and should be recognized for their contributions.

The tasks women usually perform in carrying out their different roles do not generally earn them an income. Women are often defined exclusively in terms of their reproductive roles and these reproductive roles, together with their community management roles, are perceived as natural. But because these roles do not earn

¹⁴ <http://timesfoundation.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1254836.cms> (Visited on Dec.11, 2013)

income, they are not recognized and valued as economically productive. Women's contributions to national economic development are, therefore, often not quantified and invisible. A laudable step in this direction has been taken by an American court which has made it mandatory for a husband to be present at time of his child's birth to sensitize them to the pain and suffering undertaken by a woman for the sake of their child. Moreover the concept of gender budgeting has to be implemented to recognize the role and labor of women in monetary terms.

- **Less conviction rate**

Another cause for increasing crime against women is less conviction rate in crime against women. This is result of apathy towards these crimes tendency of our phallogocentric society to condone this type of crime or to take them lightly and for granted. Recent police data has confirmed the above view held by our patriarchal society as it shown that there is only 19% conviction in rape cases¹⁵. According to this data in last three years i.e. from 2011 to 2013 there is 120% rise in rape crimes¹⁶, but conviction rate is miserably low and lack of evidence is generally cited as reason for this. But basic cause for this is that investigation into crimes against women continues to be shoddy and slow and, at times, is deliberately botched¹⁷. This is so because a very large number of officers and men in the police force share with the backwoodsmen of the country stupid views that by coming out after dark in western clothes women provoke men to rape them.

- **Need for gender justice**

Viewing the sex ratio as an individual or medical issue and suggesting medical or legal interventions to end the practice reflect poor understanding.

While women are guaranteed equality under the Constitution, legal protection has little effect in the face of the prevailing patriarchal culture. India needs to confront its gender bias openly. It would appear that nothing short of a social revolution would bring about an improvement in the health and status of women in the country. Irony and hypocrisy are the two words that come to mind when patriarchal societies talk about justice for their women. Surely, the disappearance of millions of girls in India is

¹⁵ Jatin Anand , Only 19% Conviction in Rape Cases in 3 Years : Police Data ,*Hindustan Times*, march 6, 2014

¹⁶ *Ibid*

¹⁷ Inder Malhotra, Unending Scourage of Rape, *The Tribune*, March 20, 2014

reason enough to question the acceptance of patriarchy and search for an egalitarian social order.¹⁸

In 1994 Parliament responded to the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques by enacting PNDT Act. However it was not implemented. The Supreme Court directed the government to implement the PNDT Act in May 2001. Later it was amended to make it more stringent. The health ministry has to be more proactive to stop female feticide. The ministry surrendered one crore rupees of the meager funds allocated to the PNDT cell in this budget year. In 2005 the health ministry released full-page advertisements calling female feticide a sin.¹⁹

In nut shell we can say with time the condition of women must improve, since ages with systematic subjugation, she has been kept at a secondary footing, devoid the most precious human rights i.e. freedom and equality in one pretext or other like in the name of honor or security or morality or purity, women has been kept out of power and decision making bodies. Social norms that ascribe a particular role for women, emphasizing duty and submission, are reinforced across various dimensions of Indian culture from mythological Hindu epics such as the Ramayama to Bollywood cinema etc. Their welfare is taken in hand by patriarchs with a typical mentality that a woman is born to serve, so the result is in front of us. Now it's a high time and we can't just put a blind eye towards the problem of crime against women. women now a days are coming forward in all fields due to increase in literacy rate, now she has entered almost all precincts including those which were earlier considered to be male domains. She is working hand in hand with male and form almost half of the workforce, so now its duty of our society to provide a good working environment to women.

Judiciary in India has played a laudable role in many ways eradicating social evils, and to bring social justice to masses. Supreme Court of India has devised various ways like epistolary jurisdiction, relaxing *locus standi* criteria, allowing public interest litigation (PIL) and has played a pro-active role to bring justice to every doorstep. Through various cases several guidelines has been provided by the Apex Court to eradicate social evils and specially to curb crimes against women. Recently

¹⁸ Professor K.S. Jacob, "India's unwanted girls - female infanticide and reversed sex ratio", <http://www.hindu.com/2011/04/29/stories/2011042956001200.htm> (Visited on Feb. 6, 2012)

¹⁹ Sabu George, "Hidden Genocide", retrieved from www.azadindia.org/social-issues/femaleinfanticideinindia.html (Visited on Feb. 10, 2012)

Supreme Court called for a "complete overhaul" of the system for curbing the spurt in crime against women, including rape and sexual harassment, saying only deterrent punishment will be effective²⁰.

Efforts of the media have certainly contributed to the increased public discourse on this issue over the years. Today reports of female fetuses found in drains or dug from dry wells or floating in lakes or eaten by dogs are headline news. There have been stories on the consequences like trafficking of women for marriage and emergence of polyandry. The government of India should set a target date by which the country will have balanced sex-ratios at birth. The coming plan needs to give a fair deal to women by abandoning fertility targets and replacing it with solid commitments to restore sex-ratio at birth. Legislature has also finally recognized crime against women as a serious concern by bringing amendment in criminal law under immense public pressure. While strict implementation of the law will help reduce crime against women, it will not eliminate the problems. Simply exhorting the general population to desist from such practice without attempting to change patriarchy will prove futile. An overhauling of system is required and that can't be done by just bringing new laws since we already have hundreds, the real efforts has to be from within society in various steps, first equality is gender neutral and every human deserve it. Secondly, this feeling has to be inculcated within us and our coming generations, and finally a strong public opinion against tolerance of such crimes has to be made to provide a harassment free environment in our society for future development of our country.

To sum up we can say that though we have entered 21st century and proudly talk of a civilized society yet the ground reality is shocking. Despite stringent laws and new guidelines from judiciary Crime against women are increasing at tremendous rate. The prejudice that women face is still present. Only, it has learnt to hide itself better.²¹ The situation is really grim and need urgent attention and solution. After the above long discussion we find that solution of problem lies in the combined efforts by both the sexes. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator by certain inalienable rights that among these are

²⁰ http://zeenews.india.com/news/delhi/deterrent-punishment-required-to-curb-crime-against-women-sc_820825.html (last visited on Jan.3, 2013)

²¹ Charulata venkateswaran, "Hey, its still a man's world", *The Hindu (Delhi)*, August 29,2010

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”²²As Swami Vivekananda had repeatedly told that India’s downfall was largely due to her negligence to women and there is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on one wing²³.

- **Who to blame? From gender to culture**

Many commentators have argued that the problem is caused by men’s underlying attitudes towards women. But placing blame upon men is to miss the point, according to Aisha Zakaria on the blog blackfeminists.org. Zakaria says those working to end gender-based violence in India “are not struggling against a distinct oppressor; rather, we are working to dismantle a deeply held set of beliefs and values held by men and often by women as well.”

This opinion is shared by Shivam Vij who posted an article on kafila.org in February 2013, following a visit to the Ravi Das slum colony, where four of the six men accused of the Delhi gang-rape lived. After talking with several women, Vij wrote, “That even the women of the Ravi Das Camp share patriarchal ideas about men and women pointed me towards the thought that the ‘collective conscience of society’ was what produced their barbarism.”

- **Women in India: Doubly condemned**

The main cause for it lies in the very roots of our upbringing of our children. From the very beginning male child is taught that he is superior than his female counterpart, and this superiority feeling grows with him and when in future he has to compete with female counterparts he look down upon them but when they prove superior to him, the feeling of revenge is vent out in various forms, or often anger is released on female as they are considered as physically weak and under their right and control by male. So, before anything else this mentality is required to be changed. First of all we will have to acknowledge that women also as humans as male are, only after that we can bring change to the existing situation.

In a recent book entitled “India Dishonoured: Behind a Nation’s War on Women,”

²² American Declaration of Independence, 1776, <http://nlrd.org/resources-womens-rights/honour-killing-crimes/honour-killing-latest-judgements-of-supreme-courthigh-courts/arumugam-sevai-case-honour-killing-banning-of-khap-panchayats-judgement-2011-6-scc-405>(last visited on 12-10-2013)

²³ Refer to [http:// www.businesseconomics.in](http://www.businesseconomics.in)(Visited on May29,2013)

Sunny Hundal discusses various features of Indian culture that foster violence against women. He writes that India's brand of religiosity and ingrained ideas about the 'honour' of women make it particularly difficult to secure the change in attitudes required to address violence against women. At every step she is expected to impart a model behavior and any crime against her is seen as her deviation from that model behavior. Societal view on crime against women is very vivid and is marred by various factors. Traditional Hindu beliefs hold that girls should be brought up to be good daughters and later obedient wives. Rita Banerjee writes that docility is a prized characteristic for Indian women. If women deviate from social norms they bring shame not only upon themselves but upon their family and community who respond by stigmatizing and punishing the deviant, often employing violence as a means of social control.

This helps to explain the findings of a recent survey carried out by India's National Commission for Women, which is that 88.9 percent of honor killings are perpetrated by family members. The bogey of 'Indian Cultural Values' has stifled conversation on women's sexual rights. In a poll of 370 gender experts on how well women fared in G20 countries, India was ranked the worst country to be a woman²⁴. The culturally imposed obligation to keep her family together means that a woman is generally expected to put up with violence from family members. The prevalence of this situation is indicated by the 2011 International Men and Gender Equality Survey, which found that nearly one in four Indian men has committed sexual violence at one point in their lives.

In an interview with Channel 4 News on December 21, 2012, author and activist Arundhati Roy observed that violence against women- particularly rape- is a means of asserting power, particularly from the perspective of men who feel that they lack power in other dimensions of their life such as their socioeconomic situation. Roy makes a connection between the widening gap between rich and poor, and the increase in violence against women. She says that whereas previously, "the rich did what they did with a fair amount of discretion," today, "it's all out there on television for conspicuous consumption." There is anger and psychosis building up and women at the top, middle and the bottom are going to pay the price for it."

More than 50% of India's population is below the age of 25 and over 65% below the

²⁴ Ratna Kapur, no country for young women, *The Hindu*, Aug. 18, 2012

age of 35. This way we have big human resource which can take our country to great heights, but if this asset is not channelized in the right direction, it can prove to be the biggest source of destruction. Since the people of this age group are most venerable and prone to vices. Recently we have received a very disturbing data showing that Over 33,000 juveniles, mostly between the age group of 16 to 18, have been arrested for crimes like rape and murder across the country in 2011, the highest in last decade. In an article for the Hindu newspaper written in January 2013, Praveen Swami makes a similar point. India's economic transformation is producing "a mass of young, prospect-less men'," under enormous pressure to succeed in an economic sense but finding few opportunities to do so.

This, in combination with sexualized popular culture plastered all around them, has led to a situation where women's bodies have become the principal terrain on which male rage is venting itself," and the sexually independent woman in particular is perceived as an implicit threat and insult. According to a Home Ministry data, of the total of 33,387 juveniles apprehended in 2011, 21,657 were in the 16-18 age group, 11,019 of 12-16 age group and 1,211 between 7-12 age groups. Now we are required to follow the sayings of Swami Vivekananda that country and that nation which do not respect women have never become great, nor will ever be in future. The principal reason why our race has so much degenerated is that we have no respect for these living images of Shakti.

- **What can be done?**

When it comes to female education rates, progress has been made around the world, and in many countries girls and young women have outnumbered and outperformed boys and men at all levels of schooling for decades. Nevertheless, these advances have yet to translate into greater equity in employment, politics and social relations.

At a fundamental and general level, what is needed is a 'social revolution' for empowering women who must seek to reform "the mind-set and old thoughts of our society²⁵." Such change cannot be achieved in a courtroom or through mass protest. It requires instilling particular values to boys and girls, at home, at school and in the public sphere. Conceptions of masculinity and femininity must be readjusted to place emphasis upon respect for the self and for others.

²⁵ speech made by Congress President Sonia Gandhi on August 29,2013

This change in mind-set must be accompanied by institutional reform. Antara Dev Sen, columnist for the Asian Age, points out that most victims of violent crimes are brutalized not just by their attacker but thereafter by the system they appeal to or live with. There are stories reported regularly in India's newspapers of soldiers and policemen raping girls and women and facing no legal or professional repercussions. The deep chauvinism that runs through India's public institutions is apparent from the level of local councils (*khap panchayats*) to the highest levels of the judiciary²⁶.

India's first female Assistant Solicitor General, Indira Jaising, recently wrote to the country's Chief Justice to protest against remarks made by High Court Justice N Kirubakaran regarding the Delhi gang-rape case, which, according to Jaising, as quoted in the English Daily *Times of India*, were "to the effect that women are responsible for crimes against them." She pointed out that "no amount of Fast Track Courts and Special Courts will deliver justice to women, if those who hold the high office of a Judge of the High Court hold and express such male chauvinistic views."

Despite these deep-rooted structures of patriarchy, there is plenty within the rich and historical culture of India that not only affirms the value and dignity of women but portrays them as leaders and warriors. Women can be found at the highest levels of almost every area of public life in India, from politics to academia to cinema. India has a long and vibrant history of women's movements, and contemporary women's rights advocates—whilst fighting many long-standing issues—are adeptly using new strategies to go about their work. Now that those accused of the rape and murder of Jyoti Singh Pandey have been tried, and the protestors and their placards have left the streets, the difficult journey towards identifying and changing the inherited prejudices of a collective conscience must continue²⁷.

7.3 SUGGESTIONS

The women who are disproportionately the victims of violence deserve better. The women who will potentially be victims of this type of violence deserve better. As a society, we are not serious about ending violence against women. We pay great lip service to the idea, but we aren't willing to interrogate the ways in which we have accepted gendered violence in our everyday lives. We teach boys this general

²⁶ <http://www.theinternational.org/articles/467-violence-against-women-in-india-culture> (visited on Mar.10,2014)

²⁷ <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:634833/FULLTEXT01.pdf> (Visited on Mar.11, 2014)

message about how they're supposed to "respect women" while writing off all behavior that is blatantly disrespectful (and dangerous) toward women as "boys being boys." Again we are not talking on equality plane, we are asking them to give something gratuitously on their sweet will that is their right and obviously this is a wrong way, instead, they should be asked not to interfere in the right that belongs to female exclusively. Any message to the contrary only further perpetuates the idea that all of this is OK.

Now it's time that we should do something real to actually make women safer. Let's remove the threat. Society need to stop making excuses and talk to young boys about how to end violence against women and girls. Society need to stop thinking this vaguely defined "respect" for women is enough. Encouragement of condoning harmful behavior with the ridiculous "boys will be boys" mantra required to be stopped. And, for all our sakes, quit it with the false equivalencies.²⁸ Physical weakness of women does not mean to restrict her independent thinking and action. Her perseverance, patience and devotion to duty, attitude to accept challenges unhesitatingly and nature to bear everything silently should not be taken for granted. They are the symbols of inner strength, not of their weakness. Violence against women is not inevitable. We can eliminate it. We just have to have the courage to take on that challenge. Following are some suggestions which the researcher would like to highlight at this stage of the study as under:

I. Internalization of conceptions of freedom and dignity

The whole thing could be resolved if people internalize the concept of freedom. Freedom means each person in every role respects the other's liberty and dignity. This respect is accorded both at work and at home. Unfortunately, conceptions of freedom and dignity are not yet known, leave alone internalized, in India. The idea that women should choose their life, their career, their gods, their husbands, and their future: this idea is anathema to many Indians.

True, India does have a faint tradition of freedom. As the religious leader Vivekananda said, "Liberty is the first condition of growth. Just as man must have liberty to think and speak, so he must have liberty in food, dress, and marriage, and in

²⁸ <http://feministing.com/2014/08/07/why-teaching-respect-wont-end-violence-against-women/>
(Visited on Oct.11, 2013)

every other thing, so long as he does not injure others.²⁹" I don't believe Vivekananda restricted his concept of freedom only to men. But his ideas (110 years ago) were too advanced even for today's India. India doesn't have even the rudimentary understanding of liberty.

II. Realization of 'Equality'

What is required is to give women regard as an equal human, who is having all rights to decide about herself. Women today excelled in every field. With her talent she has proved herself in every walk of life. Against all odds women have been working very well. But women are yet to get their proper dues. They have to face hurdles and tests at every step. With progress it was intended that we are heading towards a civilized world, but increasing rate of crime against women is pointing otherwise. Now despite being an equal being in every sense in reality women have been provided with only two options that are submit herself at the mercy of male either in the name of security or submit your economic freedom. Women form almost half of population, but still is fit to be put in list of endangered species, since she is safe nowhere. As Swami Vivekananda has rightly said, "the progress of a society can be rightly judged only by condition of its women." The progress of a society is impossible till the condition of its women got better. The alarming increase in crime rate very clearly shows the extreme price women have to pay for her respect, independence and pride. Women want and deserve a life of dignity, equality and freedom, not just being a maimed animal to be tamed and instructed for every do and don't.

III. Literacy rate need to contribute in real sense

No denial to admit that the literacy rate went up from 64.83% in 2001 to 74.04% in 2011 showing an increase of 9.21%. Interestingly, females literacy level saw a significant jump as compared to males between 2001-2011. While female literacy in 2001 stood at 53.67%, it has gone up to 65.46% in 2011.³⁰ The male literacy in comparison rose from 75.26 to 82.14%. But there has been a decline in the values in the society. Education System to be inclusive of our cultural heritage, values etc. for uplifting the present standard of living.

²⁹ file:///C:/Users/sahara/Desktop/Thoughts%20on%20Women%20-0Swami%20Vivekananda%20%E2%80%94.htm (Visited on June 29,2011)

³⁰ <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/UtHyRhLul24cT4TIhgyrQN/India8217s-literacy-rate-rises-to-74-Census.html>accountability

IV. Gender budgeting

The researcher feels that women are still holding a secondary position in India because their work and role is undervalued or unrecognized and disguised in our societies. Her labor is taken for granted as traditionally her role doesn't have a monetary value while men are considered as a bread earner of the family. Gender inequality is still very evident in this respect, as indicated by the following United Nations statistics: Women perform 2/3 of the world's work, Women earn 1/10 of the world's income Women are 2/3 of the world's illiterates, and Women own less than 1/100 of the world's property. There is a need to acknowledge their role in the development of country and this can be possible by concept like gender budgeting etc., where role of women is provided recognition in monetary sense which is really necessary for the growth and development women community as a whole. If role of women is recognized in terms of money then definitely her condition is going to improve, so gender budgeting can prove to be an important instrument in women empowerment.

V. *Nirbhaya* Fund

The researcher feels that schemes like "*Nirbhaya* Fund" Scheme for Women Safety in Public Road Transport which is under process and targeted to be completed in 2 years are an important step towards the safety of women. The proposal include setting up of a unified system at the National Level (National Vehicle Security and Tracking System) and State level (City Command and Control Centre) for GPS tracking of the location of, emergency buttons in and video recording of incidents in public transport vehicles. In the first phase, 32 cities of 13 States in the country with a population of 1 million or more will be covered. This scheme include funds for gender budgeting and child budgeting also, which is a positive step in the direction of women safety and empowerment. Total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1404.68 crore which will be funded by Ministry of Finance from "*Nirbhaya* Fund" and an additional of Rs. 1000 crore has provided by govt. for this fund in its 2013 budget.

VI. Gender Sensitization

"Gender" refers to the socially constructed roles and responsibilities of women and men, in a given culture or location. Different roles are played by male and female in the society according to their culture etc. gender sensitization is to provide equal

respect to the all the roles in the society since all these roles are basic and equally important for the existence of society. Women work more than men in terms of daily labor but still she is kept at the lower footing than men. The researcher propose that there is requirement of equal recognition of work of male and female for overall development of country ,since women form ½ the labor force.

VII. Avoidance of Sympathetic approach

For the development of women the first and foremost requirement is that there should be equal regard for them in every sense and sympathetic approach has to be avoided. Women and men are born equal. There is systematic distribution of work in our society; both are playing their roles accordingly. So the concept of sympathy and providing right to another person should be avoided, as the rights are inherent by virtue of her being born a human and for realizing them she shouldn't be dependent on the mercy of anybody. As swami Vivekananda has rightly pointed out that welfare of women is impossible if somebody else work on her behalf, she herself has to come forward to analyses the situation and do reforms.

VIII. Women Empowerment Cell

The researcher feels that creation of Women empowerment cells is a positive step. These steps create awareness among women and further help in a creating public awareness in favor of women. Establishment of these cells should be made mandatory in all educational institutions, so as to make women aware of all their rights.

Socio-welfare Scheme like '*Ladli*' needs to be universalized for the welfare of female child. Moreover women should be provided more rights like scheme in Rajasthan *bahamashah* scheme.

The Researcher strongly favor the idea that Conceptions of masculinity and femininity need to be readjusted to place emphasis upon self-respect for the self and others in present changing scenario. We are required to inculcate the idea of equality at the very inception in our children to make them quite familiar with this idea so that they form future notions accordingly.

IX. Taking stigma out of sex crimes

The incident itself raises certain vital questions on how rape and sexual assault must

be reported and discussed in online and offline media. One of the common assumptions made about rape reporting is that the details somehow further shame the victim, bringing her and her family into perpetual disrepute. It is argued, and justifiably, that the girl's future, her marriage, and her career are all jeopardized by the episode. The tendency therefore — and it is motivated by the best of intentions — is to use disinfected language and generic phrases to describe an incident that has perhaps been frighteningly toxic in reality. The disadvantage of this approach is that too many people then tend to underplay the episode.

Rape has always been seen as a stigma that only the woman victim has to bear. It is vital to change this perspective. Thus, while lauding the reporter's courage to complain, it is equally important to laud her fearless decision to document every detail. The fear of being disgraced is one of the biggest reasons sexual crimes go largely unreported by women. It must be unequivocally established that the only shame in these incidents belongs to the perpetrator, and that the victim can continue to walk tall in society. The overwhelming need to "hush it up," to take on the onus of the "disgrace," puts a huge double burden on the victim. Having been subjected to some of the most appalling abuse, the inability further to talk about it turns the balance hugely in the perpetrator's favour. It makes it fantastically easy for him to get away with lies and half-truths, with justifications, insinuations and character assassination.

It is not easy for victims of rape and sexual abuse to discuss the incident, but social and legal systems must make it easy for them. It is here that impartial and clinical reporting, whether in online or offline media, becomes of paramount importance. It must be established that rape is just another cowardly and contemptible crime such as armed assault. When a house-owner is bludgeoned on the head and robbed, the narrative serves only to confirm the seriousness of the crime and the culpability of the burglar. Such a narrative must be established for rape as well; where shame for the victim is removed from the equation and what's left are only the physical details themselves, for better or for worse. Only then will attitudes towards the victim become far less judgmental and only then will this convenient veil of secrecy be removed. Under its cover, too many men in significant positions of power are able to get away with impunity. Rape crimes, like bacteria, are best aired. Sunlight kills them.³¹

³¹ Vaishna Roy, <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/taking-the-stigma-out-of-sex-crimes/article5399401.ece> the hindu, Nov. 11, 2013

X. Renouncing social ostracism towards the victim of sexual offences

Where we are talking about change at macro level to prosecute perpetrators of sexual crime, ground reality for victims is entirely stunning and shocking. Young victims find themselves moving from well-meaning anonymity to be turned in to nonentities at the behest of social ostracism. Society doesn't accept them and due to the deep engrained chauvinism victim of sexual crimes are the worst sufferers. A 13 year old girl who was raped by a 60 years old fruit vendor was expelled from school with her two younger sisters, in a similar incident the mother of a 16 year old gang rape victim was murdered for lodging F.I.R against the accused. So along with the brunt of crime victim also face non cooperation and repulsion from the society as if they are criminals. This social abhorrence towards victim is required to be removed from the society and instead victim friendly atmosphere is required for rehabilitation of victims.³²

XI. Sensitization/ Accountability of judiciary and police

The researcher sincerely believes in the need to sensitize the judiciary and police and to fix their accountability. It will be an important step towards affirming faith of women victims in judiciary. Lack of sensitivity is clear from the data of underreporting of cases of violence by women and even out of reported cases very less conviction rate i.e. only 19% due to lack of evidence. There is rise of about 120% in crime against women in past three years and the conviction rate is constantly falling. Investigations into crimes against women continue to be shoddy and slow and, at times, are deliberately botched³³. This is so because a very large number of officers and men in the police force share with the backwoodsmen of the country stupid views that by coming out after dark in western clothes women provoke men to rape them.

The researcher is strongly of opinion that we Indians don't believe in solving problem but only in absolving ourselves from the responsibility. Whenever we confront with any issue, some agitation and protest what we finally do is enactment of a heavy law to silence the protestors. But how far these laws are effective in stopping crime against women, the increasing crime rate decreasing conviction rate and delay in judgment is a sobering reminder that criminal law amendment Act 2013 is insufficient

³² Vandana Shukla, Rape Victims – from anonymity to non- entity, *The Tribune* ,Sept.4, 2013

³³ Inder Malhotra, Unending Scourage of Rape, *The Tribune*, March 20, 2014

reform³⁴. What is required is implementation of law and finally curbing of crime and establishing a position of dignity in the society.

XII. Uniform civil code

To upgrade the condition of women it is necessary that uniformity in law should be brought to bring certainty in divorce law to stop exploitation of women at the whims of male. Bringing the Uniform Civil Code means to make change in entire gamut of personal laws related to property, marriage, divorce, maintenance, adoption and inheritance. The minority perceives that it is the Government's interference in their personal matter and terms this (UCC) as a conspiracy against the community to annihilate them. As well said by Press Council of India Chairman Markendey Katju "Muslims especially Muslim women have suffered due to absence of Uniform Civil Code. An archaic law can't apply to present times," the existing laws which keep female devoid of all kinds of rights on her life , property, career etc. must be changed to provide women a life of free choice and dignity.

XIII. Registration of property in the name of females needs to be stamp-duty free.

The researcher strongly favors the economic independence of women and believe that if women are having property in their own name then it can increase their worth in the family and for this the best step can be to make Registration of property in the name of females stamp-duty free. This can prove to be a positive step towards women empowerment.

XIV. Women as *karta* of the family

The Researcher strongly believes in the idea that unless female have a say in decision making at various levels starting from family her condition can't improve. So the Researcher suggests that female should be made *karta* in a family which means that she has a say in monetary matters and transaction be done on her name. The kind of schemes like '*Bhamashah*' as started by Rajasthan government under which accounts for monetary transaction be opened in the name of female elder of the family is a laudable step in this direction.

³⁴ Aparna Viswanathan, a task only half finished, *The Hindu (Delhi)*, August 28, 2013

XV. Women participation in decision making bodies

The empowerment of women is possible only when they take decision for themselves. This is the first and foremost solution for the problem women are facing today. The current economic and socio-political maladies along with increasing violence against women and children are attributed to the failure of male oriented polity. Representation of women in higher bodies of political authority has been considered a prerequisite for the success of democracy at the grass-root level. However the need for accountability and sense of commitment on the part of the elected women representatives is stressed. This requires a higher degree of awareness among women regarding health, literacy, gender and other relevant social, economic and political issues. Now it's high time that women oriented policies has to be made by women for the women, since rights are never given but has to be taken.

XVI. Special women Courts need to be set up

Trial of sexual crime against women is often like a second rape for victim and this is one of the main reasons for under reporting of rape cases. The Researcher feels that if special women court is provided for trial of sexual offences then it can help in strengthening the faith of women in our judicial system and encourage them to come forward and to get justice.

XVII. Women banks

The researcher feels that the initiatives like women banks is real pragmatic approach towards economic upliftment of women and economic empowerment certainly is a way towards upgrading the status of women in the family, which in turn will lead to her betterment. So there is a need to start more such projects for economic empowerment of women.

XVIII. Act to combat honor killing need to be passed as proposed by 242nd Report of Law Commission of India, 2012.

The researcher feels that there is a drastic need to enact a law to combat honor killing. This crime is constantly committed unabated despite various harsh judgments passed by the supreme court of India. Law Commission of India in its 242nd Report recommended for passing of an act to combat honor killing. These recommendations along with Supreme Court direction are given the shape of an effective act with a speedy move to curb this menace as early as possible.

XIX. Effective implementation

The study has found that though we have implemented plenty of laws, with big promises of women security but still the ground reality points otherwise. Actually in form of various laws we are only creating 'Paper Tigers' with no effective consequence. The perpetrators use these papers to make boat and make victim sit in those which drown in the sea of tiring long judicial procedure as unable to stand for long time, waiting for justice and with this die the hope of betterment of women. So effective implementation of all these laws is the foremost requirement of the hour.

XX. Sensitization of youth

As Kiran Bedi puts it now it's time for reversal of role, now we need to sensitize boys and make girls bold. This is the utmost requirement now to bring balancing in society and to create a safe environment for women in society. From the very inception there is a requirement that children should be brought up in a positive environment not only telling and teaching equality but actually being treated equal. All human beings are born equal and should be treated equally.

XXI. Women participation in judiciary

Women are considered partner in the democracy but still in judiciary her participation is not equal, till date we are having only a few percentage share of women in higher judiciary. The number of practicing women advocates is almost negligible; the highest body of justice is having only 2 women judges. On the other hand crime against women is rising at an unprecedented pace. So it's high time now that more and more women should enter the judicial field.

XXII. Need to stop commodification of women/sexuality and consumer capitalism

As is well known, an early and widespread ploy in the world of publicity has been the display of sexuality, especially of women's bodies to promote the desirability of a particular commodity. Sexual fulfillment has thus been a unique, if not pivotal fantasy, emblematic of the transformation in social relations that awaits the consumer³⁵.

The act of a person depict its mentality, and if an act in itself is utter gruesome and violent then there should not be any excuse for it and the perpetrator can in no sense

³⁵ Mary E. John, "Issues and Non-issues for Cultural Critique" in Kavita Punjabi & Paromita Chakravarti (eds.), *Women Contesting Culture—Changing Frames of Gender Politics in India* 171 (16 Southern Avenue, Kolkata, 2012)

be called innocent. If a person is committing such ghastly act then giving relaxation just on the basis of age seems totally unreasonable. So liability has to be stringent on a person who is committing crime against women even if he is below 16 years of age.

XXIII. Establishment of Self Help Groups (SHG)

Self Help Groups (SHG) need to be promoted by the Government for the welfare of women. More and more protection houses required to be made for the protection of young couples; willing to marry. The disguised contribution of a woman in the capacity of a house wife needs to be appreciated as an asset to the nation.

XXIV. Optimal utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Contributions of big business houses under the newly emerged concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) need to be utilized for the welfare of women. With the passage of the Companies Act, 2013 the mandate for corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been formally introduced to the dashboard of the Boards of Indian companies. The industry has responded positively to the reform measure undertaken by the government with a wide interest across the public and private sector, Indian and multinational companies. Building a society which provides equal access to opportunities negates disparities and, is a collective responsibility. So under this very scheme women can be provided a chance of skill building to participate in economic growth of their family as well as the country as a whole.

XXV. Normative Approach

There is a need to have normative approach to deal with sexual offenders. For example registration of sexual offenders as is the practice prevailing in many countries of the west. We have to create a well-defined protocol for police and police stations to deal with incidences and complainant of sexual offences. This may include defining time limits and targets without which even establishing of fast track courts may not be very effective as is so often argued. In the present world of ICT there is a need for creating possibilities of using technologies and providing access for filing online complaints involving sexual offences.

XXVI. Economic independence

The bottom-line to women's status in India (or elsewhere in the world) is the level of economic independence. The differences in the work patterns of men and women, and

the 'invisibility' of work that is not included in national accounts, lead to lower entitlements to women than to men. Women's lower access to resources and the lack of attention to gender in macroeconomic policy adds to the inequity, which, in turn, perpetuates gender gaps. Only through increased economic independence have women in the West found a relatively level playing field.

XXVII. 50% share in property on divorce

The Researcher believe that passing of law with more maintenance amount as was proposed to provide half of property as maintenance can prove to be an important step to stop atrocities and whimsical approach against women and bring them in a position to bargain for a happy life. To an extent the introduction of a no-fault divorce in the 1970s in some parts of the West speeded up the process. Women could now threaten to leave and still obtain alimony. Men had no choice but to become nicer to women. Here question of advocating for divorce need not arise as the researcher is a great fan of marriage and believes in the institution. But it would appear that this did create an off-equilibrium threat that increased good behavior from men.

XXVIII. Education

Education is both an elevator and a springboard. It allows people to raise themselves up and to break down the divides that keep them apart. At its best, education is a breaker of shackles—the shackles of exclusion and insularity. Sadly, economic clout is not a trivial matter to accumulate. Not all women can manage economic independence, particularly with discrimination against women in so many roles. And the spread of the ideas of freedom is so slow in India it may take another 10 generations.

So active education need to come into play. This being a social issue, it will take quite a bit of education to change. And good education, as we well know, is a disaster in India: virtually non-existent for the vast majority of the people. So the solution will be for people like you to write textbooks that treat both men and women equally; create movies that show equality at work and at home. Social reform is not necessarily the task of government. And it is very tedious. But there are no short cuts here. Like the caste system needs constant reform, if it is to die out, so also the liberation of women (and men) will take a lot of work.

To sum up we can say that though we have entered 21st century and proudly talk of a

civilized society yet the ground reality is shocking. Despite stringent laws and new guidelines from judiciary Crime against women are increasing at tremendous rate. The prejudice that women face is still present. Only, it has learnt to hide itself better.³⁶ The situation is really grim and need urgent attention and solution. After the above long discussion we find that solution of problem lies in the combined efforts by both the sexes. *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator by certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”*³⁷ As Swami Vivekananda had repeatedly told that India’s downfall was largely due to her negligence to women and there is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on one wing³⁸.

Now days we need to usher in gender partnership. The relationship between the sexes should be based on mutual respect for each other’s role, capabilities and sensibilities.³⁹ So, in our society children should be brought up in such an environment of equality that makes responsible future citizens. Women’s perseverance, patience and devotion to duty, attitude to accept challenges unhesitatingly and nature to bear everything silently should not be taken for granted. They are the symbols of inner strength, not of their weakness. Violence against women is not inevitable. We can eliminate it. We just have to have the courage to take on that challenge.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

----- Marianne Williamson

³⁶ Charulata venkateswaran, “Hey, its still a man’s world,” *The Hindu (Delhi)*, August 29, 2010.

³⁷ American Declaration of Independence, 1776, available at: <http://nlrd.org/resources-womens-rights/honour-killing-crimes/honour-killing-latest-judgements-of-supreme-courthigh-courts/arumugam-sevai-case-honour-killing-banning-of-khap-panchayats-judgement-2011-6-scc-405>(visited on 12-10-2013)

³⁸ Refer to [http:// www.buinesseconomics.in](http://www.buinesseconomics.in) (Visited on May29,2013)

³⁹ V.N. Mukundarajan , “Gender equality is passé, let us usher in gender partnership”, *The Hindu (Delhi)*,September 26,2010