

Article 375 of IPC or 63 of BNS- Is about the Definition of RAPE

IMP: Section 375 of the IPC which dealt with the offence of rape mirrored Section 63 in the BNS which increased the scope of the definition of rape.

A man is said to commit “rape” if he:

1. penetrates his penis, to any extent, into the vagina, mouth, urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or
2. inserts, to any extent, any object or a part of the body, not being the penis, into the vagina, the urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or
3. manipulates any part of the body of a woman so as to cause penetration into the vagina, urethra, anus or any part of body of such woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or
4. applies his mouth to the vagina, anus, urethra of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person, under the circumstances falling under any of the following seven descriptions:
 1. against her will.
 2. without her consent.
 3. with her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her or any person in whom she is interested, in fear of death or of hurt.
 4. with her consent, when the man knows that he is not her husband and that her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married.
 5. with her consent when, at the time of giving such consent, by reason of mental illness or intoxication or the administration by him personally or through another of any stupefying or unwholesome substance, she is unable to understand the nature and consequences of that to which she gives consent.
 6. with or without her consent, when she is under eighteen years of age.
 7. when she is unable to communicate consent.

Explanation 1: For the purposes of this section, “vagina” shall also include labia majora.

Explanation 2: Consent means an unequivocal voluntary agreement when the woman by words, gestures or any form of verbal or non-verbal communication, communicates willingness to participate in the specific sexual act;

Provided that a woman who does not physically resist to the act of penetration shall not by the reason only of that fact, be regarded as consenting to the sexual activity.

Exception 1: A medical procedure or intervention shall not constitute rape.

Exception 2: Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape.

Article 299 of CrPC or 100 of BNS- is About the Culpable Homicide

The BNS replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 2023, but only changed the section numbers of the provisions, not the wording. The new and old section numbers for culpable homicide are:

BNS Section 100: Culpable homicide

IPC Section 299: Culpable homicide

Whoever causes death by doing an act with the intention of causing death, or with the intention of causing such bodily injury as is likely to cause death, or with the knowledge that he is likely by such act to cause death, commits the offence of culpable homicide.

Illustrations:

1. A lays sticks and turf over a pit, with the intention of thereby causing death, or with the knowledge that death is likely to be thereby caused. Z, believing the ground to be firm, treads on it, falls in and is killed. A has committed the offence of culpable homicide.
2. A knows Z to be behind a bush. B does not know it. A, intending to cause, or knowing it to be likely to cause Z's death, induces B to fire at the bush. B fires and kills Z. Here B may be guilty of no offence; but A has committed the offence of culpable homicide.
3. A, by shooting at a fowl with intent to kill and steal it, kills B, who is behind a bush; A not knowing that he was there. Here, although A was doing an unlawful act, he was not guilty of culpable homicide, as he did not intend to kill B, or to cause death by doing an act that he knew was likely to cause death.

Explanation: A person who causes bodily injury to another who is labouring under a disorder, disease or bodily infirmity, and thereby accelerates the death of that other, shall be deemed to have caused his death.

Article 300 of CrPC or 101 of BNS- is About the Homicide (Murder)

Except in the cases hereinafter excepted, culpable homicide is murder,

1. if the act by which the death is caused is done with the intention of causing death; or
2. if the act by which the death is caused is done with the intention of causing such bodily injury as the offender knows to be likely to cause the death of the person to whom the harm is caused; or
3. if the act by which the death is caused is done with the intention of causing bodily injury to any person and the bodily injury intended to be inflicted is sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death; or

4. if the person committing the act by which the death is caused, knows that it is so imminently dangerous that it must, in all probability, cause death, or such bodily injury as is likely to cause death, and commits such act without any excuse for incurring the risk of causing death or such injury as aforesaid.

Difference between homicide and culpable homicide

Culpable Homicide – Not Murder

Section 299(Definition)304(Punishment)

A person commits
culpable homicide if the act by
the death is caused is
done -

INTENTION

(a) with the intention of causing
or

(b) with the intention
of causing such
bodily injury as is
likely to cause death; or

KNOWLEDGE

(c) with the
knowledge that
the act is likely to
cause death.

Murder

Section 300 (Definition) 302 (Punishment)

Subject to certain exceptions

culpable homicide is murder if the
act by which the death is caused
is done -

(1) with the intention of causing death; or death;

(2) with the intention of causing
such bodily injury as the
offender knows to be likely to
cause the death of the person
to whom the harm is caused; or

(3)With the intention of causing
bodily injury to any person
and the bodily injury intended
to be inflicted is sufficient
in the ordinary course of
nature to cause death; or

(4) with the knowledge that the
act is so imminently
dangerous that it must in all
probability cause death or
such bodily injury as is likely
to cause death, and commits
such act without any
excuse for incurring the
risk of causing death
or such injury as is mentioned above.

In clause (3) of Section 300, instead of the words "**likely to cause death**" occurring in the corresponding clause (b) of Section 299, the words "**sufficient in the ordinary course of nature**" have been used.

The word "**likely**" in clause (b) of Section 299 conveys the sense of **probability as distinguished from a mere possibility**.

The words "**bodily injury ... sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death**" mean that death will be the "**most probable**" result of the injury, having regard to the ordinary course of nature.

For the purpose of fixing punishment, proportionate to the gravity of the generic offence, IPC practically recognizes **three degrees of culpable homicide**.

The first is, what may be called, "**culpable homicide of the first degree**".

This is the **gravest form of culpable homicide**, which is defined in Section 300 as "**murder**".

The second may be termed as "**culpable homicide of the second degree**".

This is punishable under the first part of Section 304.

Then, there is "**culpable homicide of the third degree**".

This is the lowest type of culpable homicide and the punishment provided for it is also the lowest among the punishments provided for the three grades.

Culpable homicide of this degree is punishable under the second part of Section 304.

The academic distinction between "**murder**" and "**culpable homicide not amounting to murder**" has always vexed the courts.

Section 45 and 46 of IEA – Is about the Expert Opinion

Section 45 About the Expert opinions

When the court has to form an opinion upon a point of foreign law, or of science, or art, or as to identity of handwriting, or finger impressions, the opinions upon that point of persons specially skilled in such foreign law, science or art or in questions as to identity of handwriting or finger impressions, are relevant facts.

Such persons are called experts."

There are three illustrations set out below Section 45. One deals with an opinion as to 'poisoning', the other as to 'unsoundness of mind' and third as to 'identity of handwriting'.

In the 69th Report, after an elaborate discussion, the Commission recommended (end of para 17.44) to include 'footprints, palm impressions or typewriting, as the case may be' in Section 45 and further recommended insertion of Section 45A in regard to the duty of an expert witness to supply copy of his report to all parties, along with the grounds for opinion.

It may be noted that in State (through CBI v. S.J. Choudhary AIR 1996 SC 1491, while holding that experts could be examined with regard to 'typewriting', the 69th Report of the Law Commission was quoted.

Section 45B was proposed to cover expert opinion on 'foreign law' as in the British statutes of 1859, 1861 with two subsections.

Section 46 in The Indian Evidence Act, 1872

Facts, not otherwise relevant, are relevant if they support or are inconsistent with the opinions of experts, when such opinions are relevant.

The question is, whether A was poisoned by a certain poison. The fact that other, persons, who were poisoned by that poison, exhibited certain symptoms which experts affirm or deny to be the symptoms of that poison, is relevant.

Expert and Opinion of expert

- Selection of expert: qualification of expert
- Sec 39(1) of BSA, 2023/Sec 45 of IEA: Opinion of expert
 - When the Court has to form an opinion upon a point of foreign law or of science or art, or as to identity of handwriting or finger impressions, the opinions upon that point of persons specially skilled in such foreign law, science or art or in questions as to identity of handwriting or finger impressions are relevant facts. Such persons are called experts.