

A Study on Rape Statistics and Sentencing Across the Globe



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Abstract

This article is regarding sexual assault done with people round the world. It not only accounts for assaults done with women but with men as well. In this paper one will find the statistics that is available on incidents of rape that has happened in different countries of the world. We will see the trend of increasing or decreasing rates according to population data. A comparison has been drawn that how the figures have changed over time.

Then a research has been done on the severe cases that has happened in different countries of the world and that what provisions and laws has been adopted by those countries to bring down their statistics regarding rape rates in the world and what has then happened after taking or not taking different steps by the authorities of the world i.e., whether they improved their position or not and how safe their country is for women and men regarding sexual assault.

In the end a conclusion would be drawn from all these stats and findings that how sufficient the laws are and if they are not then how can they be made sufficient to curb the crime rate. That there is a huge deficiency in the reporting of the crime by the victims and then analysing what has been done for those which were reported and then at last it will be seen that how non serious many countries are towards the conviction of this heinous crime.

Key Words: Victim, sexual assault, provisions and laws, convictions.

Introduction

Rape has been defined differently across the world, some gives it a broad definition like India, but some gives it a typical meaning which basically is forceful, or against the will sexual intercourse with a person be it a male or a female. This is recognized to be unlawful by almost every country across the globe. Though it stays under reported because of fear of society, one can never find an exact rate of rapes done even if they try to cover a small fraction of society, because it is seldom reported.

If we look at the statistics a 10 year ago trend of rape rates of the world, we find that South Africa has the highest rate which stands at 132.40 which means they had a total of 66,196 incidents in the year 2010.

Botswana standing at 2nd number in the list having a rate of 92.90, with 1865 incidents happened, Lesotho t 3rd with 82.70 and 1777 incidents in 2010, then comes Swaziland with 77.50 rate and 849 incidents and at 5th it was Bermuda with a rape rate of 67.30 and 43 incidents though the incidents were less but it stands at 5th number because Bermuda has a really less population number, which now in 2020 is 62,278 only.

This is a table which represents top 10 countries in the world with rape rates from 2010.

country	rate	Incidents
South Africa	132.40	66,196
Botswana	92.90	1,865

Lesotho	82.70	1,777
Swaziland	77.50	849
Bermuda	67.30	43
Sweden	63.50	5,960
Suriname	45.20	223
Costa Rica	36.70	1,685
Nicaragua	31.60	1,829
Grenada	30.60	32

There are so many countries in this list which most of the people might have not even heard of and they top the list of rape rates in the world, we talk about so many cases which go unreported where the victims just suffered and no body even know about it, these alarming numbers may be because of the stricter definitions the countries might have for rape, but what about the cases which has been reported. The figure shows that these countries need to make stricter laws and legislation which would bring down these numbers and make themselves a better and a safer place to live so that it motivates more and more people to come and report their incidents. So, we will further see that whether or not these countries have worked upon themselves to make stricter policies to bring down these numbers.

Rape Statistics 10 Years Later

The south African government gave records which showed 42,289 rape incidents were recorded in 2019-20, whereas it was 41,583 in the year 2018-19, which showed an average 116

rapes were done every day in South Africa. The rate was 72.1, with the population of 59,308,690. Sweden with a population of 10,099,265 in 2020, recorded a rate of 56.7 cases per 1,00,000 population in 2015. Which was 40.8 per 1,00,000 people in 2006 which means the numbers are just growing.

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) 2018, takes record of the rapes recorded by police which were accounted to be 1,27,258 in 2018. Whereas (NCVS) national crime victimization survey gave an account of 4,31,840 incidents which went unrecorded under sexual assaults and rapes in 2015.

Only 15% of rapes are recorded in Mexico, out of which the national institute of statistics and geography in Mexico gave a report that in middle of the 2010-2015 3 million cases of rapes were held in Mexico, and 2009 recorded 2795

cases whereas complaints registered were 14,829. Various surveys done in Mexico shows that most of the women does not go to the authorities to get their incident reported and as such the numbers are highly undervalued. INEGI report done in 2017 showed that 10.7% women who

Botswana which has a small population of two million people only had an high range of incidents recorded. Between 2019- early 2020 there were 133 rape cases recorded per day, which was 110 in past year!

United States of America had a rate of 38.6 in 2015, 37 in 2014, 35.9 in 2013, 27.1 in 2012, 27 in 2011 and 27.6 in 2010. This was a 5 year trend of United States of America which shows the graph would keep on rising in the rate of rape in USA. Though it was 31.9 in 2005 which was alarming and has declined since then.

A 5-year trend from 2010-2015 in rates averaged acc. To the population.

Country	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Sweden	56.7	64.9	58.5	62.3	64	58.4
Iceland	54	39.4	55.3	37.7	39.9	30.8
Guyana	41.9	-	35.4	35.5	31.8	15.5
USA	38.6	37	35.9	27.1	27	27.6
El Salvador	36.7	6	6.3	6.5	5.4	5.9
Grenada	32.8	16.9	34	18	34.3	22.9
Peru	29.3	28.5	28.2	29.5	24.9	22.4
Columbia	27.8	14.7	11.3	11.2	7.9	7.1
Belgium	25.4	27.4	30	30.7	30.9	30.3
Panama	23	23.9	28.7	31.7	28	27.5

Steps Taken by the Government and Provisions

In Mexico

The government of Mexico started to take it seriously when in 2016 they bought women only public transportation which promoted safety for women through pink buses and subway cars. A step that was seen was when four professors were fired from an university due to sexual harassment and strikes were held by women's at nineteen schools.

In Germany

Women in Germany were too much exploited because of sexual harassment during and since the time of world war. And according to that they were slowly gave focus to women protection laws e.g., Germany criminalized marital rape in 1997 this was done after almost 30 years of debating between the political leaders and the public that whether it should be equally punishable to non-marital rape or not?

Section 182 of the criminal code of Germany makes age of consent to 14 but it depends that

to what extent the assault has been done then if extent is too much then it would be taken as 18 also if it is a paid sex with a minor then it is 18. But Germany then changed some of its definitions for consensus and made it stricter for the accused earlier it was stricter for the victim as they required fight from the victim during the time in 2016.

A no means no (#neinHeisstNein) campaign was done by people in Germany after case of a women named Gina-Lisa and 2015-16's new year's eve where hundreds of women were sexually assaulted. Such acts bought many changes in the laws in Germany.

In South Africa

Criminal law amendment act 1997 revised by criminal law (sentencing) amendment act 2007 deals with the definition and sentencing of rape in South Africa. Section 51(1) (3) provides with minimum sentences for serious offence provides that if a girl under 16 years of age is raped which causes serious harm to the victim like any form of mental or physical dis-abledness then there

would be a minimum punishment for 10 years but if there has been a previous conviction for the same crime then 15-16 years of punishment will be given. This is only for minor offenders.

In Lesotho

Sexual offences act 2003 under section 31 and 32, deals with punishment for unlawful sexual acts, which is minimum 10 years but if done consequently then minimum 15 years if the victim is under 12 or is a vulnerable person and there has been use of weapon or when there is continuous abuse of child then the punishment could be up to 20 years.

In Botswana

Provided under penal code amended by amendment act no. 5 of 1998, section 142 deals with rape that there is a minimum punishment of 10 years and it could be up to 15 years if any injury or harm has been caused to the victim due to rape and if the offender is HIV+ and he knows both it then it would extend to 20 years, the punishment can also extend to life imprisonment in rare cases. And its 5 years for attempt of rape.

Also section 166 deals with assault of boys under the age of 14.

Strict Laws for Rape in different countries:

India

With a rape rate of just 1.80 and incidents total of 22,172 India ranked at 96th position in 2010 survey, but now 10 years later India had 87 rape cases every day in 2019 and had 4,05,861 cases for crime against women in 2019 which was 7% more than just the past year i.e., 2018.

On September 29, 2020 the data released by (NCRB) National Crime Records Bureau showed that there were 32,033 rape cases in 2019 and rape accounts for the 4th largest crime against women in India. Rape is dealt under section 375 of Indian Penal Code, and covers a wide definition. In India consent does not matter if the woman is under 18 years of age or is unsound by mind. Or if consent has been made by making her falsely believe that the person, she is having intercourse with is her husband but that person knows that he is not lawfully married to her, or if the person puts her under a fear of death of hers or someone else or intoxicates her which she does not understand then such consent is not valid. Also, if a person fake promises a woman that he will marry her and have sexual intercourse with her then it will be considered rape because she consented on a fake promise.

The government of India after the Delhi gang rape case bought a fast-track court machinery so as to speedily resolve and put the governmental guidelines for rape.

Section 376 of IPC provides that whoever commits rape under section 375 shall be given a rigorous imprisonment of 7 years which can extend to life imprisonment or imprisonment of 10 years with fine. Any person who rapes his own wife will be punished for 2 years with fine and if the wife is below the age of 15 years then it would 7 years or more and there is 10 years of imprisonment if it is gang rape.

China

China punishes the rape convicts with death sentence, and earlier they permitted even mutilation of genetics.

Iran

In Iran they punish the rapist by killing them in public by shooting or hanging. The victim if lets the rapist to go away with the crime still the rapist would get 100 lashes or life imprisonment and in some cases the victim himself is allowed to shoot the rapist in public. This is one of the most strictest and best way to punish the rapist.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan the accused is punished by either hanging him to death or by shooting him in the head and the other part is this has to be done within 4 days of commission of crime.

In France it is 10 years imprisonment but if the death of the victim is caused then it is extended to thirty years. In USA as well the punishment given to the rapist is maximum of thirty years imprisonment.

Conclusion

To conclude I would like to state that laws throughout the world is not adequate as we have seen and know the conditions of the world towards women it has never been respectable and dignified enough. Through this paper we could see that most of the people who are victims of sexual-assault does not even report their cases because of the pressure of the society because of the thinking of the society, who somewhere or the other blames the victims for their victimization. There are many countries who punish the victim e.g., In Saudi Arabia the victim and accused both are punished if rape happens, the victim gets 100 lashes and imprisoned for being a victim this is such a shocking fact and a violation of human rights so in such a society how will a person come and report cases and hence their data would be too less.

Another big problem was lack of data, there was very less record of reported cases the last complete research was of 2010 and it has been 10 years but no adequate data was available to know the rape statistics for most of the countries. People in the world has always been an object of exploitation and it has gone largely unreported in many countries the victims re punished if the publicize their incident, in North Korea there is no report of rape cases because they punish the victims.

The authorities need to synchronize their laws with the international codes and laws so that they could bring justice for their people and make their lives better as this is their duty instead; they try to hide the crimes that has happened. In my opinion there should be some interference from the UN or some other international law-making authorities and abode the countries by the laws for the protection of human rights and should keep a check by regular or periodically collecting the data from the countries so that under the pressure they would at least start recording the crime.

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