

# Empowering women against atrocities

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# Characteristics of atrocities

- Irrespective of region, religion, race, language, age women through--out face severe physical and mental atrocities.
- These may be in the form of infanticide, sexual misuse through internet, molestation, rape, child marriages, domestic violence, sexual harassment at work places, economic exploitation in the form of dowry, economic starvation of widows, neglect at old age by family members.
- In addition, the atrocities through social media, and cyber offences have increased geometrically in the recent past. These are in the form of economic offences and cheating for false promises of marriage, jobs, lottery or such other nature. In street level crimes chain snatchings , purse picking are very common.

# Technological interventions

- In a major initiative, the Government of India has introduced several amendments to existing laws by making stringent provisions
- Juveniles indulging in heinous crimes such as rapes, and murders are being prosecuted as adults
- In all offences in which punishment exceeds seven years, forensic evidence has been made mandatory
- Biometric details are being collected under Identification of Prisoners Act so that stringent punishment is met to repeat offenders
- In case of rape, two finger test has been done away with.

# Technological interventions

- Government of India has implemented in all the States toll-free help line in the form of 112 India app. This can be freely downloaded by any individual in smart phone. This is being manned 24\*7 and depending upon the nature of emergency, appropriate authority including police, fire brigade and medical personnel are alerted. Response from these authorities is between 5 to 7 minutes.
- For cyber offenses, complaint can be lodged even anonymously, through [www.Cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.Cybercrime.gov.in) or through helpline 1930
- Several training programs are being organised in schools, colleges and self help groups of women to create digital awareness

# Technological interventions

- CCTV cameras have been installed in important locations in most of the major cities
- CCTV cameras are installed in taxis, hospitals, schools, housing societies to identify criminals
- Upgradation of these CCTVs is being planned to make use of artificial intelligence (AI) to issue prior alerts
- Fast track courts are implemented to ensure speedy trials
- Special prosecutors are appointed in sensational crimes
- In case of molestation, instructions are issued to send chargesheet along with accused in 24 hours

# Technological Interventions

- Round the clock patrolling manned by women police has been implemented through dedicated vehicles
- RFID tags are being used at sensitive places frequented by women such as bazaars, schools, colleges, bus stands, railway stations to monitor visits by policemen
- Strict monitoring of work places to avoid sexual harassment at work places through special laws mandating committees headed by women.
- Suo moto cognisance of any report indicating atrocities against women by NHRC and NCW as well as State Women Commission.

# Additional Measures to create confidence

- Visits by women help groups to near-by police stations whenever they are free
- Creation of women police volunteers (Police मित्र ) to educate women about legal and administrative help
- Women Police volunteers strive to create confidence among victims to report the crime and stand by them during the trial till the offender is punished
- Organise regular training courses for law enforcing agencies, government officers, teachers, parents, corporate houses among others

# Measures to improve conviction rate

- Need to register offences using CCTV footage without waiting for the complainant to reach police station
- Unless the offenders are convicted, the threat to women in large continues
- Provide protection to complainants and witnesses till the trial is complete
- Organise mock trials before actual trial
- Special briefing to complainants and witnesses
- Training for prosecutors
- Considerable scope to improve the situation.



# Future course

- Above mentioned legal & administrative steps are still inadequate
- Vigilance and constant encouragement to victims through NGOs, right minded individuals is essential to create awareness among women
- Making cheap legal assistance available to victims through legal aid committees is essential
- Unfortunately even then justice is highly delayed and costly
- Media needs to step up their efforts to create social awareness.

# Links to articles on the subject

- <https://praveendixit.com/cops-should-have-acted-swiftly-on-walkars-complaint-against-poonawala-in-2020-say-ex-police-officers/>
- <https://praveendixit.com/sensitivity-to-women-as-complainants/>
- <https://praveendixit.com/gender-equality-social-transformation/>
- <https://praveendixit.com/women-in-police-in-india/>
- <https://praveendixit.com/%e0%a4%ae%e0%a4%b9%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%b2%e0%a4%be-%e0%a4%b5-%e0%a4%85%e0%a4%b2%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%aa%e0%a4%b5%e0%a4%af%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%a8-%e0%a4%ae%e0%a5%81%e0%a4%b2%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%82%e0%a4%9a%e0%a5%80/>

# Links

- <https://praveendixit.com/measures-against-atrocities-on-women/>
- <https://praveendixit.com/%e0%a4%ae%e0%a4%b9%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b7%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%9f%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%a4%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%b2-%e0%a4%ae%e0%a4%b9%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%b2%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%82%e0%a4%b5%e0%a4%bf/>
- <https://praveendixit.com/measures-to-promote-safety-of-women/>
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- <https://praveendixit.com/%e0%a4%b8%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%ae%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%9c%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%95-%e0%a4%aa%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%a4%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%ae%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%b8%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%a0%e0%a5%80-%e0%a4%b9%e0%a4%a4%e0%a5%8d/>

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- <https://praveendixit.com/commentary-on-crime-in-india-2016/>