

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE PREPONDERANCE OF COMPLAINTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA****<sup>1</sup>Pohane Deepali Dnyaeshwar and <sup>2</sup>Dr. Veena Ramji Raut**<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Sociology, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan University, Bhopal (M.P), India<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Allied, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan University, Bhopal (M.P), India**ABSTRACT**

*Women all across the globe are affected by violence against them, regardless of their age, colour, education, ethnicity, group affiliations, socioeconomic status, or nationality. A woman's life may sometimes be in danger in a crisis scenario, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to many socioeconomic factors, including the country's huge female population, a lack of positive deviance, illiteracy, gender and religious issues, the difficulty of accessing legal assistance, and the migration of married women from rural to urban areas in quest of employment, women's safety is a major concern in India. Using data collected from 36 Indian states and union territories between January 2020 and the six years preceding the SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19 pandemic, this observational, retrospective, cross-sectional, comparative mixed research study aims to draw conclusions about the impact of the pandemic on the frequency of reports of violence against women. The purpose of this study is to ascertain if the number of complaints of violence against women has been affected by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. A constitutional/legislative body established in January 1992 under the (National Commission for Women) NCW Act, 1990, the National Commission for Women (NCW) uses Microsoft Office and Stata software for data extraction, observation, and analysis. The NCW was established by Act No. 20 of 1990 of the Government of India. January 2014 through December 2022 is the time frame of the study. as anticipated. This research is a cross-sectional observational study that makes use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This study compares the three years of the current COVID-19 pandemic—2020, 2021, and 2022—against the years before the pandemic in order to find out how the virus affected complaints of violence against women in India. Throughout the years of the COVID-19 epidemic, this research discovered that the frequency of reports of violence against women in India rose, with the exception of 2014. In 2021, during the second year of the COVID-19 outbreak, NCW received 30865 reports of violent incidents, an increment of 55.03 percent compared to 2018 and 56.43% compared to 2019. The results of this analysis indicate that in 2022, there would be 352,87 complaints of crimes against women received by the National Commission for Women. This would be the highest number in the last eight years. Legal and protective mechanisms, together with helpful services, etc., should be made available without hindrance. A women's protection service that can continue to function in the face of pandemics and other natural disasters must be established effect.*

*Keywords: Pandemic, Women violence, Lockdown, Brutality, Covid-19, Crime again women, Domestic abuse*

**1. INTRODUCTION****1.1 General & Background**

Women all around the globe are affected by violence against them, regardless of their age, colour, education, ethnicity, group affiliations, socioeconomic status, or nationality [1]. A woman's life may sometimes be in danger in a crisis scenario, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The women safety is a major concern in India because of the country's large female population, illiteracy, assets, sexuality, and religious issues, deficiency of optimistic abnormality, social economical element, migration from rural to urban areas in search of employment, and difficulty accessing legal assistance. Even for developed countries and LMICs (poor and medium income countries), like India, the current SARS-CoV-2 epidemic has posed a threat to the safety of women [2]. Violence is a burden on society and hinders a country's development. Condition step, legal document social control, DALYs (disability adjusted life years), and general development advancement are all impacted by a nation's income [3]. A female victim of gender-based violence is often victimised on the grounds of her sex. Violence may take many different forms, including sexual, social, emotional, or bodily injury [3]. Such behaviours may have a

negative impact on a woman's health, productivity, sense of self-worth, sufficiency, confidence, and general quality of life. According to the WHO's estimates of the global burden of violence against women, one in three (30%) women worldwide have experienced non-partner sexual assault or physical abuse at some point in their lives. Lockdowns that are enforced and put into place to regulate the pandemic have cultural group and economical repercussions [4]. Due to this, female detainees may have been exposed to more abuse and had less access to protective services. Due to the COVID-19, there is a humanitarian crisis and mass displacement, which might lead to an increment in sexual assault against women and existing forms of violence [5].

### **1.2 Domestic Abuse**

Domestic violence, or intimate partner violence, encompasses any actions or patterns of conduct within a relationship that are used to exert control or dominance over an intimate partner. Individuals may engage in many forms of behavior, such as physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial, or by making threats against others. Engaging in behaviors such as intimidation, terrorization, manipulation, harm, or causing injury to another person constitutes engaging in any of these actions [6]. Domestic violence has an impact on individuals across various age groups, ethnicities, sexes, sexual orientations, and religious affiliations. This is feasible in several forms of partnerships, including marriage, cohabitation, dating, and married couples. Individuals from various socioeconomic origins and educational levels may be impacted by domestic violence and abuse [5]. According to Dr. Tedros' opening statements during the March 11, 2020 media conference on the virus, the World Health Organization has determined that COVID-19 might be classified as a pandemic [7]. The author designates the time period concluding in December 2019 as the pre-pandemic era for India [8]. The reason for this is because the first instance of COVID-19 in the nation was documented in January 2020. The individuals that are most vulnerable are moms and children [9].

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This observational research aims to assess the impact of the ongoing SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19 pandemic on the incidence of violence against women in India. The study focuses on 36 states and union territories, starting from January 2020, and compares the frequency of reports with previous years before the pandemic. Furthermore, the data substantiates the author's claim that domestic violence might be more prevalent during a COVID-19 lockdown and in a high-stress environment.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

### **● Design of data**

This study is a mixed-methods observational retrospective cross-sectional comparison. In order to compare the third years of the pandemic era, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

### **● Setting & Arrangement**

Data from the National Commission for Women (NCW) is extracted, observed, and analyzed using Stata and Microsoft Office. In January 1992, the National Commission for Women (NCW) was constituted as a constitutional/legislative body under the NCW Act, 1990 by Act No. 20 of the Government of India. Beginning in 2014 and ending in 2022, the research will be in present establishment.

### **● Locations**

This research study covers all 36 of India's states and union territories.

### **● Relevant dates**

The precise time frame for the research is from start date of January 2014 to end date of December 2022. (Projecting with excel software)

### **● Exposure**

This research includes women from all 36 Indian states and union territories who have reported suffering any of the specified kinds of violence against themselves to the National Commission for Women (NCW) in India. Examine the data shown in Table 1 below.

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**Table 1:** Lists of the many types of violence against women

<b>Factors of Nature</b>
Lack of police concern towards women
The entitlement to a dignified life
Various Provocative Acts Against Women's Modesty
Assault on a Workplace Victim
Abuse of married women in the form of dowry
Incidents Involving In-Laws and Rape
Assault / Captivity
The tragic reality of dowry abuse and its lethal forms
The Death of the Dowry
The prevalence of violence against women
Missing Rights for Women
The right of mothers to choose who gets to live with their
Violence against women
children after a divorce
Reports Concerning Riots and Other Forms of Community Violence
Equal access to justice for women
Relocation Assistance for Victims of Harassment
Assault on Life
Violence in Communities and Caste
Multiple marriages
Freedom of Choice in Marital Arrangements
Taking Away Your Property Rights
Online Violence Against Women
The murder
Betrayed Trust Before Marriage
Embarrassing Women in Media
Maintenance      Feminine      Trafficking      and      Prostitution      Claims
Legal separation
Discrimination based on gender, including equitable access to education and employment
The right to privacy and autonomy of women
Methods include as amniocentesis, female feticide, and sex selective abortion
Strictly male-dominated customs that violate women's rights, such as witch hunts and the sati and devdasi pratha and Acid Reaction
Sexually Invading Private Spaces
Death by suicide
The right of women to reproductive health

### ● **Monitoring and Gathering Information By Data Collection**

In this research study, The data is continuously obtained from the recognized electronic sources of the National Commission for Women in India and thereafter verified for accuracy, timeliness, precision, correctness, and reproducibility. A comprehensive examination of the grievances filed with the National Commission for Women (NCW) of India was carried out using Stata and Microsoft Office software. The experiment will take place from January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2022. This includes the years 2020, 2021, and January 2022, which are relevant due to the pandemic. Data is compared to the years before the epidemic occurred. This research aims to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reports of violence against women in India by comparing the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 with the pre-pandemic years.

**● Participants**

The study included all female inhabitants of India throughout many time periods, with no age restriction (data given by the World Bank). The National Commission for Women (NCW) is supposedly inundated with reports of violence against women in India from every single woman. So, to find out how many complaints were received, a sample technique is utilized. Taking into account India's status as an LMIC, the author recognizes the potential for substantial underreporting. Several factors might be at play here, such as a lack of familiarity with the reporting process, low literacy rates, information accessibility issues, social and economic barriers, and communication breakdowns.

**● Variables**

Table 1 is a list of the factors that were examined in this research study.

**● Sources of Data**

Data on the performance of reports of violence against women is gathered from NCW's computerised files. Data on the female population is gathered from World Bank computerised databases.

The World Bank's female population statistics, predicted through 2022 using historical data and Excel. When comparing different types of crimes, it is important to take into account all of the violent complaints filed with NCW. This helps to account for changes in the nature of crimes over time, such as the addition or removal of certain entities or their classifications.

**● Analyses and Measurements of Data**

Stata and Microsoft Office are used to conduct the analysis.

**● Bias**

Microsoft Office and Stata tools are used to predict the data in order to address bias in the research.

**● Sample Size**

The trial will run from January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2022. The World Bank provided the statistics on all of the female residents of India in various study years. The female population of India of all ages and the most reputable, most recent data sources listed above are used for the study since it is observing only complaints of violence against women.

**● Lack of Data**

The variable's data, which was reported in January 2022 but has not yet been classified, is used as the mean for all preceding months.

**4. RESULT & DISCUSSIONS**

The total number of women who were included in this research study as possibly eligible in the year 2014 was 621852998, but for the years 2015, to 2021(forecast) and 679672034.80 in 2022 shown in Table 2. The aforementioned figures reflect the whole female population of India across all 36 states and union territories in various years. The World Bank is the source of the statistics on the female population, and Microsoft Excel is used to anticipate the population for the years 2021 and 2022 using the data that has been made public since 1960. The data provided by NCW for each variable is compared to the same variable from prior years. According to this study's findings, the National Commission for Women would likely receive 35287 reports of crimes against women in 2022, the most in the previous eight years. In the year 2014, the total number of Nature-Wise Report of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). was 33906; in 2015, it decremented to 23370. Total Nature-Wise Report of Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). for the Years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021,2022 is projected to be as follows: 19088, 14591, 19908, 19730, 23722, 30865, and 35287 show in table 2.

## International Journal of Applied Engineering & Technology

**Table 2:** shows the the annual total of NCW's reports of violence against women

Period/year	The sum of all complaints	Variation from year to year in terms of total	Change as a percentage from the prior year
<b>2014</b>	33906.00	Survey	Survey beginning period
<b>2015</b>	23370.00	10536 decrement	31.0741 % decrement
<b>2016</b>	19088	4282 decrement	18.3226 % decrement
<b>2017</b>	14591	4497 decrement	23.5593 % decrement
<b>2018</b>	19908	5317 increment	36.44027 % increment
<b>2019</b>	19730	178 decrement	0.89411 % decrement
<b>2020</b>	23722	3992 increment	20.23315 % increment
<b>2021</b>	30865	7143 increment	30.11129 % increment
<b>2022</b>	35287	4422 increment	14.32691 % increment

In the first year of this research, or 2014, 33906 Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). were submitted. In the study's second year, or 2015, there were 23370 Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW)., a 31.07% drop from the previous year. There were 19088 Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). in the third year of this research, 2016, which is 18.32% less than in 2015. The overall number of Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). for the year 2017 was 14591, a 23.56% reduction from 2016. There were 19908 Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). in total for the year 2018, an increment of 36.44% over the previous year. The number of complaints that NCW received in 2019, just before to the pandemic timeframe, was 19730. This is a little decline of 0.89% from 2018 shown in table 2. In 2020, the first year of the pandemic, 23722 Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). were received, a 20.23% increment from 2019. In the second year of the pandemic, or 2021, 30865 Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). were received, a 30.11 percent increment from 2020. According to Table 2, the total number of Nature-Wise Reports of the Complaints have been received by the National Commission for Women (NCW). during the third year of the pandemic, or 2022, is predicted to be 35287, a 14.32% rise from 2021. Table 2 indicates that complaints decremented after 2014, with the fewest complaints being filed in 2017. Violence complaints started to rise in 2017 and then started to decline in 2019, just before the pandemic year 2020. As to forecasted data analysis, the frequency of violence complaints is likely to surpass the 2014 figures in 2022. The prevalence of violent complaints is fed by numerous conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic years and began climbing again from 2020. According to the author, if the COVID-19 condition persists, then this need not occur.

**Table 3:** Total occurrence and yearly frequency of the two most common complaints

Factors of Nature	The sum of all complaints	Variation from year to year in terms of total	Preponderance per 100000
<b>The total for the year 2014</b>	33906	621852998	5.452414012
<b>Lack of police concern towards women 2014</b>	7424	621852998	1.193851284
<b>The entitlement to a dignified life 2014</b>	6950	621852998	1.117627481
<b>2015 Total</b>	23370	628929060	3.715840384
<b>Lack of police concern towards women (2015)</b>	7016	628929060	1.115547118
<b>The entitlement to a dignified life (2015)</b>	6769	628929060	1.076274008
<b>2016 Total</b>	19088	635912563	3.00167053
<b>The entitlement to a dignified life (2016)</b>	5755	635912563	0.904998633

*International Journal of Applied Engineering & Technology*

Lack of police concern towards women (2016)	5543	635912563	0.871660716
<b>2017 Total</b>	14591	642796257	2.269926099
The entitlement to a dignified life (2017)	5023	642796257	0.781429566
Lack of police concern towards women (2017)	2307	642796257	0.358900659
<b>2018 Total</b>	19908	649586703	3.064717906
The entitlement to a dignified life (2018)	7784	649586703	1.198300391
Dowry harassment / dowry death (2018)	3245	649586703	0.499548403
<b>2019 Total</b>	19730	656288184	3.006301268
The entitlement to a dignified life (2019)	4694	656288184	0.715234574
Abuse of married women in the form of dowry(2019)	3883	656288184	0.591660812
<b>2020 Total</b>	23722	656288184	3.614570638
The entitlement to a dignified life (2020)	7715	656288184	1.175550648
Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women (2020)	5297	656288184	0.807114943
<b>2021 Total</b>	30865	670890572.9	4.600601237
The entitlement to a dignified life (2021)	11088	670890572.9	1.652728544
Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women (2021)	6684	670890572.9	0.996287661
<b>2022 Total</b>	35287.1	679672035	5.191785
The entitlement to a dignified life (2022)	13388.2	679672035	1.9698066
Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women (2022)	7310.02	679672035	1.07552118

**Table 4:** Result of statistical evaluation of overall complaints, duration, female demographic, and frequency

<b>Summary statistical evaluation</b>					
Variable	Observation	Mean	Standrad Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Year	9	2018	2.7386130	2014	2022
The sum of all complaint	9	24496.340	7233.1450	14591	35287.10
Variation from year to year in terms of total	9	6.49e+080	1.90e+070	6.22e+080	6.80e+08
Preponderance per 100000	9	3.7686470	1.0891610	2.269926	5.4524140

**Table 5:** Result mean prevalence of statistical analysis of The sum of all complaint, number of years, female population and prevalence

<b>C/I means, summary</b>					
Variable	Observation	Mean	Standrad Error	Confidence Interval 95%	
Year	9	2018	.91287090	2015.8950	2020.1050
The sum of all complaint	9	24496.340	2411.048	18936.460	30056.230
Female Population in different years	9	6.49e+080	6320113.00	6.35e+080	6.64e+080
Preponderance per 100000	9	3.7686470	.36305370	2.9314440	4.6058510

Due to the difficulty of covering every sort of violence complaint in an article-style format, the author is only going to touch on the top two complaints that have been filed since 2014. Lack of police concern towards women and the The entitlement to a dignified life were the top two complaints of violence from 2014 to 2017. In contrast, in 2018, the top two complaints were about harassment and death related to dowries and the The entitlement to a dignified life. In 2019, harassment of married women, or dower harassment, and the The entitlement to a dignified life ranked first and second, respectively. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the research study found that complaints about domestic violence grew significantly throughout the pandemic, ranking second in importance only to complaints about the right to live in dignity show table 3. According to tables 3, the prevalence of violence complaints per 100,000 females was 5.452414012, 3.715840384, 3.00167053, 2.269926099, 3.064717906, 3.006301268, 3.614570638, 4.600601237, and 5.191785 from 2014 to 2022. According to Tables 4 and 5, the average prevalence of violent complaints per 100,000 people over the research period was 3.768647, with a standard deviation of 1.089161, minimum. This represents the 95% confidence interval between 2.931444 and 4.605851. In 2017, there were 2.269926 reports of violence against every 100,000 people, with the highest reported incidence being. In the year 2014, 5.452414. In the nine years of complete observation, the mean number of complaints [95% Confidence Interval: 18936.46 - 30056.23] is 24496.34, Std. Dev: 7233.145, min. Between 2017 and 2022, the total number of complaints received was 14591, with the highest number being 35287.1. Based on the observation research study mentioned above, it may be stated that there have been more reports of violence against women in India during the COVID-19 epidemic phase than in the years immediately before it, with the exception of 2014. The right to live in dignity is the most common complaint that NCW has received throughout the course of the nine-year observation period. The highest number of these complaints was received in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, or 2021 show table 3. The complaint about protecting women from domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic period is just next to the one above.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

India has to develop plans to protect women under pandemic-like circumstances. It seems that the current legal framework is inadequate. It is necessary to remove the obstacles posed by the legal protection system and service delivery restrictions. India should create a special strategy for the formation of a worker cadre for services related to women's protection. Due to the large number of women in India who are at risk of violence, the government must put a high premium on ensuring that women feel secure in India. Violence has a negative effect on mental health, particularly during pandemics and lockdowns when it is impossible to get respite. There seems to be an increment in violence against women in India as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Due to the lockdown plan, the migrant women—some of whom were carrying pregnant children—walked many kilometres without access to necessities like food and water. Approximately 500 million Indian women are vulnerable to assault as a result of the epidemic. The government should create a unique policy or comprehensive COVID care plan for this particular vulnerable population in order to manage the problem.

- The national government of India, together with all of the states and union territories, have established a special women's protection unit.
- Fairness for women in society
- Women make up a significant share of the population. To provide security for this vulnerable segment of the population, the nation needs a distinct agency.
- India, the world's second most populous nation, has to have a strong plan for protecting women in order to function in any circumstance.
- To safeguard women and their children in pandemic-like situations, the socioeconomic effects of violence and lockdown, as well as the problem of mental health, should be appropriately addressed.

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