

Crime against Women: With Reference to Kumaun Region of Uttrakhand

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Abstract

Crime is an anti-social behaviour which a group rejects and to which it attaches penalties. Of the total crimes committed in India under the IPC every year, about 6% are crimes against women. Rise in the rate of crime against women has been reported in all types of crimes, ranging from molestation to rape to murder. Although a number of registered cases have spirally alarmingly in the past few years, the actual number of cases reported is estimated to be many times more than the number registered. The objective of this study is to analyse the rate of registered cases of crime against women in Kumaon region of Uttrakhand during the past six years i.e. 2012-2018. Data of 2015 is not available in this regard. Registered cases were taken from DIG police office, Nainital, Kumaun region (Uttrakhand). Secondary data have also been collected from the different secondary sources as books, magazines and google (internet).

Keywords: Crime, Women, Kumaun, Uttrakhand, Violence, IPC

Introduction

Crime is an anti-social behaviour which a group rejects and to which it attaches penalties. Of the total crimes committed in India under the IPC every year, about 6% are crimes against women. Till 1988, no statistics on crimes against women were collected separately by the ministry of Home Affairs or the Police Research Bureau. In 1989, data related to crime against women started to be collected. Crimes against women are broadly classified under two categories:

1. Crimes identified under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)
2. Crimes identified under the special laws (SL)

The crimes under the first category include eight types:

- Rape (section 376 IPC)
- Kidnapping and abduction (section 363 and 377)
- Dowry homicides (section 302 and 304 B)
- Torture –physical and mental (section 498 A)
- Molestation (section 354)
- Eve-teasing or sexual harassment (section 509)
- Importation of girls (section 366 B)
- Murder (other than dowry homicides) (section 302)

The crimes under the second category include four types:

- Immoral trafficking (1956 Act)
- Demanding dowry (1961 Act)
- Commission of Sati (1987 Act)
- Indecent representation of women (1986 Act)

Rise in the rate of crime against women has been reported in all types of crimes, ranging from molestation to rape to murder. Although a number of registered cases have spirally alarmingly in the past few years, the actual number of cases reported is estimated to be many times more than the number registered. The objective of this study is to analyse the rate of registered cases of crime against women in Kumaon region of Uttrakhand during the past six years i.e. 2012-2018. Data of 2015 is not available in this regard. Registered cases were taken from DIG police office, Nainital, Kumaun region (Uttrakhand). Secondary data have also been collected from the different secondary sources as books, magazines and google (internet).

According to Suderland, “crime has a harmful impact on social interest, a mental or emotional state is not enough” (Baghel D.S. (2003): Apradhshashtra, Vivek Prakashan, Delhi).

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According to William Blackstone, “a crime is an Act committed or omitted, in violation of a public law either forbidding or commanding it” (Baghel D.S. 2003).

According to Landis and Landis, “crime is an act which the state has declared harmful to group welfare and for which the state has power to punish”(Baghel D.S. 2003).

Review of literature

According to vice chair person of state Women's Commission (Kumaon zone) Amita Lohani for the last few years in Uttarakhand state crime against women has been increasing (The Pioneer, 22 Feb 2014). According to the NCRB (National Crimes Record Bureau) report, Uttarakhand has witnessed over 200% increase in the cases of crime against women after it was carved out of Uttar Pradesh 15 years ago. The crime against women rate was only 8.8 % in 2001 (a year after the state was formed), which has gone up to 27.4% in 2014, showing a jump of over 200% (Hindustan times, 14 Oct 2015).

According to the National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) Report in Uttarakhand state crime rate against women has increased over a one year period from 2015-2016. In 2016, the crime rate against women was 30.4, up from 28.2 recorded in 2015. According to the report, while in 2015, 1465 cases of such crimes were registered at police stations in Uttarakhand their number has gone up to 1588 in 2016 (TOI, Dec. 02, 2017).

Analysis and Interpretation

The crime head wise incidence of reported crimes against women during 2012 to 2018 in Kumaun region of Uttarakhand is shown in table 1. It is observed that crime against women reported an increase over previous years. The available data indicates an increasing trend for cases registered under different crime-heads during last six years.

Table 1
Crime against Women District Wise

S. NO.	District	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018
1.	Nainital	21 (16.27%)	43 (20.70%)	61 (32.46%)	245	312	323
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	82 (63.56%)	128 (61.53%)	98 (52.12%)	554	632	734
3.	Almora	08 (6.20%)	05 (2.40%)	11 (5.85%)	23	31	45
4.	Bageshwar	03 (2.32)	06 (2.88%)	03 (1.60%)	31	29	23
5.	Pithoragarh	05 (3.90%)	19 (9.13%)	07 (3.72%)	23	33	80
6.	Champawat	10 (7.75%)	07 (3.36%)	08 (4.25%)	20	43	39
Total		129 (100%)	208 (100%)	188 (100%)	896 (100%)	1080 (100%)	1244 (100%)

Source: DIG Office Kumaun Uttarakhand

*Data regarding 2015 is not available

The crime head-wise incidence of reported crimes against women during 2012 to 2018 in Kumaun region of Uttarakhand is shown in Table 1. It is clear from the table that crime against women reported an increase over previous years. The available data indicates an increasing trend for cases registered under different crime-heads during last three years. The above table reveals that of the total crime against women, the highest are recorded in district Udham Singh Nagar during last six years followed by district Nainital. Of the 1244 recorded cases in the Kumaun region in 2018 the maximum number of crime was reported in district Udham Singh Nagar i.e. 734. The registered cases in this district rose from 82 in 2012 to 128 in 2013, 554 in 2016, 632 in 2017 and 734 in 2018. Crime rate has increased in this district over the previous years. It is followed by district Nainital where the crime against women is reported 323 in year 2018. It is clear from the above table that the crime rate has sharply increased over the previous years in this district. In district Nainital while in 2012, 21 cases were registered their number has gone up to 43 in 2013, 61 in 2014, 245 in 2016, 312 in 2017 and 323 in 2018. In Pithoragarh district, 80 cases has been reported in year 2018 and this district also shows the increased number of crime rate over the previous years. In Almora district, 45 cases were reported in year 2018 and this district also shows the increased number of crime rate over the previous years. In district Champawat, 39 cases were reported in 2018. Though the number of registered cases has increased from 2012 to 2017, a decrease is noticed for cases in year 2018 as compared to cases reported in the previous year i.e. 2017. In 2017, 43 cases were reported. In Champawat district, 10 cases were registered in 2012, the number declined in 2013, i.e. 7 cases were registered, the number rose from 08 cases in 2014, to 20 cases in 2016 and 43 cases in 2017. In Bageshwar district, although the crime against women has increased from year 2012, the registered cases however decreased during last three years. In Bageshwar district, 23 cases were registered in 2018. In 2016 and 2017 the registered cases were 31 and 29 respectively.

Rise in the rate of crime against women has been reported in all types of crimes, ranging from molestation to immoral trafficking to sexual harassment to rape. The available data indicates an increasing trend during the last six years for cases registered under crime-heads such as rape, seduce sexual harassment, other crimes, section 498, section 365, dowry death, molestation, and immoral trafficking especially in the plain district.

Table 2
Crime against Women

s.n.	Crime head	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018
1.	Murder	02	02	05	26	18	16
2.	Rape	14	12	32	149	156	195
3.	Sexual harassment	13	32	29	121	95	119
4.	Kidnapping 364, 364A and other	23	52	26	06	06	11
5.	Gumshuda (365)	-	-	-	36	75	78
6.	Molestation	06	06	03	14	09	23
7.	Seduce	-	-	-	151	208	193
8.	Chain snatching	01	02	0	03	05	05
9.	Dowry death	10	09	04	29	25	23
10.	498	40	32	34	135	138	170
11.	Immoral traffic (P)	0	0	05	07	10	07
12.	Acid attack	0	0	0	0	01	0
13.	Other	20	60	50	219	334	404
Total		129	208	188	896	1080	1244

Source: ibid

Table 2 shows the rapid increase in cases registered under the various crime heads during the last six years. The above table reveals that the majority of the cases were reported under the crime head: other crimes against women, rape, seduce sexual harassment and section 498. The registered cases under the crime head-other crime against women were increased from 20 in 2012 to 404 in 2018. Under section 498 the number of registered cases had increased from 40 in 2012 to 170 in 2018. The registered cases have spiralled alarmingly during last three years. While in 2016, 135 cases were registered; their number had gone up to 138 in 2017 and 170 in 2018. In 2012, 14 rape cases were registered; their number had gone up to 195 in 2018. A slight decline is seen in 2013 where the numbers of rape cases were 12 which had gone up to 32 in 2014, 149 in 2016 and 156 in 2017. Cases registered under the crime head-seduce were 151 in 2016 which increased to 208 in 2017. Though the number declined in 2018 i.e. 193 however it is much more. The sexual harassment cases of women were increased from 13 in 2012 to 119 in 2018. 32 cases in 2013, 29 in 2014, 121 in 2016 and 95 in 2017 were registered under this crime head. Under section 365 the numbers of registered cases have increased in last three years. While 36 cases were reported in 2016, the number had gone up to 75 and 78 in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Molestation cases increased from 06 in 2012 to 23 in 2018. 07 cases in 2013, 03 cases in 2014, 14 cases in 2016 and 09 cases in 2017 were registered. Dowry death cases increased from 10 in 2012 to 23 in 2018. Yet a decrease was noticed for dowry death cases in year 2018 as compared to cases reported in the last two years i.e. 2016 and 2017. The murder cases were also on the rise increasing from 02 in 2012 to 16 in 2018 though a decrease was noticed in year 2018 as compared to cases reported in year 2016 and 2017. A decrease was noticed for cases under kidnapping and abduction (364, 364 A and other) during last three years as compared to cases reported in the year 2012, 2013 and 2014. While 23 cases were registered in 2012, 52 cases in 2013 and 26 cases were registered in 2014 their number had fallen down to 06 in 2016, 06 in 2017 and 11 in 2018. Seven cases under immoral traffic (prevention) ACT were registered during the year 2018, 10 cases in 2017, 07 cases during 2016 and 05 cases in 2014 were registered under this crime head. A slight increase was noticed for cases under chain snatching for last three years. The chain snatching cases increased from 01 in 2012 to 02 in 2013. No chain snatching case was reported during the year 2014. This number had gone up to 03 in 2016 and 05 in 2017 and 05 in 2018.

Table 3
District-Wise Murder Crimes Committed against Women

Year	Nainital	Udham Singh Nagar	Almora	Bageshwar	Pithoragarh	Champawat	Total
2018	01	11	0	0	02	02	16
2017	06	11	0	0	0	01	18
2016	06	20	0	0	0	0	26
2014	03	01	01	0	0	0	05
2013	01	01	0	0	0	0	02
2012	01	01	0	0	0	0	02

Source: ibid

It is clear from the table 3 that Udham Singh Nagar district reported the maximum number of cases of murder during last three years. In 2018 and 2017, 11-11 cases and in 2016, 20 cases were reported. It was followed by district Pithoragarh and Champawat which reported 02-02 cases and only 01 case was reported in district Nainital in 2018. In 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013 and 2012 Udham Singh Nagar was followed by district

Rape is the crudest and sure mode of destroying a woman's honour and dignity. Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code describes rape as sex with a woman against her will, or without her consent, or with her consent when the man knows that he is not her husband but she believes him as her husband, or with or without her consent when she is less than 16 years of age. It is man who at one hand values the virginity and at the other hand violates it and commits rape.

Table 4
Rape

S.No	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	48	45	46	13	01	04
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	106	80	81	13	07	09
3.	Almora	10	03	05	03	01	01
4.	Bageshwar	05	09	09	01	-	-
5.	Pithoragarh	13	07	04	01	03	-
6.	Champawat	13	12	04	01	-	-
Total		195	156	149	32	12	14

Source: ibid

It is clear from the above table that the rape cases have been increasing day by day in Kumaun region of Uttarakhand. Only 14 such cases were reported in 2012 which increased to 195 in 2018. In 2018, of the 195 recorded rape cases, the majority of rape cases were reported in district Udham Singh Nagar i.e. 106 cases. 48 cases were reported from district Nainital. 13-13 cases were reported from district Pithoragarh and Champawat respectively. 10 cases from district Almora and 05 cases from Bageshwar district were reported in 2018. Rape cases in district Udham Singh Nagar rose from 80 in 2017 to 106 in 2018.

Table 5
Dowry Deaths

s. no.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	07	07	13	01	-	04
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	11	11	12	02	04	03
3.	Almora	01	02	0	-	02	02
4.	Bageshwar	01	02	03	-	-	-
5.	Pithoragarh	01	01	01	01	01	1
6.	Champawat	02	02	0	-	-	-
Total		23	25	29	04	09	10

Source: ibid

It is clear from the above table that the cases regarding Dowry deaths have increased over the previous years. The total number of such cases registered in 2012 was 10 which increased to 29 in 2016, 25 to 2017, and 23 to 2018. In 2018, of the 23 recorded cases, the majority of rape cases i.e. 11 were reported from Udham Singh Nagar.

Table 6
Chain snatching

S. No.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	0	0	0	0	01	0
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	05	05	03	0	01	01
3.	Almora	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bageshwar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Pithoragarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Champawat	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		05	05	03	0	02	01

Source: ibid

Above table shows that while in 2012 only one case of chain snatching was reported the number increased to two in 2013, three in 2016, 05-05 in 2017 and 2018 respectively. No such cases were reported during the year 2014 from various districts of Kumaun region. Such cases were reported from only one district i.e. from Udham Singh Nagar during last three years.

Table 7
Sexual harassment

s. no.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	23	11	21	11	10	01
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	92	77	98	14	19	06
3.	Almora	0	0	0	02	01	04
4.	Bageshwar	0	0	0	0	02	0
5.	Pithoragarh	03	04	02	0	0	0
6.	Champawat	01	03	0	02	0	02
Total		119	95	121	29	32	13

Source: ibid

Table 07 shows the increase of the reported cases under this crime head over previous years. In 2012, 13 such case were reported which increased to 119 in 2018. Maximum number of sexual harassment cases were

reported in 2016 i.e. 121 cases. In 2018, of the 119 recorded cases, the majority of sexual harassment cases (i.e. 92) were reported from the district Udham Singh Nagar followed by district Nainital (23 cases).

Table 8
Seduce

S. No.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	56	86	48	-	-	-
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	108	100	88	-	-	-
3.	Almora	15	03	06	-	-	-
4.	Bageshwar	08	12	07	-	-	-
5.	Pithoragarh	0	0	0	-	-	-
6.	Champawat	06	07	02	-	-	-
Total		193	208	151	-	-	-

Source: ibid

Above table shows the increase of the reported cases under this crime head over previous years. The total number of such cases recorded in 2016 was 151 which increased to 208 in 2017. In 2018, of the total 193 recorded cases, the majority (108) of such cases were reported from the Udham Singh Nagar followed by the district Nainital (56 cases).

Table 9
Under section 498 A

s. no.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	49	39	32	08	07	06
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	102	84	90	22	22	30
3.	Almora	06	08	04	0	0	01
4.	Bageshwar	0	0	03	01	01	01
5.	Pithoragarh	10	04	05	01	02	01
6.	Champawat	03	03	01	02	0	01
Total		170	138	135	34	32	40

Source: ibid

It is evident from table 09 that the cases regarding under section 498 A have sharply increased over the previous years. While in 2012, 40 cases were reported under this crime head their number had gone up to 135 in

2016, 138 in 2017 and 170 in 2018. In 2018, of the total 170 such cases the maximum were reported from district Udham Singh Nagar i.e. 102 cases followed by district Nainital i.e. 49 cases. Such cases in Udham Singh Nagar rose from 84 in 2017 to 102 in 2018.

Table 10
Kidnapping and abduction

s. no.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	0	0	0	04	15	04
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	07	04	04	15	24	18
3.	Almora	02	0	01	04	01	0
4.	Bageshwar	02	02	01	0	02	01
5.	Pithoragarh	0	0	0	02	08	0
6.	Champawat	0	0	0	01	02	0
Total		11	06	06	26	52	23

Source: ibid

Above table shows the decline of the reported cases regarding kidnapping and abduction over the previous years. While in 2012, the number of reported cases was 23 which declined to 11 in 2018. Of total 11 cases in 2018, the majority of cases (07 cases) were reported from Udham Singh Nagar.

Table 11
Women trafficking

s. no.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	0	0	1	04	0	0
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	6	8	6	01	0	0
3.	Almora	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bageshwar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Pithoragarh	1	2	0	0	0	0
6.	Champawat	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		07	10	07	05	0	0

Source: ibid

The above table reveals that the women trafficking cases have been increasing in Kumaun region of Uttarakhand. As in 2012 and 2013 none cases have been reported but in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018; 05, 07, 10 and 07 cases have been registered respectively. Majority of such cases were reported in district Udham Singh Nagar.

Table 12
Other crimes against women

s. no.	Districts	2018	2017	2016	2014	2013	2012
1.	Nainital	72	60	44	17	04	0
2.	Udham Singh Nagar	281	242	143	29	49	10
3.	Almora	02	03	06	01	0	0
4.	Bageshwar	05	01	05	0	01	01
5.	Pithoragarh	34	13	08	01	03	02
6.	Champawat	10	15	13	02	03	07
Total		404	334	219	50	60	20

Source: ibid

Table 12 shows the sharp increase of reported cases under this crime head over the previous years. While in 2012, 20 such cases were registered; their number had gone up to 404 in 2018. The maximum number of cases was recorded from district Udham Singh Nagar and minimum from district Almora. In 2018, of the total 404 cases the maximum number of cases was reported from district Udham Singh Nagar i.e. 281 followed by district Nainital i.e. 72 and minimum from district Almora i.e. 02 cases.

Conclusion

The study reveals that a large number of women are subjected to crime in Kumaun region. The majority of the cases were reported under the crime head: other crimes against women, rape, seduce, sexual harassment and section 498. Of the total crime against women, the highest are recorded in district Udham Singh Nagar during last six years followed by district Nainital. It is clear from this analysis that still there is a need to stringent laws, sensitive judiciary, effective law and enforcement machinery and vigilant women's groups to deal with such atrocious crimes against women. To prevent the crime against women Uttarakhand state needs more number of women cops for better policing. Besides total revolution in the thinking of our society is needed more that always blames the woman for the crime of which she is the victim, nor the perpetrator.

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