

## Crime against Women: A Study of Guwahati in Assam

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**ABSTRACT:** Crime against women has become a major social concern for all states, nation, and agencies of the present era. The growing rate of crime of women and violation against women are rampant our society. But the seriousness and frequency of violation or crime against women are well evident when the pages of daily news papers are turned, when the television is viewed. Daily hundreds of cases of murder, rape, molestation, sexual abuse and eve-teaching, forcing women into prostitution etc. are reported by media, even important T.V channels have also started showing real cases of crime against women. On the other hand, advents of industrialization, urbanization rapid changes are occurring in the rate of crime in general, and increased the crime against women (Lekha Borah & Madhushree Das). The present study has been conducted keeping in view the crime against women in the city. Guwahati known as capital city of Assam; it's a most advanced city as comparison to other district or town in Assam. But the same time in crime list Guwahati top in comparison to other districts or towns in Assam. In this present study, has been analyzed the causes, incidences of increasing crime against women in the city.

**KEYWORD:** Crime, Women Crime, Criminal, Victims.

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### I INTRODUCTION

“The liberalization of women in law and society and the women developing themselves mentally equal to men have made the women more aggressive and assertive. The thinking that they are not inferior in any way to the men has brought a change in the outlook of the women resulting in revolt and sometimes commission of the crime” (Srivastava, 2001). The problem of crime against women is not new. Crime against women is direct or indirect physical or mental cruelty. The various kind of violation against women are eve-teaching, molestation, women abduction and kidnapping, rape, harassment to women at working place, dowry death, (Rebecca walker, ,2006). So, women have been victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation from a long time. In the police records the crime against women are reported to be escalating alarming in the whole country. Crime against women increased 34% over the last four years to 2015, the rate of crime against women defined as crimes reported divided by total women population has gone up from 417 to 53.9 in 2012-2015. So, according to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) had termed “Rape” India’s fastest growing crime” Rape has increased by 1255.3% from 2,487 cases in 1971 to 33,707 cases in 2013(<http://ncrb.gov.in> visited on Feb. 12,2014) In India, after Independence due to industrialization, urbanization, modern education, radical changes in the socio-economic set-up, constitutional provisions and legal acts has brought huge changes in the status of women. On the other hand, at same time there is a significant increased in the rate of crime against women in all over India, Such as the phenomenon of women trafficking has increased significantly over the last few years, the women and girls are trafficked with in the country for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage. Trafficking clearly violates the fundamental rights to life with dignity; Victims may suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, treats against self and family and even death.

On the other hand, in Assam, an important state of North East India, the crime against women has increased differently in the state. However Assam has recorded the dubious distinction of having the highest rate of incidence of crime against women in the north east India and is ranked seventh in the country ([www.ncrb.com](http://www.ncrb.com)). According to the latest report of NCRB, Assam heads the list for all recorded crime against women including rape, in Rape cases, Assam ranked sixth in the country with 1,716 such incidents, kidnapping, abduction, dowry death and cruelty by husband and his relatives. As dowry deaths, in Assam again which led the list with 170 deaths reported over 140 in the year 2013(NCRB report of 2013).Therefore, “Assam has now topped the list of crimes against women in North East India with 19,139 cases being registered in 2015, the state recorded the highest rate of crime against women in the country last year with at least 123.4%, which is almost double of the national average of 53.3%. The crime against women was calculated according to numbers of crimes per one lack female population. As per National Crime Record Bureau’s(NCRB) latest crime report for 2014,some 5,307 cases of sexual offences,9,626 numbers of cases of cruelty by husband and relatives and at least 3,895 cases of kidnapping of women last year. “Some 2, 1 47 women were raped last year out of which 23

were gang raped. Similarly, there were 3,100 cases registered across the state against assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty during the last year" the statistics revealed. However, the most of kidnapping cases were related to elopement with lovers for marriage where the women's families registered kidnapping cases. In Guwahati has witnessed sharp rise in crime against women has also been indicated in 2016 report by the National Crime Record Bureau.

Guwahati is one of the fastest growing cities in Assam, as well as of North East India. In recent year the city became more developed in comparison to other town or districts of the state. In Guwahati the crime against women has been increased day by day of keeping in view the trend of increasing crime rate against women a senior police official, in a press conference that was held in Guwahati, Assam (2009) have stated that crime against women in Assam have risen due to a number of factors, including an inadequacy of police personnel and police stations in the state; police density per 100 square Km in Assam is lower Thana in many other states. He also revealed that a large number of police personnel were attached with VIP's, which left conspicuously smaller forces to deal with regular policing in an effective manner 's value .The gradual changes in society value system, and growth of materialism too had a role in the rise of crimes (sorce:[www.all.voice.com/contributed news/2982317-Assam-goes-high-in crime](http://www.all.voice.com/contributed news/2982317-Assam-goes-high-in crime)).In Guwahati due to different causes, the crime against women has been increased. The city, according to its huge area, the city was divided as zone wise such as north,east,south,west and in every zone there are one commissioner of police .In the city there are almost 28 police stations and outposts, and for women there are separate women police station at panbazer, that only women related cases were registered. According to the data, All Women Police Station, it has show that there was a marginal dip in the total 219 number of cases against women in 2016 were registered, as compared to 2015 total 102 cases were registered. A cursory glance on total number of cases reveals that there was a dip in the incident of Rape, Domestic Violence, Dowry Death cases has increased in the city ,such as in 2015 total 12 dowry death cases ,80 rape cases,64 domestic violence cases were registered. In rape cases nearly 59% of such incidents largely minor girls in both 2015-2016(Head-wise cases registered in crime branch of Guwahati 2011-2016).But in the city, that most of the time, women remain silent and bear the torture meted out to them by husband and in-laws. On the other hand, from the record maintain by Crime Branch of Guwahati shows that over 90% cases were reported as kidnapping cases of minors. So it indicates that how crime against women has been terribly increasing in the city.

On the basis of facts laid down above the following objectives have been made for the purpose of present study:

1. To trace out the trend and pattern of crime against women in the city.
2. To know the nature and incidence of crime against women in the city.
3. To find out the causes behind increasing crime in the city.

## **II METHODOLOGY**

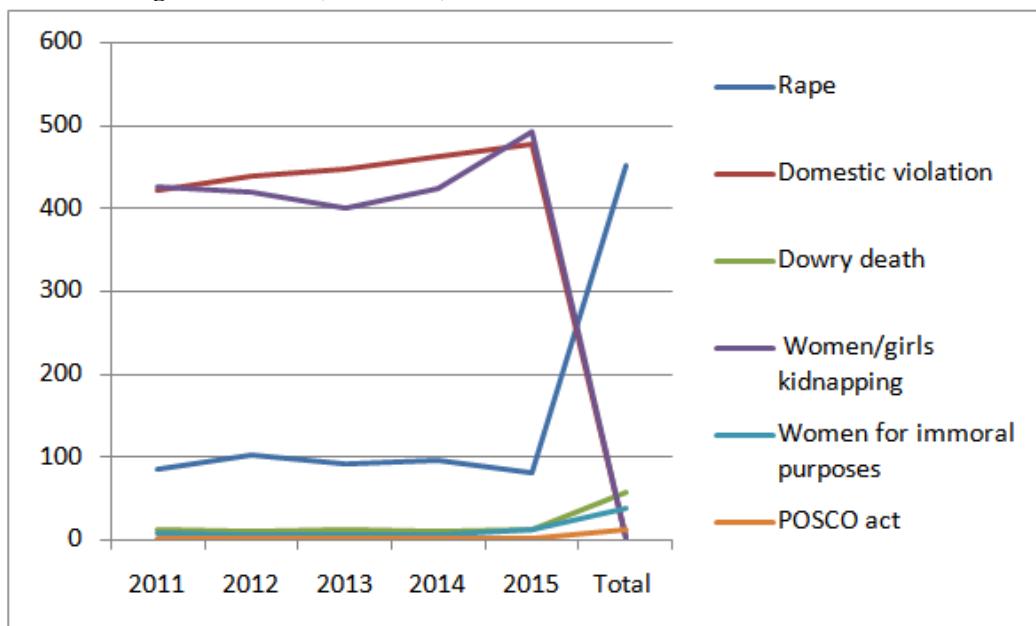
The study concerned with the crime against women in Guwahati (Kamrup metro).For the purpose of study the respondent have selected the different police stations and outposts such asChandmari, Noonmati, Geetanager, Panbazer, Paltanbazer, Allwomen, Bharalumuk, Jalukbari, Garchuk , Fatasil, Dispur, Hatigaon, Basistha, fall under Kamrup metro, to collect the records of different types of data on crime against women for last five years it 2011-2015.The respondents have been selected from the administrative authorities of Guwahat such as commissioner of police, superintendent of police(SP),additional superintendent of police (Addl. SP), deputy superintendent of police (DSP),officers-in-charge (OC),sub-inspector (SI), deputy commissioner (DC), additional deputy commissioner (ADC),Municipality mayor, chairman, District Session Judge, chief judicial magistrate (CJM) their views regarding the women crime in the city. The study is both explanatory as a well as exploratory in nature. Therefore the whole research has based on primary as well secondary sources of data collect from the respondents. The secondary sources found to have dealt with various recorded data from police Thana of Guwahati (metro) and its outposts, the aspects of such police records (FIR) maintain register, yearly comparative crime figure(register)etc. to show the actual urban crime scenario of the city. S So all collected data and gathered information are presented and generalized in chart format.

## **III FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS**

**To trace out the incidence of crime against women in the city:** The global campaign for elimination of crime against women in the recent years indicates the enormity as well as the seriousness in the atrocities committed against women that are witnessed in the world over (ncrb crime in India-1997.QHAEIEM). The development along with its progressive changes in personal life style, living standers varied economic growth caused by urbanization and changes in social ethos contribute to the violent attitude tendencies towards women and witnessed increase in crime against women. Guwahati has witnessed sharp rise in crime against women has also been indicated in the latest report by the NCRB.As for example, An incidence happened in the city that the victims had gone to celebrate her friend's birthday at a bar nearby where a man passed an obscene remark at her,

but outside the pub, the man followed her and passer by joined him. All this was shot on camera the video was viral on the internet, so this kind of incidence against women took place in the city day by day. On the other hand, women are equal opportunity like men, there is no gender discrimination. But at the same time women got sexual and mental harassment at work place, they were not secure in the city. Women always had psychological stigma that they had some boundaries and not to do any think like men. In the trend of women crime it has been increased in every year. The crime head wise incidence of reported crime during 2011-2015 was significant; it indicates the patterns of crime against women. The following graph has defined the yearly increased crime against women.

**Graph- 1**  
**Incidence of crime against women (2011-2015)**



Source: Guwahati, police stations.

**To know the nature and rate of crime against women in the city:** In this present study conducted on Guwahati, its various police stations to know the rate of crime against women, in the city the crime against women has been rampant in the recent time. According to the nature of crime the women crime has burning in the city. The nature of crime against women were different such as Rape, Kidnapping or abduction, sexual harassment or sexual exploitation at work and corporate culture (Sikri, 1999), dowry death and cruelty by husband and his relatives etc. All India crime rate i.e. no. of crimes per lack population for crime against women reported to the police stations in the year of 2011. But a sizable number of crime against women go unreported due to social stigma attached to them. From the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the rate of crime against women in Assam was gradually started to increased. In a study conducted by the law research Institute, Guwahati, covering number of police stations has reported that over past 5years number of cases of violence against women including Rape,Dowry,Molestation and kidnapping has been registered([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)). In Assam reported the top, of crime against women. On the other hand, According to the reported data from the various police stations in the city that the rate of crime against women has been increased as compared to the other districts of Assam.

**Table no-2**

Distribution of crime against women in Guwahati

Crime Head	Year					Total
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Rape	85	101	91	95	80	452
Domestic violation	423	440	449	462	478	2.252
Dowry death	12	11	12	10	12	57
Women/girls kidnapping	425	420	400	423	492	2.160
Women for immoral purposes	8	6	5	6	12	37
POSCO	02	03	02	02	03	12

Source: (Guwahati police station and crime branch)

In the following table no-2 reveals that the crime against women such as Rape, Domestic violence, and girls kidnapping cases has increased in number in last few years. Again, with regard to POSCO, crime had also increased in the city. The above crime scenario help to understand that in the city women had not save, day by day crime against women has been increased in Assam.

**To find out the types and causes behind increasing crime against women:** The research work shows that, in recent years, the incidences of crime against women are reported to be escalating alarming the city. Due to different causes such as Alcohol, every category of aggressive act has a higher prevalence among people who have been drinking(Pernanen 1976). Alcohol use has been reported in between 25% and 85% of incidents of battering and up to 75% of acquaintance rapes (Kantor and Straus,1987), a high incidence of psychopathology and personality disorder, posttraumatic stress syndrome, among men who assault their wives (Hamberger and Hastings,1986,1988).A wide variety of psychiatric and personality disorders have also been diagnosed among sexual offenders, most frequently some type of anti-social personality disorder(prentky,1990),distinctive personality profiles have been reported from rapists and sexually aggressive men (Groth and Birnbaum,1979).on other hand, in the city different kind of women related crimes are increased day by day such as women trafficking, kidnapping, rape, domestic violence, dowry death, sexual harassment at work place, blackmailing through internet etc. these all were rampant in the city. According to the record of All women police Station (P.S) Guwahati that, in the year 2015, 64 cases of (section 498IPC) and cruelty by husband or his relatives cases in 2016 it was 143 cases were registered which has increased day by day. The following table has defined the types of crime according to Indian Penal Code (IPC section).

Table No-3

**Crime against women IPC sections (IPC-Indian Panel Code)**

Types of crime	IPC	Year					Total
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Rape	Sec 376						
Kidnapping	Sec 364,366	84	116	75	95	80	450
Attempt to commit rape	Sec 376,511	402	410	413	423	472	2.120
POSCO act	POCSO act	10	12	15	35	41	113
Dowry death	Sec 304B	43	5	8	10	12	78
Sexual harassment	Sec 354	90	110	113	90	97	500

Source: (Guwahati all Women police station)

In the following table revels that there are different types of crime has increased, according to the IPC (Indian penal code), that tried to find out which type of crime has increased in the city last five years (2011-2015).In this period the crime against women was increased in different way such as Rape, Kidnapping, sexual harassment rate has increased in every year.

**The major findings of above discussions are laid down as follows:**

As development of society, the growing rate of crime and crime against women has increased in the city. Due to Urbanization, Industrialization, Migration, Psychological attitude, social disorganization, less moral values among youth etc has tremendous impact on increasing crime rate in the city.

Keeping in view, in the city and town areas day by day crime against women, basically the kidnapping of girl child abuse, Rape, sexual harassment cases were increased, the dowry death and domestic violence cases also increased in the city.

From the above discussion it is found that there are number of causes that were responsible for increased women crime such as domestic and conjugal quarrel, economic insecurity, poverty, psychological disease etc. But in city women were not safe, as modernization developed our society but some psychological abnormal people committing the act such as 'gang Rape', Women trafficking, kidnapping, sexual harassment cases were increased in number in the city.

In the present study we observed that from the recorded data that in the city, maximum teenagers involved in the crime against women, because too much used of Internet, Alcohol, Drugs, less moral values etc.

#### **IV CONCLUSION**

Therefore, in the present crime scenario, the Crime against women has been increased in the society. Building the awareness among the women as well as among general masses, has somehow decreasing the crime rate. So, Awareness of this fact may prove to be an important factor in defining and identifying the problem, in finding out the causes of the crime and the possible solutions. However from this study it has observed that there is lack of initiative on the part of the women and girls to know about the legal protection provided to them by the government and constitution of India. However, to control the crime against women, it's very necessary to awareness among masses, because awareness becomes a key element in empowering the women, and helped them to fight against crime.

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