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## Study Of Sexual Assault Victims Reported At Tertiary Health Care Center.

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### ABSTRACT

Sexual violence affects millions of women worldwide cutting across cultural and religious barriers. Sexual assault on female victims is a major global health, legal and human rights concern. All the sexual assault victims reported during the study period for examination and treatment at the casualty of this tertiary health care center, all sexual assault victims who gave consent were included present study. The present study was descriptive study conducted at department of Forensic Medicine of tertiary care teaching hospital. The most common age group of victims in our study 11 to 20 years (63.38%) followed by 21 to 30 years (19.72%). The mean age of victim was  $19.89 \pm 8.23$  years. It was observed that 99.30% were female victims whereas only 01 male victim in our study.

**Keywords:** Sexual violence, religious barrier, victim.

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## INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence affects millions of women worldwide cutting across cultural and religious barriers. Sexual assault on female victims is a major global health, legal and human rights concern. In recent years, there has been an alarming rise in ratio of sexual assaults in India.<sup>9</sup> Cultural and religious doctrines have profound impact on individuals and must be considered when treating the sexual assault victim. There may be a general distrust of medical and law enforcement personnel who play vital roles in the aftermath of a sexual assault [1]. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics 2014, there is an increase of 9.16% crime against women in India [2]. Despite escalating public outcry against rape, reported cases have increased steadily. As per 2014 statistics, New Delhi has the highest number of rape cases (1815) among Indian cities [3]. For the first time in history, Delhi is officially the “Rape Capital” of India [4]. Present study was carried out to identify various factors associated with sexual offences against women. This study aims to study actual impact of sexual violence on survivors and society. As stated elsewhere, the incidence of rape is on the increase. The number of cases reported by various agencies substantiates this contention; in fact, the actual number of cases could be much higher as most cases go unreported to the concerned authorities owing to the social stigma attached to rape. The present study was prospective descriptive study was carried out in the department of Forensic Medicine of tertiary health care teaching instituteto study socio demographic profile & physical impact of sexual assault on victims of sexual assault.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in department of Forensic Medicine.

### Study Population

Patients fulfilling inclusion criteria.

### Inclusion Criteria

- All the sexual assault victims reported during the study period for examination and treatment at the casualty of this tertiary health care center;
- All sexual assault victims who gave consent

### Exclusion Criteria

Sexual assault victims who deny consent for examination/inclusion in study.

All the sexual assault victims reported during the study period for examination and treatment at the casualty of this tertiary health care center.

According to above criteria 142 sexual assault victims were included in our study.

## RESULTS

Out of 142 victims 90 (63.38%) were from age group between 11 to 20 yrs. Followed by 28 (19.72%) between 21 to 30 yrs. 12 (8.45%) between 31 to 40 yrs, 08 (5.63%)  $\leq 10$  yrs and 06 (4.23%)  $\geq 40$  yrs.

**Table 1: Distribution of victims according to gender (n=142)**

Gender	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Male	01	00.70
Female	141	99.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that out of 142 victims 141 (99.30%) were female and only 01 was male.

**Table 2: Distribution of victims according to Assault resulted in pregnancy (n=142)**

Pregnancy	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Yes	11	07.75
No	131	92.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that assault resulted in pregnancy in which 11 (7.75%) victims diagnosed with pregnancy after assault.

**Table 3: Distribution of victims according to time interval between incidence and medical examination (n=142)**

Time interval	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
6 to 15 hours	02	01.40
16 to 24 hours	18	12.68
1 to 3 days	23	16.20
3 to 7 days	30	21.13
7 to 15 days	18	12.68
15 to 30 days	12	08.45
>1 month	39	27.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that time interval between incidence and medical examination in which 39 (27.46%) with more than 1 month followed by 30 (21.13%) with 3 to 7 days, 23 (16.20%) with 1 to 3 days, 18 (12.68%) with 7 to 15 days and 16 to 24 hours. Only 02 (01.40%) time interval between 6 to 15 hours.

**Table 4: Distribution of victims according to Residence of victim (n=142)**

Residence of victim	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Rural	82	57.75
Urban	60	42.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that out of 142 victims 82 (57.75%) were from rural area followed by 60 (42.25%).

**Table 5: Distribution of victims according to Age at menarche (n=142)**

Age at menarche	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
10 yrs.	01	00.70
11 yrs.	05	03.52
12 yrs.	44	30.99
13 yrs.	33	23.24
14 yrs.	28	19.72
15 yrs.	08	05.63
16 yrs.	07	04.93
17 yrs.	02	01.40
Not known	04	02.84
Not attained	09	06.30
Not applicable	01	00.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table depicts out of 142 victims 44 (30.99%) were having menarche at 12 years, followed by 33 (23.24%) at 13 years, 28 (19.72%) at 14 years, 8 (5.63%) at 15 years, 07 (4.93%) at 16 years.

## DISCUSSION

The present study was descriptive observation study conducted in department of Forensic Medicine of tertiary care hospital. Sex related cases are increasing day by day in our country, reflecting the Western influence in our society. Sexual violence is one of the most common crimes against women and its data usually come from police, clinical settings, NGOs, and surveys. The relationship between these sources and global magnitude of the problem corresponds to tip of an iceberg. The number of cases of sexual violence could be higher because many victims do not report because they are ashamed embarrassed or fear of being blamed [5].

In our study maximum number of victims were from age group between 11 to 20 years (63.38%) followed by 21 to 30 years (19.72%) and the mean age of the victim was  $19.89 \pm 8.23$  years and range were 6 to 47 years. The study by Tamuli RP [6] in his study mentioned that most common age group of victims was between 11 to 20 years (55.75%) which is similar finding with our result. In a study done by Sharma, Aggarwal, and Bhullar [7], it was observed that the incidence of alleged rape is most amongst girls of 15-18 years.

In our study 99.30% victims were female and only 01 was male victim. The study by Tamuli RP [6] in his study mentioned that out of all the victims, 98.43% were female and male were only 2% which is like our observation. The study by Bhowmik et al [7] also reported 1.06% male in their study.

In this study maximum number of victims were having menarche age was at 12 years (30.99%), 13 years (23.24%) and 14 years (19.72%). 9 (6.34%) victims were not attained menarche. The average age of menarche was 11.83 years. The study by Tamuli RP [6] in his study mentioned that most of the girls attained menarche at the age of twelve (88) and thirteen (91).

In this study maximum number of victims were illiterate (61.30%) followed by secondary (17.61%) and primary education (11.97%). The study by Tamuli RP [8] in his study mentioned that most of the victims were from low educational strata, and maximum of them were studied up to high school level and this result is like our findings. In our study maximum number of victims were unmarried (68.31%) followed by married (20.40%). It was observed that 04 victims were engaged. The study by Tamuli RP [8] in his study mentioned that Most of the victims (61%) were unmarried which is like our results.

## CONCLUSION

The present study was descriptive study conducted at department of Forensic Medicine of tertiary care teaching hospital. The most common age group of victims in our study 11 to 20 years (63.38%) followed by 21 to 30 years (19.72%). The mean age of victim was  $19.89 \pm 8.23$  years. It was observed that 99.30% were female victims whereas only 01 male victim in our study.

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