

Violence Against women, Caste hierarchy in Post - Colonial Bengal

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ABSTRACT

This article discovers the antiquity of integrated (Indian-on-Indian) violence against women in colonial Bengal. Nevertheless at times uneven and erratic in their decisions, British judges created a set of evidentiary requirements and a body of legal decisions that were as harsh on violence against women victim pre-colonial Islamic system was presumed to be. Despite the colonial promise of a more modern and humane criminal law, the gradual displacement of Islamic law did little to widen violence against women victims' track to permissible medication. English mutual law conjectures around the incidence of untruthful responsibilities besides a misgiving of women's entitlements mutual with a colonial persistence on the idiosyncrasy of West Bengal culture to brand it problematic for fatalities of violence against women to triumph in court. The colonial legal conduct of the "unseen- sectional" delinquency of crime against women remained somewhat affected. The Constituents of post-colonial Bengal delivered for equivalence of all countries regardless of caste, creed, political associations, linguistic or gender. In particular the studies endeavoured to----- systematically documents assess and compare gravity; social class; socio- economic cultural factors; identify the network used and the modus operandi; investigate the level of legal and social awareness.

MAJOR KEY WORDS

'A body of legal decisions'', 'modern and humane criminal law'', 'displacement of Islamic law'', 'idiosyncrasy''

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I. INTRODUCTION

Violence is not a novel wonder. It has possibly occurred in private and public both, subsequently the commencement of time. Merely in contemporary period, though society instigated to identify public and intimate partner violence as a communal problematic. Blindingly sufficient, the five major social subjects unswervingly touching womenfolk in 19th period Bengal taken up by contemporary nbhadralok social reformer-----sati(widow immolation), widow remarriage, child marriage, kulin bigamy besides female education -----rarely create a residence in the mainstream of songs or verses calm by womenfolk as of subordinate social groups. There is a lone verses self-possessed by womenfolk as of lower social groups. There is a only rhyme recitation the destiny of the companion of a kolu(belonging to the lower caste oilmen). Gender, caste hierarchy in colonial Bengal is a new crushed in observing the interrelations amongst class, caste, spiritual and gender individualities to grip the multifaceted idea of perfect womankind in the nineteenth century. It resists that this is not controlled to the upper caste bhadramahila but is acknowledged by additional relegated supposed inferior classes like the subarnabaniks (gold merchants), gandhabaniks (spice merchants), mahishyas (prosperous farmers) sadgopes (prosperous peasantry), among others, to go up the class hierarchy. If women are understood to be cultivated, consecutively their households by way of 'aware' housewives, flattering cohorts to their partners, besides continuously continuous in their chastity, their class increased in rank. British instruction has familiarized important socio-political and economic changes, generating a lush situation for mounting movement. The deliberately oblique relations amongst class besides womenfolk, 'within which womenfolk of all bands remained questionably locked'. Interrogative the pre-modern besides 'traditional' insights of Indian societies in which the members of society are generally characterised as unreasoning followers of ideologies. Although the attention is previously additional in the way of source, the stress has seemingly removed in contemporary eras to an education of its current purposes. In the High-level Address to the Unit on Anthropology besides Archaeology of the Indian Science Congress in 1957, M. N. Srinivas displayed how caste has not only not remained enfeebled by militaries of upgrading in India, nonetheless has, on the contrary, remained encouraged, consequently that it theatres a important person smooth in the willpower of the charm of self-governing organizations in the republic. Rendering to Srinivas each caste has a out-dated profession and numerous classes of a area remained equally reliant on. The detail that cash frolicked a negligible part in the old-style cheap of the community aided to pressure the inter- dependence of the associate dissimilar castes and

classes. To him, a term of abuse occasionally heard in the village gives an inkling of the villagers' attitude to traditional occupation. What is it you are doing, you addakasubi? Kasubu is occupation, and a person referred to his hereditary occupation as nammakasubu(our occupation). A caste or jati was also a commensal group in the sense that food cooked by any adult member of the caste was acceptable to all the others. Sometimes, the men of two different jatis such as peasants and Shepherds eat food cooked by each other while the women do not. At the huge collective dinners food usually cooked and served by men volunteers. Within the household, however, it is the women who cook. The maintenance of the separateness of castes and of the structural distance between them is achieved through the ideas of purity and pollution. A caste is pure in relation to a lower caste and impure in relation to a higher. The higher caste is prohibited from accepting cooked food or drinking water from the lower. In extreme cases as between Brahmin and Harijan, a minimum physical distance had to be maintained

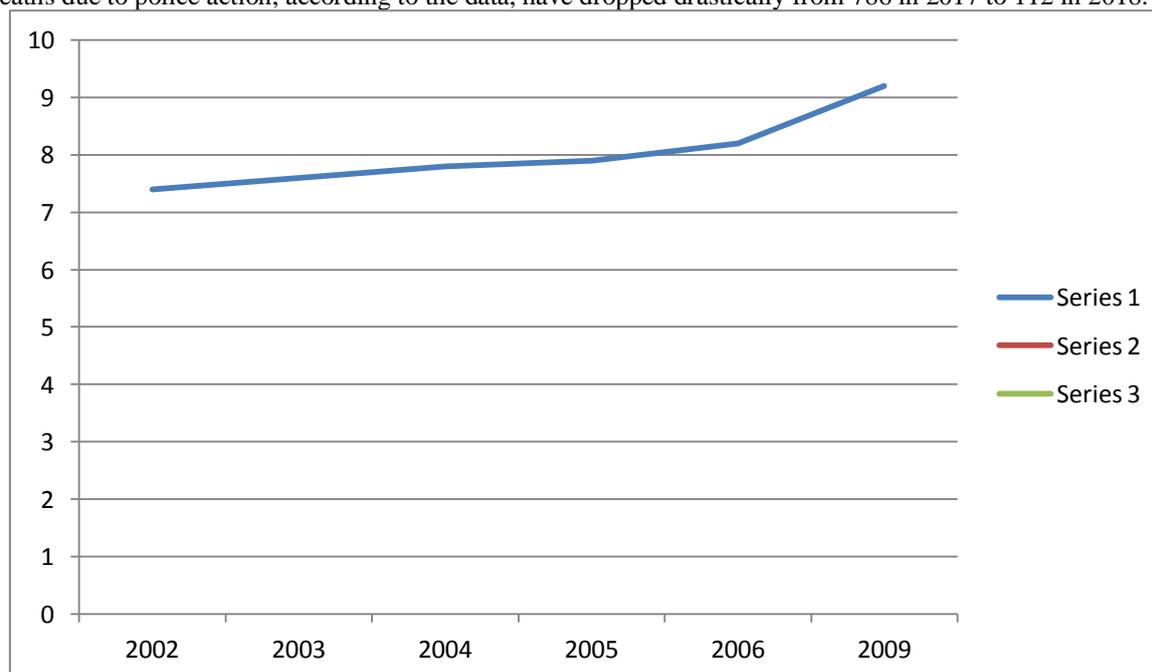
CASTE HIERARCHY AMONG WOMEN

The idea of hierarchy is present everywhere. Each man belonged to a caste which forms part of a system of ranked castes. Particular elements of culture such as diet, occupation and custom and ritual are distinguished as higher and lower; thus there is higher as well as a lower diet, and superior as well as inferior occupations. Gendered violence in colonial India through focusing on sexual violence against men. Rather than seeking to "recover" the "submerged" history of sexual violence against men, I interrogate the traces of such violence in the colonial archive to consider how and why the sexual violation of Indian men was able to enter the colonial archive. In light, moreover, of the refusal of colonial officials to name such violence as a sex crime. Dalit women physical and sexual violence cannot be separated from their caste positions. Dalit women's vulnerabilities multiply when they find themselves in economically, socially and culturally vulnerable position. More often, their resistance, dissent, or questioning triggers violent reaction. A 19-year-old Dalit girl from Hathras went to get fodder for her animals on September 14 with her mother. She never returned. She was allegedly gang raped, and tortured; her tongue cut, and her spine broken by four dominant caste men. These men belonging to the Thakur caste reportedly knew her, and were in a 20-year-old feud with her family, as per reports. On September 29. It has been 3,000 years since the caste system established Hinduism hierarchy in India and 68 years since it was outlawed. Yet, Dalit women face an increasing amount of sexual violence on a daily basis.

Systematically documents assess and compare gravity

Domestic violence against women is the top gender-related crime, while there has been a marginal increase in rapes as well as overall crime in the country, according to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2018. The data, released Wednesday, also pegged Uttar Pradesh as the most unsafe for women while Madhya Pradesh recorded the most rape cases.

The number of sedition cases have doubled across the country, as compared to 2016, while civilian deaths due to police action, according to the data, have dropped drastically from 786 in 2017 to 112 in 2018.



SOURCE NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU, NEW DELHI, 2013

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data on crimes against women, including trafficking in West Bengal, have shown alarming highs. The NCRB report for 2016, which was released on November 30, 2017, recorded 283 incidents and 307 victims under Section 326A (acid attack) and Section 326B (attempt to carry out an acid attack) in the country. Of these, West Bengal recorded 76 incidents of such attacks and about 83 victims, accounting for 26% of all incidents and 27% of victims. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state in the country with almost double the population of West Bengal, recorded 57 incidents and 61 victims

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When it comes to human trafficking, West Bengal is not only the highest contributor to the crime but it alone accounts for 44% of all cases nationally. Of the 8,132 cases of human trafficking reported in 2016, West Bengal accounted for 3,579 cases. In terms of missing children, which is related to human trafficking, the State recorded 8,335 cases of children gone missing in 2016. As the State shares a border with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, it has become a transit route in human trafficking. The distress-ridden tea gardens of north Bengal, the remote islands of Sunderbans and the districts of Malda and Murshidabad with poor human development indicators and high density of population serve as ideal source point for traffickers luring young girls on the pretext of jobs or marriage to other States. Some experts say that the number of cases of human trafficking are high as the police are proactive in registering cases of human trafficking and missing children. One of the aims of the Kanyashree Prakalpa launched by the West Bengal government was to curb trafficking by providing conditional cash transfer to school-going girls but the numbers clarify that a lot more needs to be done.

West Bengal has been recording a high crime rate against women over the past several years. In 2016, West Bengal ranked second with 32,513 cases of crime against women, contributing 9.6% to all such crimes in the country. Uttar Pradesh with over 17% of the female population of the country — Bengal has 7.5% — accounted for 14.5% of all crimes against women. But despite the high levels of crimes against women, it has failed to garner adequate attention from the authorities. The State government has not taken note of the numbers, and the Opposition too has not raised the issue.

Statutory bodies such as the West Bengal Women's Commission and the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights have failed to put any system in place by which crimes against women and child trafficking can be arrested. According to non-governmental organisations working in the field, the commissions need to improve victims' access to legal services and put in place concrete steps that can act as a safety net for women and children. The overall conviction rate for crime against women in India stands at 18.9 %. For West Bengal, the conviction rate is the lowest in the country at 3.3 %.

Identify the network used and the modus operandi; investigate the level of legal and social awareness

Trafficking patterns and routes are often highly complex, ranging from trafficking within one country to cross border trafficking. In India trafficking within the country in the form of both intra and interstate transportations is also widespread. Trafficking being an organized international crime depends on those illicit conduits and channels that are particularly available at international and inter-state borders apart from certain strategic hubs and transit points. From this point of view, West Bengal needs special attention because of its geographical location. The state is busy destination and transit point from Bangladesh and Nepal. A total of 8,132 cases of human trafficking were reported in the country with West Bengal reporting the highest number of cases (3,579)," said the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in Delhi today, releasing figures for 2016. That's a 44 per cent share of the national total. From second place to first should be something to celebrate. But not in the case of West Bengal which has recorded the highest number of cases of human trafficking in 2016, replacing Assam which had aced the list for the previous year.

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| Major indicators of Gender development in West Bengal | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Indicator/year Rate in India Rate in West Bengal Rank among 15 major states | Rate in India | Rate in West Bengal | Rank among 15 major states |
| Sex ratio,2001 | 933 | 934 | 6 |
| Child sexratio,2001 | 927 | 963 | 2 |

SOURCE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2006

CONCLUSION

Violence against women (VAW), also known as gender-based violence and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), are violent acts primarily or exclusively committed against women or girls. Such violence is often considered a form of hate crime, [3] committed against women or girls specifically because they are female, and can take many forms. VAW has a very long history, though the incidents and intensity of such violence have varied over time and even today vary between societies. Such violence is often seen as a mechanism for the subjugation of women, whether in society in general or in an interpersonal relationship. Such violence may arise from a sense of entitlement, superiority, misogyny or similar attitudes in the perpetrator or his violent nature, especially against women.

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