



Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013: A Study of perceptions of youth

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ABSTRACT

The nation-wide outrage in India over the tragic gang-rape incident of December 16, 2012, in New Delhi propelled the government to drive the issue of violence against women to the centre stage of political discourse. Consequently, in April 2013 the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act was passed, which is popularly known as the Anti-rape Act. It was perceived that this Act would serve as a deterrent by ensuring that the criminal justice system of the country protects women's basic human rights and debars any future offences against women. In the light of the amendments made to the criminal law in 2013, this study aims to understand its impact on gender issues and to examine the level of awareness regarding the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 among the male and female youth of the urban areas of the state of Haryana. The objectives of the study are to find out various dimensions of crime against women in society and to examine the role of police in dealing with the offences against women. The study has been undertaken in five districts of the state of Haryana namely Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala and Panchkula. Interviews and focused group discussions were conducted on male and female youth of all the five districts. The results indicated that appropriate and efficient laws alone are not sufficient to protect the right to live with dignity of women. Unless and until people are ready to fight for it, things will not change. To handle violence against women effectively society's perception needs to be completely altered. However, to enable women to fight against discrimination and abuse it is necessary to empower them by ensuring for them appropriate and effective legal aid. Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 is a successful step in this sense.

Keywords— Crime against women, Law, Youth, Haryana, Reform, Amendment

1. INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of the brutal gang rape in New Delhi in December 2012 (also known as Nirbhaya gang-rape case), the anger of the youth regarding women's safety, lack of public trust on the Indian legal system and the government to maintain law and order in the society turned to the law as the primary site of reform. This was not for the first time, earlier also protests by women's organizations and the public have played a pivotal role in law reform. In early 80's the demonstrations held against dowry-related crimes forced the government to legislate it and in 1983 Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act was passed which introduced Section 498A to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) making cruelty by husband and relatives a punishable offence. Similarly, after the demonstrations against incidents of rape under police custody, the most known case was the Mathura rape case of the early 1970s, led to the amendment of Sections 375 and 376 (under the same Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1983). This Amendment Act made several significant changes to India's rape law including the creation of a new category of rape offence for those assaults committed by the police officers, negation of woman's consent for sexual relation if such woman is of unsound mind or under the influence of intoxication and increase in the penalties for rape offences.

Campaigns for law reform mobilized women, raised public awareness on discrimination and oppression and succeeded in realizing many changes in the legal regulations for women. Feminist campaigns for law reform can be seen as contestations of women's roles, responsibilities and identities, and as feminists' attempt to redefine social attitudes and acceptable social behaviors. For example, the campaign over rape law reform in the early 1980s can be seen not only as effort to redefine the very meaning of rape, but also its social meaning. Law reform campaigns can also be re-conceptualized as movements of fostering women's participation. During these movements women from a broad range of backgrounds came together to form coalitions, to articulate their political demands and to actively participate in discussions over the law. It is during these movements that law became a site of political involvement.

Again in December 2012, the gang rape of Nirbhaya in New Delhi, which gained international coverage, induced among the public debate on the law reform. On the basis of the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee constituted to suggest amendments to the Criminal Law, to deal sternly with the cases of sexual offences and to provide quick relief to women victims, the government of India amended the Criminal Law in 2013. It made important changes in some of the sections of the IPC and

some new offences have also been incorporated in the IPC. The definition of rape has been broadened and lack of physical resistance has been made immaterial for constituting the offence of rape. It was indicated in the report of the committee that failures on the part of the government and police were the root cause behind the crimes against women thereby suggested police as well as electoral reforms. However positive changes have been made in the law as an effort to provide confirmed and quicker relief to women victims but the gap between the formal rights of women and the continuing substantive inequality of women's lives have easily led to a questioning of the value of law reform.

2. CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2013

The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 was passed by the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament) on March 19, 2013, and by the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Indian Parliament) on March 21, 2013. The Bill received the assent of the President of India on April 2, 2013, and came into force from February 3, 2013. Of the 80,000 suggestions the Verma Committee pored over and testimonials it heard before finalizing its proposal, several were dropped by the government in the new "rape law". Spread over in 11 chapters, the slim volume covers women's, children's and prisoner's right to judicial administration. The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 (Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013), which is popularly known as the Anti-rape Act, amends the following:

- The Indian Penal Code, 1860
- Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
- The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO)

2.1 Amendments to IPC, 1860

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 has inserted the following new sections in the IPC with regard to various sexual offences.

- **Sexual harassment- section 354A**

The essentials of the offence of sexual harassment are the same after amendment as defined in the case of Vishaka vs. the State of Rajasthan as:

- a) Physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures; or
- b) A demand or request for sexual favours; or
- c) Making sexually coloured remarks; or
- d) Forcibly showing pornography; or
- e) Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

This is punishable by imprisonment of up to three years. Making sexually coloured remarks also amounts to sexual harassment, which is punishable by imprisonment for up to one year.

- **Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe- section 354B**

Section 354B was inserted after amendment which states, if a man assaults or uses criminal force to any woman or abets such act with the intention of disrobing or compelling her to be naked in any public place, he commits an offence under section 354B, which is punishable with imprisonment between three and seven years.

- **Voyeurism- section 354C**

This act has been made punishable after amendment which says, any man who watches, or captures the image of a woman engaging in a private act in circumstances where she would usually have the expectation of not being observed either by the perpetrator or by any other person at the behest of the perpetrator or disseminates such image shall be punished under Section 354C. Such a person is liable to imprisonment of 1 to 3 years on the first offence and 3 to 7 years on the second offence and fine.

- **Stalking- section 354D**

It says that if a man stalks a woman, he may be punished with imprisonment of up to three years for the first time, and five years for the subsequent convictions. Stalking may be committed both physically and through electronic media. However, the offence is subject to certain exceptions like where the act is done in pursuance of some law or in order to prevention of some crime or the conduct was reasonable in a particular circumstance.

- **Rape- section 375 and 376**

The parliament by means of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 has enlarged the ambit of rape by making certain non-penetrative acts as offence amounting to rape. It has amended Section 375 which defines rape. After the amendment, a man is said to commit rape if he;

- a) Penetrates his penis into vagina, urethra, mouth or anus of a woman, or makes her do so with him or any other person;
- b) Inserts any object or any body part, not being the penis into vagina, urethra or anus of a woman, or makes her do so with him or any other person;
- c) Manipulates any body part of a woman so as to cause penetration into the vagina, urethra anus or any body part of such woman or makes her do so with him or any other person;
- d) Applies his mouth to the vagina, anus, and urethra of a woman or makes her do so with him or any other person.

Section 376 describes the punishment for rape that is seven years at the least and may extend up to life imprisonment with fine. Any man who is a police officer, medical officer, army personnel, jail officer, public officer or public servant commits rape may be imprisoned for at least ten years. A punishment of life imprisonment, extending to death has been prescribed for situations

where the rape concludes with the death of the victim, or the victim entering into a vegetative state. Gang rape has been prescribed a punishment of at least 20 years which may extend to life imprisonment under the newly amended sections.

The new amendment defines 'consent', to mean an unequivocal agreement to engage in a particular sexual act; clarifying further it says that the absence of resistance will not imply consent.

- **Law concerning acid attack**

- a) **Section 326A**

Whoever causes permanent or partial damage or deformity to, or burns or maims or disfigures or disables, any part of the body of a person or causes grievous hurt by throwing acid on or by administering acid to that person, or by using any other means with the intention of causing or with the knowledge that he is likely to cause such injury or hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and with fine.

- b) **Section 326B**

Whoever throws or attempts to throw acid on any person or attempts to administer acid to any person, or attempts to use any other means, with the intention of causing permanent or partial damage or deformity or burns or maiming or disfigurement or disability or grievous hurt to that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

- **Human trafficking**

The new Section 370 criminalizes anyone who recruits, transports, harbours, transfers or receives a person using certain means (including threats, force, coercion, fraud, deception, abduction, abuse of power, or inducement) for purpose of exploitation. Punishment ranges from 7 to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment with fine. Section 370A criminalizes anyone who engages a trafficked minor or adult for sexual exploitation.

2.2 Other amendments

The Act made amendments to the sections related to protection against disclosure of the identity of the victim, identification of accused, recording of information, the examination of victim at the trial stage, the requirement of sanction to prosecute public servant, the requirement to fast track court and compensation etc. under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. It has also made amendments to the Indian Evidence Act 1872 in sections concerning previous sexual history, the presumption of consent, special provisions for evidence by differently abled persons and sections related to punishment for rape gang, rape of a child and disrobing etc. under POCSO Act.

In the light of the amendments made to the Criminal Law in 2013, the present study aims to understand its impact on gender issues and to examine the level of awareness regarding the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 among the male and female youth of the urban areas of Haryana.

3. OBJECTIVES

- The study has the following objectives:
- To examine the level of awareness of the male and female youth regarding the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013.
- To study the perceptions of young people regarding the impact of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 on crime against women.
- To examine the perceptions of young people about the police response to crimes against women.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Qualitative method of research has been adopted in the present study. The study has been undertaken in five districts of the state of Haryana namely Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala and Panchkula. From each of the five districts 10 male and 10 female youth age ranging from 18-28 years, pursuing their higher education and belonging to the urban background have been selected randomly for the study. Thus, a total of 50 male and 50 female youth have been included in the study. Data were obtained by using methods such as personal interviews, focused group discussion, observation and interview guide. An unstructured questionnaire was designed to collect the data. The interviews conducted on male and female youth have been analysed qualitatively and inferences have been drawn.

5. FINDINGS

When the male and female college going youth was asked what knowledge they possessed about the amendments made under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2013, about 70% of them said that they do not have proper knowledge of the provisions added to the Act. The rest of the respondents were not even aware of any amendment to the Criminal Law, although they all knew about the Nirbhaya gang rape due to its wide publicity in the media. When the researcher observed young people's lack of knowledge of the amendments to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, she explained its main provisions to them and initiated a group discussion among the respondents on the subject of study. However, a few respondents were having sufficient knowledge about the law.

On the subsections of section 354 of the IPC, most of them said that these sections would be very relevant in today's context since stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment are on a rise and very common. The accused had no fear in mind while committing such crimes due to the absence of any specific provision. However, a few of them said that the victims believe that this kind of behaviour is a routine behaviour so why to involve others or police in such a small matter. On the punishments for such crimes,

they believed that this would induce some fear in the minds of people and they would think twice before committing it. They added that the wrong doers find new ways to harass girls hence efforts should be done to change the attitude of the masses. They said that wide publicity should be made by the government about these new provisions so that it can become a deterrent. All the respondents were aware of the cyber-crimes and crimes committed on the social networking sites since these sites are part of the life of today's urban youth.

When the respondents were talked about the amendments to the rape law i.e. increase in the consensual age from 16 to 18 years, broadening the definition of rape by adding non penile penetration and enhancement of punishment up to life imprisonment, they were of the view that Nirbhaya's incident has brought a revolutionary change in the legal system but to make this law successful, proper implementation is necessary.

On the statement that this law is gender specific or only man can commit the offence of rape and women can not be made liable for this offence, majority of male respondent's emphasised that it is quite unfortunate that the Indian law on rape is still based on the belief that a victim of rape could only be a woman. They felt that sexual offences constitute an altogether different kind of crime, which is a result of a perverse mind. This perversity might result in the rape of men by men. These views can be substantiated by the argument of Narrain (Narrain 2013), who stated that there is growing awareness that sexual assault is not only an act of lust and desire but also a manner of showing dominance or superiority of caste, class, religion, community over the other and are acts of power and humiliation. Thus, there is no reason the male gender is excluded from being a rape victim.

The respondents maintained that increasing the age of consent from 16 to 18 years would increase the criminalization of young boys for consensual sex. They were of the view that due to the increased exposure and interaction between the young urban boys and girls, they might get involved in consensual sexual activity between the ages of 16-18 years. Now as per the law it means that the boy would be treated as guilty of committing rape even if the girl has given her consent. So criminalizing the consensual act of young boys and girls will make the young boys vulnerable and will force to put such boys in the protection homes. Thus their opinion reflects their disagreement with this amendment to the Act.

Menon (2013) also maintained that "We must retain the age at 16 because raising the age to 18 years does not provide additional protection to young women against rape or sexual assault. It only serves to increase societal control over the lives and decisions of young persons, both young men and women. To protect their fundamental rights including the right to choice and sexual autonomy and agency, the law must keep 16 years as the age of consent for sexual acts."

It was encouraging to note that all the respondents were aware of the women police stations being opened in each district of the state to deliver justice to women victims, however, they were ignorant about the zero FIR. The provision of zero FIR was introduced in the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, which is a provision that might help the victim to appeal for investigation without wasting time.

When the respondents were asked about the role of police personnel on receiving of any complaint of sexual harassment and their way of handling it, more than 60% of the respondents, both male and female did not seem satisfied with the police action. They said that however the police files the FIR but does not take the necessary action required in the case. One of the female respondents sharing her experience said,

"When I accompanied one of my friends to the police station to lodge a complaint against eve teasing, the police official present there did not listen to us pretending he is very busy in some most urgent task and asked us to come again tomorrow."

On such attitude of the police official they never went again to the police station. They said that the police do not listen to a common man and such an attitude discourages the complainants to pursue their complaint. Another respondent complained of the insensitive conduct of the police personnel. Similar results have been reported in a study conducted by a team of Tiwari (2012) of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai for the Bureau of Police Research and Development. The study concluded that around 75% of the population avoids reporting a crime as they feel unhappy with the way cops behave with complainants, especially women and marginalized sections. It further stated that the police seem to be overlooking illiterate and poor people and 33% of their complaints were registered as non-cognizable offences and 25% as daily diary entries. They were not apprised of the fate of their complaints either. The study concluded that treatment of women complainants needs considerable improvement and that the poor do not get a fair shake.

Some of the respondents stated that sometimes the police makes pressure on the complainants to settle down the matter outside the police station and suggests them not to get involved in the court case since the court procedure requires a great deal of money and time. By suggesting this kind of settlement to the parties the police avoid the additional work accompanied with the complaint like filing the FIR, investigation, preparing the charges sheet etc.

However, on the other hand, some of the respondents shared their positive experience with the functioning of the police and said that on receiving any complaint of sexual harassment it takes prompt action. Nitika, 18-year-old graduate student from Karnal said,

"My friend was being followed by some person for some time and she was very upset due to this. One day we gathered courage and went to the women police station with a written complaint. On our complaint, the official in-charge quickly became active and took necessary action. From that day onwards that person did not follow my friend".

Such examples create a positive image of the police and show the confidence and faith of women victims in women police officials. Similarly, Ashutosh, 26 years old student from Kurukshetra, sharing his experience with police mentioned,

“When we went to the police station with a complaint from my friend, the police not only treated us well but also explained to us how to make a complaint and helped us in writing it.”

During the interaction with the students, it was revealed that almost all of them were aware of the 1091 women helpline number, where a woman can call in case of emergency. However, on the applicability of this number mixed responses were received. Some of them reported it very useful as this number remains active 24X7 and they themselves had received immediate action upon the call. 23 years old Nidhi from Kurukshetra District mentioned,

“Once during our daily up and down to Kurukshetra from our native village, some fellow passenger misbehaved with my friend. We immediately made a call on 1091 and got the police help when the bus reached the next stop.”

Whereas some of them reported that however the call was picked up and all the details were noted down by the receiver of the call but no action was taken afterwards and they had to sort out the matter by involving their own resources.

There are a number of limitations on the part of the police also which are not known by the common people. The most common among these is the shortage of staff and heavy workload in police stations, which leaves no option for them except ignoring the complaints which they perceive mild in nature.

Another observation made during the study was that many of the students were aware that they can register a complaint either online or offline. Since today's youth especially the urban ones are using the smart phones, they were found aware of such kind of usage of the mobile phones.

The majority of respondents i.e. 74% mentioned that the family members support their girls and women in filling the complaint if any incident of sexual offence happens to them. Time has changed now. The parents and other family members give full support to women victims. They accompany the girl, explain the incident to the police and try not to put any burden of guilt on the girl. The parents try to bring justice to their daughter in any case and put the accused behind bars, no matter how long they have to fight for it. Further, the respondents added that the fight for justice depends to a great extent on the socio-economic condition of the victim's family.

However, about 26% respondents both male and female opined that the family members do not support their girls and women in filling the complaint if any incident of sexual offence happens to them. They viewed that due to the fear of dishonour and shame which is attached to such crimes they prevent their girls from going to police stations. Adding, they said that if the family members have already registered the complaint then the relatives and other members of the community pressurize them to withdraw the complaint and solve the issue with the help of community panchayat.

On being asked about the reasons of withdrawing the cases by the victim's family, most of them said that in some of the cases, the elderly persons or members of the community panchayat mediate and after the consent of both the parties they arrive at some mutual compromise or settlement. In such cases, the victim's family withdraw the complaint from the police station. They also mentioned that in property related disputes, sometimes the families involve their women and allege false charges of sexual assault on male members of the other family. When, after the mediation of the community panchayat they sort out their dispute, withdraw the charges.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 amends Section 309 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) which provides that the trial of offences under Section 376 and Sections 376 A to D would be held on day to day basis and must be completed within two months from the date of filling the charge sheet. When the respondents were asked about this provision of fast track courts being made under the Act, most of them expressed their discontentment with the functioning of these fast track courts. However this provision intends to show an escalating impact on curbing crime against women and ensuring prompt relief to the victim but due to the shortage of judicial staff in the country, the successful implementation of this provision is doubtful.

Aggarwal (2014) opined, “The idea of initiating speedy trials for cases involving certain offences is an important thing to put an end to burgeoning case files pending in the court which necessarily requires urgent steps for the relief of the victims. However, practically seems a bit difficult in the sense that the Delhi gang-rape case itself took nearly about 8 months for the completion of its trial and to announce its final verdict. In order to overcome the problem, the Government of India should increase its budget for spending on the construction of women's fast track courts, engaging more women doctors and lawyers in the examination of the victims and fighting of the cases respectively for the speedy disposal of cases.”

Expressing their views on the success of the Act, about 80% respondents said that the amendments made to the IPC under this Act constitute a major legislative stride forward since it has introduced several new offences and importantly it has criminalized the failure of a public servant to obey directions under law like the police officials and medical staff. The Act has also increased the punishment to the perpetrators of extreme cases of assault. All these changes would make the Act successful to a great extent. One of the female respondents Aarjoo, twenty-three years old student from Panchkula said, “The amendments will prove as a revolutionary step if implemented properly.”

The majority of respondents held a similar view that however, the Act contains very effective provisions but the success of the act lies in proper implementation by different stakeholders and awareness of the provisions among the masses. They added, however,

women are getting aware of their rights, still they do not have sufficient knowledge of the functioning of the law enforcement agencies. So in order to make the law efficient not only the system should be effective, but awareness of the law is also necessary.

Bhattacharya (2013) expressing her doubts on the success of the Act says, "Notwithstanding the Act advocates its focus on violence against women and seeks to provide stringent punishment to the perpetrators of extreme cases of rape and gang rape. However, the question arises will longer jail terms or capital punishment enhance women's safety and security in public, although for sure such law may inculcate a sense of fear among the culprits."

The rest of the 20% of respondents believed that any law itself is not sufficient to change the situation. Efforts must be done to bring out an attitudinal change in the society inculcating the spirit of human values and dignity and build a sense of accountability among the officials.

Sharma (2015) posits, "The 2013 amendment in criminal law can only be called as an attempt in the direction of reduction of crime against women in our society. What needs to be done is for people to understand that changing laws on paper would not help much in reducing the rape cases; it is the mindset of people when it comes to women that need to be worked on. The legislature can only incorporate new or amend existing laws, it is ultimately us who have the power and authority to make it happen."

David (2018) argues, "It is quite clear that having harsh laws alone will not counter rape and other crimes against women. You need a more sensitive police force which does not see itself as the guardian of 'family honour' and higher conviction rates in rape cases across the country."

When the respondents were asked to give their point of view on how to deal with the crime against women, they said that the best way to deal with the crime is to make women aware of their legal rights, encourage them to report the crime and impart them knowledge about the procedure involved in reporting the crime. They added that our society makes a rape survivor feel that she is better off not asking for redress, inviting all the social shaming and dealing with the insensitivity of the police that goes with it. Sexual crime is an act of violence done to demean, dominate and oppress the victim. Therefore, the victim does not bring dishonour to her family. The victim should not be ashamed of the crime committed on her rather respect her ownself.

Navodita (2012) questions the mentality of the society towards rape victim and says, "If a rape victim wants to overcome the miss happening, the society does not let her overcome. The society thinks in the same way as the rapist think that now she does not have anything left in her life and she is now unfit to lead a normal life".

Some of the respondents said that the police should adopt a proactive approach and sensitivity towards the crime since it has the greatest responsibility. The police should also make it's functioning effective and victim-friendly. Priyanka, 25 years old student from Yamunanagar said, "Police should discharge its duties responsibly and take immediate action on each and every complaint".

Aarjoo mentioned, "The family should not force the victim for out of court settlement in case of sexual assault since such settlements bring depression among the victims".

26 years old Nitin emphasised, "Women should not accept the crime silently due to the pressure of the society and fear of the police, rather take action against the accused as soon as possible."

On the contrary, Monu, 26 years old postgraduate student from Karnal showed the stereotypical belief and held girls responsible for any crime committed on them. She said, "The girls do not dress properly and invite harassment from the boys. She advised that the girls should wear a proper dress as well as behave properly."

Neelam, 22 years old and Datar Singh, 24 years old, students of Kurukshetra University believed, "Sexual harassment of women is a societal problem. Men are raised with a sense of entitlement simply for being male. It leads to an unequal opportunity in all spheres thus men believe they are superior to women. In order to bring change in the social system, mothers have to inculcate in their son's respect for every woman since the accused are none other than the members of our society."

The ways suggested by the respondents to prevent crime against women are: increase in education and awareness among the youth; self-defense training for girls in schools and colleges; increase in the number of PCR helpline vans; introduction of some other helpline number other than 1091; sensitization training for police personnel; proper implementation of the law; moral education for children; change in the attitude of the society and proper and immediate action by the police on the complaint.

6. CONCLUSION

In recent years there has been an alarming increase in sexual violence and harassment of women, which reveals a large scale societal breakdown. Violence against women appears to have the dual function of at once controlling women and perpetuating their interior status. It also aims at restricting women's mobility and sexuality and to punish women who flout societal norms prescribed by the particular community. All the public place are physically dominated by man which poses a number of threats for women while they are moving towards pursuing education, acquiring some gainful employment or even trying to make a stride in the public space.

To enable women to fight against discrimination and abuse it is necessary to empower them by ensuring for them appropriate and effective legal aid. Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 is a successful step in this sense which not only expands the definition

of rape, it also addresses penalties for other abhorrent forms of crime like stalking, voyeurism. But the study revealed that appropriate and efficient laws alone are not sufficient to protect the right to live with dignity of women. Unless and until people are ready to fight for it, things will not change. To handle women-related crimes effectively society's perception needs to be completely altered. Strict law, however, creates fear among the people but it cannot put a complete deterrent to it since male domination and women subordination is very much ingrained in our socio-economic and political system. Socialization of children based on equality of sexes can redistribute and equate the power between male and female thereby alter the unequal power relations between both the sexes. Social media can play a significant role in making the masses understand sexism, sexual violence, fighting patriarchy and facilitating altitudinal change in the society.

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