

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLES OF INDIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Violence is an issue that has always given rise to moral controversies throughout human civilisation. Neither legal ideology, nor political ideology, not even religious ideologies have succeeded in eliminating the cultural roots of the cry for retributive justice. The National Crime Records Bureau reported in 1998 that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate by 2010. Earlier, many cases were not registered with the police due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation cases. Official statistics show that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of reported crimes against women. It is widely accepted that the issue of violence against women has been the greatest rallying point of the feminist movement in the second half of the 20th century, often referred to as the second phase of feminism. This paper cannot trace the entire history of the women, violence and law debate in India in its entirety. I am restricting it to the few issues discussed so far, because between them they cover the major controversies within the movement and between the movement and the State and the general public.

KEYWORDS: Human Rights, Violations, Law, Women, Women's Movement, Politics