

## A Study to Evaluate the Influence of Age, Educational Qualification and Occupation of Victims on Sex Crime

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### Original Research Article

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**Abstract:** Sex crime is a statutory offence that is caused to another person to engage in an unwanted sexual act by force or threat. Now a days' sex crime is on the rise. Sexual harassment, molestation and rape of women are common in India. Many of these crimes are being committed by relatives and close acquaintances of the victim. Sex crimes against people with psychiatric disability are also being reported. In the cases brought for examination in the Department of Forensic Medicine, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, we have observed a notable variability in sex crime rate between different socioeconomic status and demographic profile. We have done a retrospective study on these cases of the last six months where we have tried to evaluate the influence of age, educational qualification and occupation on sex crime. This knowledge may help prevent such incidents to some extent.

**Keywords:** Sex crime, sexual harassment, molestation, rape, psychiatric disability.

### INTRODUCTION

Sex crime generally means sex-linked misbehaviour towards a person of opposite or same sex. This may be simply to get sexual gratification or often to insult the victim, but not necessarily aimed at intercourse [1]. WHO defines it as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work[3].

It may be unnatural like sodomy, buccal coitus, tribadism, bestiality or natural like rape, incest, adultery or sexual perversions like sadism, masochism, necrophilia, fetishism, transvestism, exhibitionism, masturbation, frotteurism, undinism or sex linked offences like stalking, voyeurism, sexual harassment, trafficking, indecent assault [2]. Sexual violence occurs throughout the world. Although in most countries there has been little research conducted on the problem, available data suggest that in some countries nearly one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner and up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced[3]. India is at the fifth place worldwide for sex crime and South Africa on the top [4]. In India, Andhra Pradesh shares the maximum of such cases [5].

### OBJECTIVES

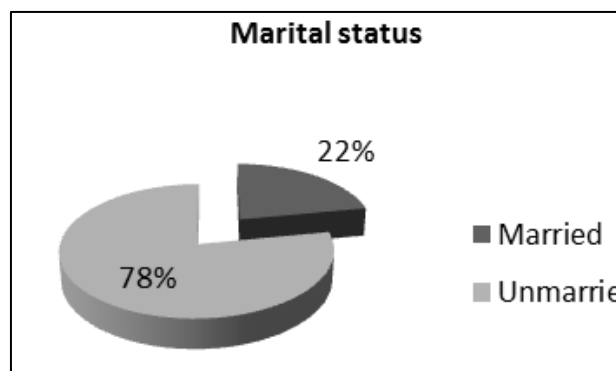
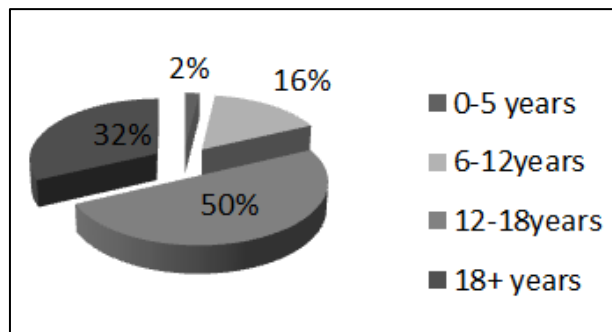
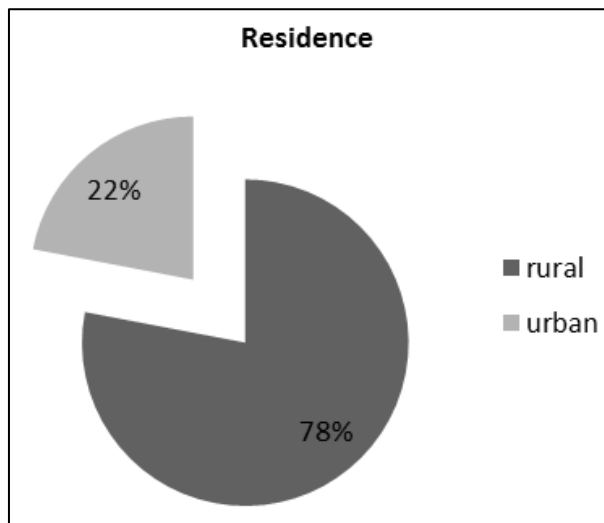
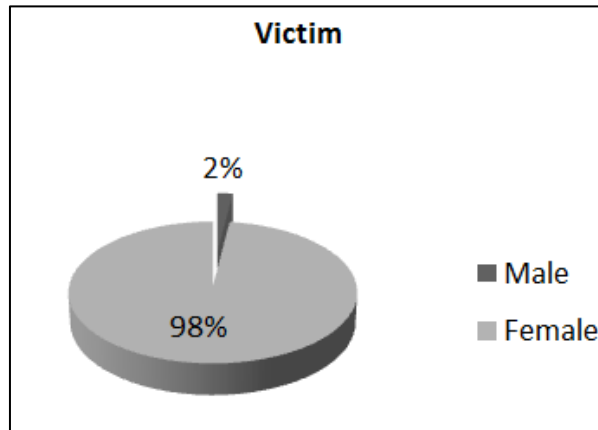
- To find out which age group is most vulnerable for sexual assault.

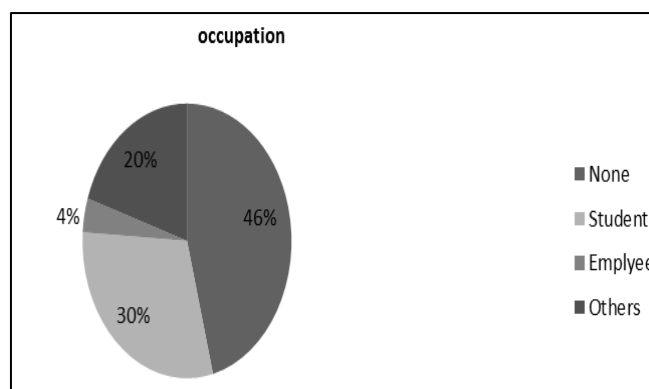
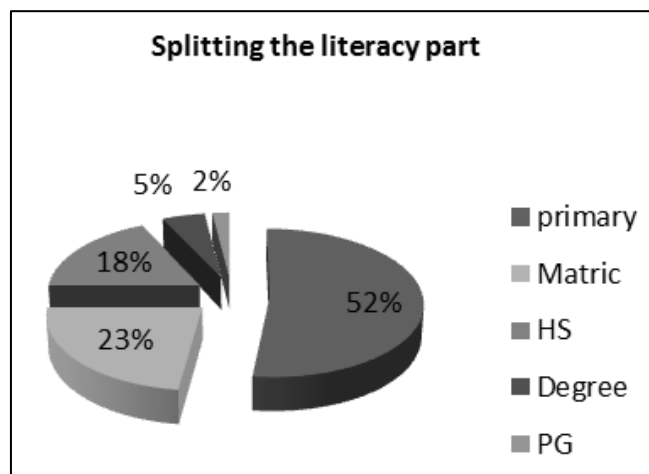
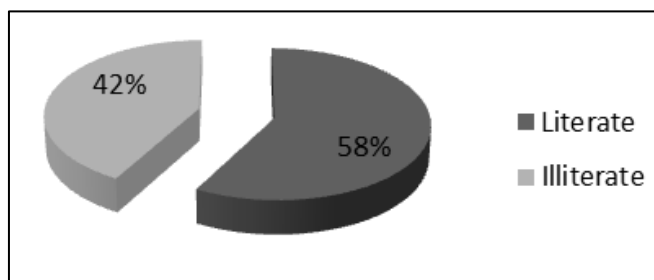
- To find out if there is any relationship between educational statuses with sex crime.
- To know if there is any relationship between occupation and sex crime.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Consecutive sampling, retrospective study was done. Cases brought to dept of forensic medicine, G.M.C.H. were studied. All the cases brought for sex crime examination to dept of forensic medicine, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital in the last 6 months were included except those cases who did not give consent for medical examination, cases of mutual consent and cases without any proper history. Purposive sampling was done. A total of 110 cases were included. Clearance from Internal Institutional Ethical Committee was taken. Data was collected from already submitted medico-legal examination reports and was analyzed through appropriate statistical methods.

### OBSERVATIONS





**SUMMARY**

A retrospective study was conducted taking 110 cases where we have observed that 98% of the victims were females and 78% of them were residents of rural areas. The most vulnerable age group was found to be between 12 to 18 years whose incidence accounts for 50%. The majority of the victims were unmarried women constituting 78%. Surprisingly 58% of the victims were found to be educated and among them 52% were seen to be educated upto primary level and only a meager 2% were educated upto post-graduation level. 46% of the victims were home makers whereas only 4% were employed.

**DISCUSSION**

Females are always at high risk. According to WHO, young age group is more vulnerable to become victims. Almost one third to two third of the victims are

below 15years of age. In our study also we have got a almost similar finding. In a study in South Africa and Zimbabwe, highly educated and working females are at high risk of becoming victim of sexual offence, specially by husbands or near relatives. This may be due to man resort to violence to regain control. But, in our study, we got an opposite result. Highly educated and working females are at lower risk. This may be due to our society or due to non-reporting of such crimes.

**CONCLUSION**

Although our society has progressed a long way, but still females of our society are not yet safe. 12 to 18 years is a very vulnerable age group, as they have neither attained majority nor do they want to think of themselves as children. Like the proverb, “little knowledge is a dangerous thing”, we can say little education is also dangerous. It is evident that most of

the victims are educated, but it can be seen that most of the victims are educated upto primary level of education. Thus we can say that highly educated females are least likely to fall prey to such heinous crimes, either due to their socio-economic status or their society or due to their capacity of judgement. Similarly it was seen that the working females were less likely to fall prey to such offences which may be attributed to similar reasons.

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