



WOMEN & GIRL CHILD

IN INDEPENDENT INDIA

.....lets stop this...madness



- *Eliminate inequality & discrimination.....*



.....& not the girl



Status of Women

- The massive involvement of women during India's national movement at the behest of Mahatma Gandhi enhanced their status and at the same time brought to the fore several issues related to women. Prior to Gandhi's intervention, women were considered a socially inferior species and kept in a state of subjugation.
- The status of Women and the girl-child have become issue of National concern. Reforms have been slow as social evils have proved too deep-rooted to be erased by legislation.

Social reforms

A galaxy of social reformers initiated a strong movement to improve the status of women.

- Institution like Rama Krishna Mission and the Brahmo Samaj led by Ram Mohan Roy opposed sati and accorded women a position of honour.
- Governer General William Bentinck abolished the practice of sati.
- The Sarada Act of 1929 raised the age of marriage to 15.
- Gandhi listed equality of women as a priority item in his 9-point program.

Five-Year Plans and Women

- The First Five-Year Plan (1951-56) was mainly welfare-oriented as far as women's issues are concerned.
- The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61) focussed on organising Mahila Mandals at the grassroots level.
- The Third, fourth Five-Year Plan (1961-74) accorded high priority to women's education & maternal and child health.
- Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-78) and Sixth Five-year Plan adopted a multidisciplinary approach with a three-pronged thrust on health, education and employment.
- The Eight Plan (1992-97) recommended 30% reservation for women at all levels of Government.

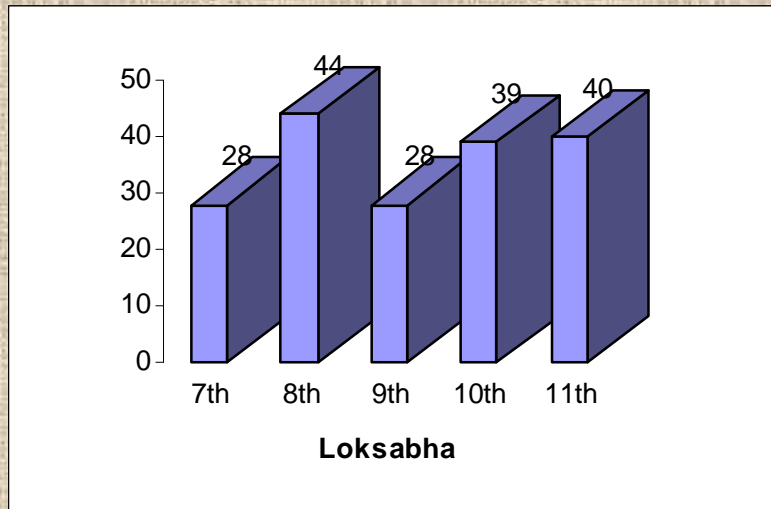
Commitments

India has ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments, committed to secure equal rights for women; the important ones among them are ratification of the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW – 1979) in 1993.

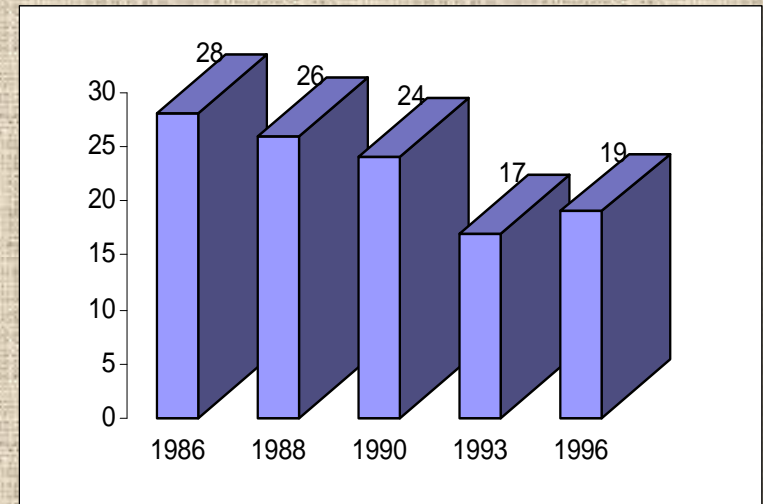
Political empowerment

The Indian Constitution guarantees political equality through the institution of adult franchise and Article 15 which prohibits discrimination on ground of sex.

Women Members in Loksabha

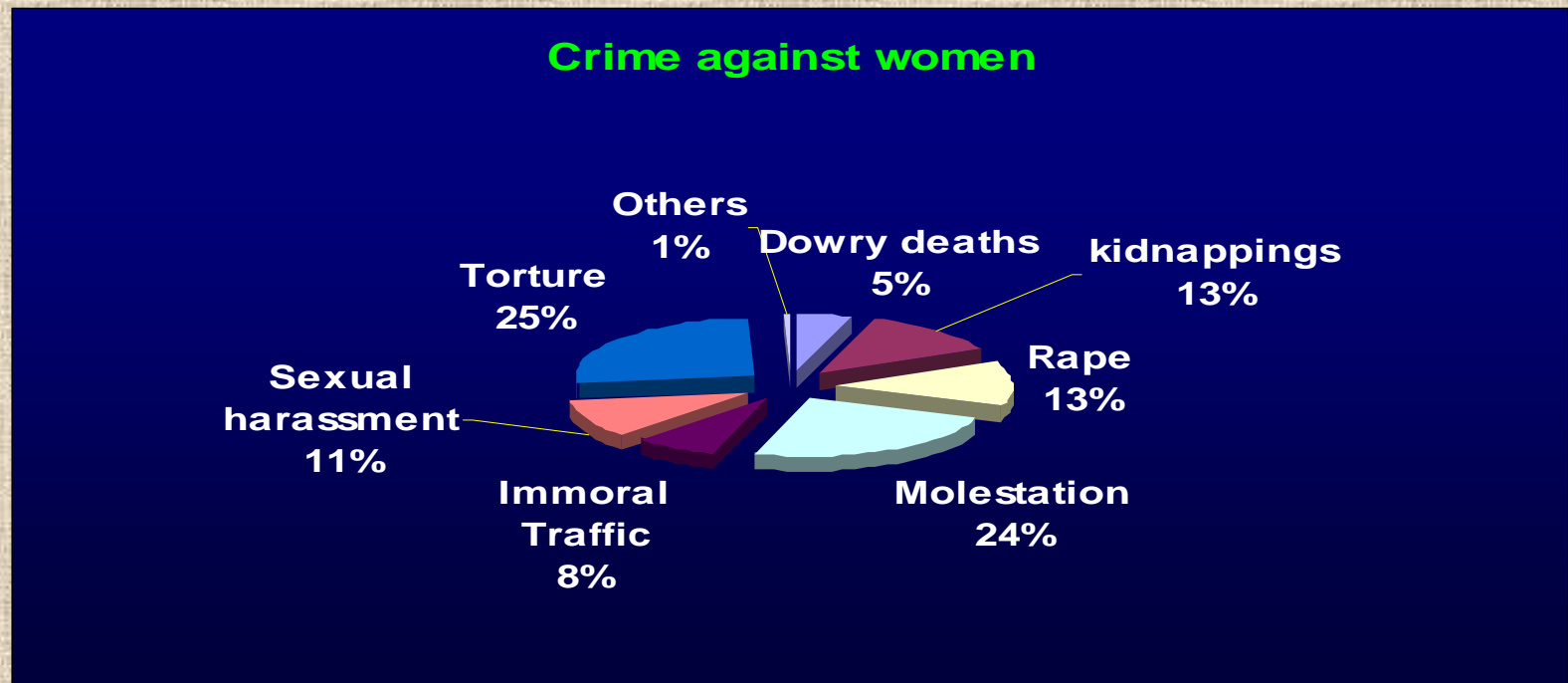


Women Members in Rajyasabha



Crime against women

Gender difference and bias place women at a serious disadvantage. The most painful physical and psychological violence perpetuated on them. Notwithstanding the constitutional guarantee of equality, a women's life is susceptible threats of violence at every stage in life.





What is Sex Ratio ?



- Internationally sex ratio is defined as number of males per 100 females and the sex ratio at birth is 105 boys for every 100 girls.
- Sex ratio, in India, is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population

It is an index of male-female (im)balance in population. At birth there are 942-955 girls for every 1000 boys.



Child Sex Ratio

Census	Total	Rural	Urban
1981	962	963	931
1991	945	948	935
2001	927	934	906



PRE NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PNDT) ACT

OBJECTIVES - PNDT ACT



- ✓ The **prohibition** of **sex selection**, before and after conception
- ✓ The **regulation** of **pre-natal diagnostic techniques**.

INDIAN WOMEN'S SCORECARD

- First woman to become Prime Minister of India – **Indira Gandhi(1966)**
- First woman to become Governor – **Sarojini Naidu U.P. (1947)**
- First woman to become Ambassador – **Vijay Lakshmi Pandit to Russia (1947)**
- First woman to become a judge of Supreme Court – **Sahib Meera Fatima Beevi (1989)**
- First woman to become an IAS Officer – **Anna George (Malhotra) (1951)**
- First woman to become an IPS Officer – **Kiran Bedi (1972)**
- First woman who scaled Mount Everest - **Bachendri Pal (1984)**
- First woman to be awarded Nobel Prize – **Mother Teresa (1962)**
- First Indian woman to become Miss Universe – **Sushmita Sen (1994)**
- First Indian woman to become Miss World – **Rita Faria (1966)**

Conclusion

In the last 50 years, women in India have come a long way. The gender-gap in infant mortality rates has narrowed, enrolment of girls in schools has improved and the participation of women in the organised sector taken a quantum jump.

Social evils menacing women have been checked to some extent and the overall scenario give some ground for optimism. There is also the need to change traditional mindset which have a tendency to discriminate against women. However, there is a dire need for focused attention to achieve the goals of 100% literacy.

“One is not born a woman; ones become a woman. No biological, psychological or economic destiny can determine how the human female will appear in society”

Simone de Beauvoir

Thank you