

To,

**Hon. Justice (Retd.) Shri J.S. Verma,
Former Chief Justice of India
Justice Verma Committee**

Dear Sir,

‘BITIYA’ is an NGO of Single daughter families working on the issue of sex selective elimination of daughters and violence and discrimination against women in all its forms. We have been working in Madhya Pradesh since last two years and have to our credit many successful awareness programs. We are also actively involved in the one billion rising campaign which aims to stop violence against women and girls.

Sensing the justifiable eruption of concern and agitation against the recent rape cases and demonstrations all across the country we conducted a survey in Bhopal on the solutions thrown up during this campaign. The survey was comprehensive in every respect and followed a scientific methodology. The survey was carried out among more than 2500 respondents representing diverse segments so that it represents holistic and comprehensive viewpoint as what do people in Bhopal think on the issue.

We are attaching herewith the result of the survey along with the initial analysis of the responses received on the basis of gender, age and various sections of the society covering a wide spectrum. This report is collation of voices of people of Bhopal on the issue of growing violence against girls and women. This is an effort of volunteers and friends of 'Bitiya', an NGO of single daughter families.

We hope that this survey will be useful to the committee while deliberating on the issues.

Thanking You,
Kind Regards

Shilpi Agnani
(Secretary)
‘BITIYA’

BHOPAL SPEAKS OUT...

‘BITIYA’ is a NGO of Single Daughter Families. It is first of its kind organization which aims at changing the mindset of the society for son preference. It works on the core area of gender equality and conducts relentless campaign against sex selective elimination of daughters and violence against women.

The recent incident of rape of a young woman in Delhi and her eventual death has shaken the conscience of entire nation. The demonstrations across the country have thrown up various solutions on which BITIYA designed a questionnaire to seek the opinion of the citizens of Bhopal.

Since the desired sample was sought to be taken from the population of Bhopal on the recent burning issue of gang rape, a practical decision was taken to adopt Quota Sampling method due to shortage of time and availability of limited resources with the organization. The population of Bhopal was stratified into mutually exclusive 55 sub-groups on the lines of using the stratified sampling method. These groups covered a vast range of population which included citizens like BITIYA members, journalists, IAS officers, Jurists, Writers/Artists, students, people’s representatives, social activists, sports persons, government officials, professionals working in banking, IT, and Telecom sectors, Chartered Accountants, Educationists, Doctors, Lawyers etc. The representation of various women segments included School Girls, College Girls, Girls living in Hostels, SABLA Group, Women Entrepreneurs, Aangan Wadi Workers and Supervisors of ICDS, Domestic Workers, FOGSI members etc. The NGOs working on women related issues were also covered. Daily wage earners like Auto-rickshaw Drivers and construction workers were also covered thus representing the wider cross section of the society.

The number of sampling units chosen from each stratum was roughly fifty. The selection of the sample was done by the interviewer. The questionnaire included following nine questions:-

1. Do you agree that the capital punishment is an effective, let alone essential, deterrent to heinous crimes like rape?
2. Do you agree that the punishment for rape should be castration?
3. Do you agree that the compulsory self defense training to the girls will deter rape cases?
4. Do you agree that misidentification by eyewitness, flawed forensics, false witnesses, dearth of defense lawyers, false confessions are the reasons for low conviction rate in rape cases?
5. Do you agree that special and the fast track courts are solution in face of numerous heinous crime cases including rape?
6. Do you agree that the way women dress, is responsible for rape?
7. Do you agree that considering woman’s body as a commodity, is the reason for rape?
8. Do you agree that the sons need to be sensitized on gender equality for preventing rape?
9. Do you agree that every city should have a “Gallery of Shame” where the photograph of rape convicts be displayed?

The total respondents were 2535 out of which 1201 (47.37%) were female. Age wise respondents profile was; 361 (Male-94, Female 267) in age group of <19 yrs, 749 (M-363, F-386) 19-30 yrs, 808 (M-471, F-337) 30-45 yrs, 510 (M-327, F-183) 45-60 yrs and 107 (M-79, F-28) >60 yrs. The survey was conducted covering 55 categories cutting across wide spectrum of the society. The overall result of the survey is as follows:-

1. Do you agree that the capital punishment is an effective, let alone essential, deterrent to heinous crimes like rape?

Total

68.44% Yes, 28.17% No and 3.39% Cant's Say

Male

62.29% Yes, 33.58% No and 4.12% Cant's Say

Female

75.27% Yes, 22.15% No and 2.58% Cant's Say

2. Do you agree that the punishment for rape should be castration?

Total

68.95% Yes, 20.12% No and 10.93% Cant's Say

Male

60.79% Yes, 26.54% No and 12.67% Cant's Say

Female

78.02% Yes, 12.99% No and 8.99% Cant's Say

3. Do you agree that the compulsory self defense training to the girls will deter rape cases?

Total

83.71% Yes, 11.36% No and 4.93% Cant's Say

Male

82.16% Yes, 12.74% No and 5.10% Cant's Say

Female

85.43% Yes, 9.83% No and 4.75% Cant's Say

4. Do you agree that misidentification by eyewitness, flawed forensics, false witnesses, dearth of defense lawyers, false confessions are the reasons for low conviction rate in rape cases?

Total

85.05% Yes, 7.34% No and 7.61% Cant's Say

Male

83.43% Yes, 8.40% No and 8.17% Cant's Say

Female

86.84% Yes, 6.16% No and 6.99% Cant's Say

5. Do you agree that special and the fast track courts are solution in face of numerous heinous crime cases including rape?

Total

85.48% Yes, 8.84% No and 5.68% Cant's Say

Male

85.31% Yes, 8.55% No and 6.15% Cant's Say

Female

85.68% Yes, 9.16% No and 5.16% Cant's Say

6. Do you agree that the way women dress, is responsible for rape?

Total

39.33% Yes, 51.83% No and 8.84% Cant's Say

Male

45.95% Yes, 42.50% No and 11.54% Cant's Say

Female

31.97% Yes, 62.2% No and 5.83% Cant's Say

7. Do you agree that considering woman's body as a commodity, is the reason for rape?

Total

55.11% Yes, 34.32% No and 10.57% Cant's Say

Male

44.38% Yes, 43.03% No and 12.59% Cant's Say

Female

67.03% Yes, 24.65% No and 8.33% Cant's Say

8. Do you agree that the sons need to be sensitized on gender equality for preventing rape?

Total

84.50% Yes, 7.50% No and 8.01% Cant's Say

Male

81.26% Yes, 8.62% No and 10.12% Cant's Say

Female

88.09% Yes, 6.24% No and 5.66% Cant's Say

9. Do you agree that every city should have a "Gallery of Shame" where the photograph of rape convicts be displayed?

Total

87.93% Yes, 5.52% No and 6.55% Cant's Say

Male

85.38% Yes, 6.67% No and 7.95% Cant's Say

Female

90.76% Yes, 4.25% No and 5.00% Cant's Say

CATEGORY WISE ANALYSIS: The category wise findings of survey have brought out some startling revelations which need a deep consideration and are cause for deep introspection.

To the question on **Capital Punishment** 68.44% have replied in affirmative, 28.17% have said no to capital punishment while only 3.39% are uncertain. The least agreeable categories to the idea of capital punishment were IAS (29.14%), Journalist (29.79%), Mahila Chetna Manch (31.58%), Doctors (34.04%) and Laborers' (39.22%).

The response to **Castration as a Punishment** has also been very high with 68.95% answering with Yes, whereas 20.12% responded to this question in the negative and only 10.93% were not sure. The least agreeable categories to the idea of **Castration** were IAS (32.35%), Judges (41.67%), NGOs (44.90%), SHG members (48%) and Chola Ward Residents (50%).

83.71% respondents agree that **Compulsory Self Defense Training to the Girls** will deter rape cases, while 11.36% feel that it will not help and merely 4.93% said 'Can't Say'. The groups which have strongly recommended included Satya Sai College (100%), Laborers' (98.04%), Public Representative (98.04%), Academy of Administration (96.88%) and SABLA Group (95.56%).

An average of 85.05% agrees to the Reasons **for low conviction in rape cases** as mentioned in the survey form. Only 7.34% disagree and 7.61% were ambivalent. The groups which strongly agreed were Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (100%), Satya Sai College (100%), SABLA (100%), Laborers (98.04%) and Public Representative (98.04%).

The view that **Special and Fast Track Courts are a solution** for heinous crimes like rape is supported by 85.48%. Very few, i.e. 8.84% feel that this is not so and 5.68% are not sure. Amongst those who have highest response in favor of fast track courts were Professors (100%), BITIYA Members (100%), Satya Sai College (98.04%), Laborers' (98.04%) and Public Representative (98.04%).

The most sensitive question of **Woman's dress being responsible for rape** was answered in the affirmative by 39.33% of the respondents whereas, 51.83% do not agree with this. Surprisingly, 8.84% were uncertain about the response. The least agreeable categories were BITIYA Members (6%), online respondents (7.69%), Satya Sai College (7.84%), IAS (8.82%) and Public Representative (13.73%).

55.11% agree that **Considering Woman's body as a commodity** is a reason for rape while 34.32% disagree and 10.57% responded in 'can't say'. The groups which strongly agreed were Satya Sai College (100%), Member of Nagar Suraksha Samitis (83.72%), Public Representative (92.35%), Aangan Wadi Workers (82%) and SOS Village (80%).

4.50% feel that **Sons need to be sensitized on gender issues**, a negligible 7.5% do not think so and only 8.01% are uncertain on this. From the respondents the groups who feel strongly about this were Members of BITIYA Club (100%), Ishwar Nagar (100%), online Responses (98.08%), Satya Sai College (98.04%) and IAS (97.06%).

The response to the question on each city having a **Gallery of Shame** where photos of rape convicts be displayed has been the highest average with 87.93% responding in a Yes, only 5.52% with a No and 6.55% with Can't say. The groups which have scored highest included Aangan Wadi Workers (100%), SABLA (100%), Laborers (98.04%), Satya Sai College (98.04%) and Member of Nagar Suraksha Samitis (97.67%).

AGE WISE ANALYSIS OF FEMALE RESPONSES – The important features are as follows:-

- Girls of <19 years of age strongly recommend for capital punishment (88.01%), Castration punishment (80.15%), compulsory self defense training of girls (87.64%) and Gallery of Shame (94.01%).
- Girls/Women of 19-30 years of age group recommend capital punishment (82.38%), compulsory self defense training of girls (84.46%) and only 23.06% agreed that the way women dress is responsible for rape.