

IX - SOCIAL OBSTACLES IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Violence committed against women, in one form or the other, is a universal phenomenon prevalent in every region and society irrespective of the social and economic class to which the women belong. It is very difficult to acquire accurate data on violence against women because of the social, cultural and legal barriers, lack of evidences and amount of secrecy and sensitivity involved.

During 2000, there were 126 incidences of crimes committed against women as compared to 63 in 1998 in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. This indicates 50% increase over the two years. Incidence of molestation and eve-teasing top the list, followed by the cases of kidnapping / abduction and rape. It is a fact that out of the five rape victims, three were in the age group of 10 to 15 years and the two were in the age group of 16 to 29 years in 2000. This may not be the accurate picture of the seriousness of the situation as a large number of such cases simply go unreported because of the social stigma attached to it. It is revealed that there has been a rise in the total incidence of crimes committed against women in 2000 over the previous year.

During 2000, the female suicide rate was higher than male suicide rate by 169. The female suicide rate had increased by 140 in 2000 over the previous year. It reveals that there was a drastic increase in the female suicide rate during 2000 by 61%.

In the present social structure, employment is very important for women. A woman with employment, can easily escape from an abusive marriage and which also gives them some bargaining power to demand greater freedom inside and outside the household.

1. DIFFERENT TYPES OF CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN

Sl. No.	Crime Head	Incidence of Crime											Percent Share of Crimes in 2000
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
1	Rape	9	9	2	6	4	3	2	5	1	4	5	3.97
2	Kidnapping & Abduction	-	4	5	3	5	2	3	2	3	2	6	4.76
3	Dowry Deaths	1	5	5	2	4	3	-	2	1	4	3	2.38
4	Torture	3	4	4	2	2	-	2	2	1	5	3	2.38
5	Molestation	24	36	40	16	21	15	14	15	19	36	33	26.19
6	Eve-Teasing	-	3	4	2	-	3	4	5	9	19	27	21.43
7	Importation of Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Sati prevention Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Immoral Traffic (Prevention Act)	141	266	165	-	45	19	18	42	29	50	48	38.10
10	Indecent Representation of women Act	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	-	-	1	0.79
	Total	178	327	225	31	81	49	44	75	63	120	126	100

Source :- Crime Records Bureau, Pondicherry.

2. VICTIMS OF RAPE BY AGE GROUPS

YEAR	BELOW 10 YEARS	10 TO 15 YEARS	16 TO 29 YEARS	30 YEARS & ABOVE
1988	-	-	5	-
1989	-	1	5	-
1990	2	4	3	-
1991	3	6	-	-
1992	-	2	-	-
1993	1	2	2	1
1994	1	2	1	-
1995	-	2	1	-
1996	-	2	-	-
1997	1	3	1	-
1998	-	-	1	-
1999	-	1	2	1
2000	-	3	2	-

Source:- Crime Records Bureau, Pondicherry.

3. SUICIDE RATE

YEAR	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
1980	93	129	222
1981	73	152	225
1982	116	236	352
1983	143	180	323
1984	116	171	287
1985	111	223	334
1986	132	204	336
1987	161	268	429
1988	147	253	400
1989	168	287	455
1990	169	308	477
1991	172	339	511
1992	176	409	585
1993	188	428	616
1994	185	404	589
1995	187	416	603
1996	200	319	519
1997	192	336	528
1998	189	341	530
1999	229	405	634
2000	369	200	569

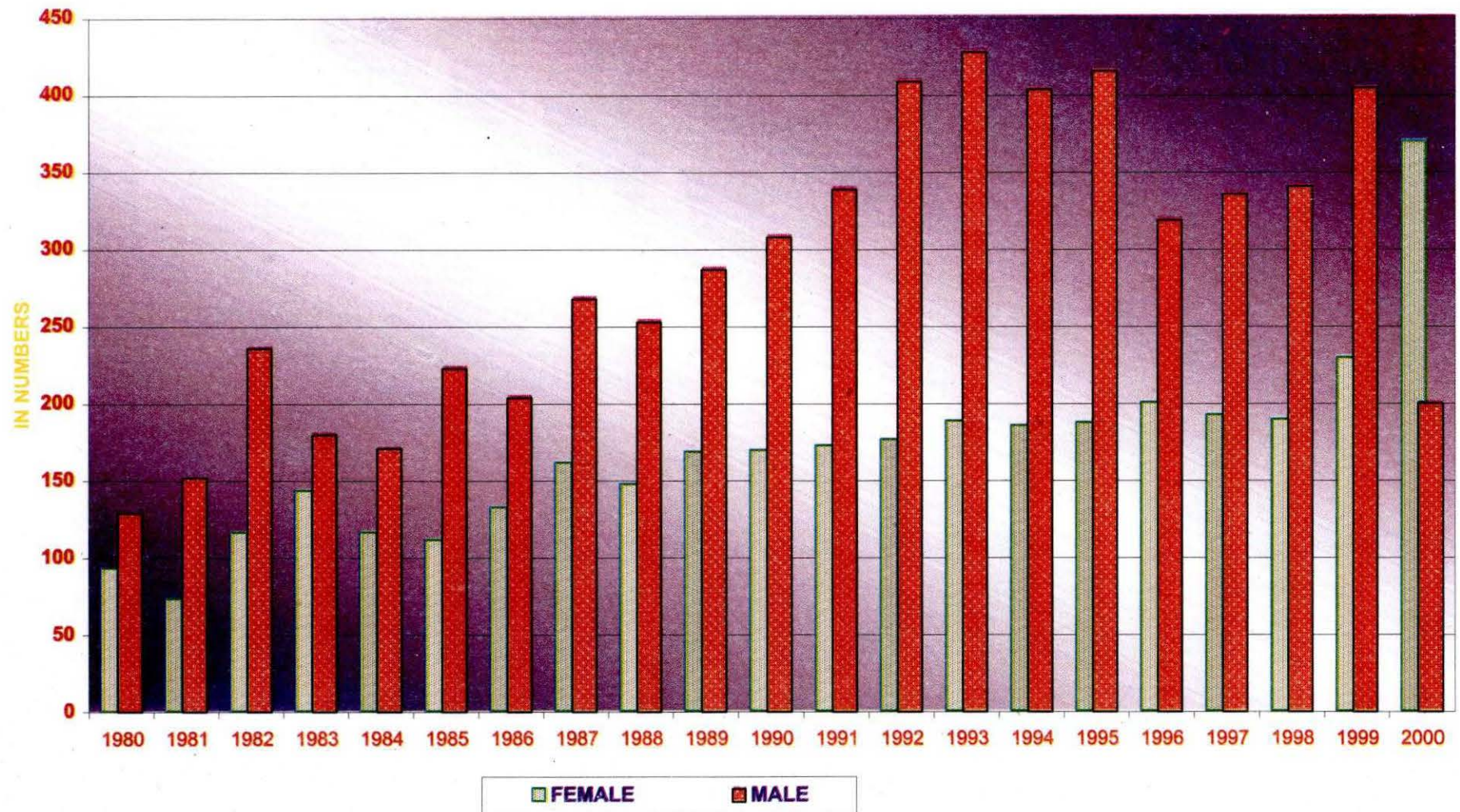
Source:- Crime Records Bureau, Pondicherry.

4. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Year	Delinquents (IPC + LSL)			Percentage of Girls to Total
	Girls	Boys	Total	
1980	39	627	666	5.86
1981	150	598	748	20.05
1982	63	835	898	7.02
1983	37	959	996	3.71
1984	145	1026	1171	12.38
1985	117	1064	1181	9.91
1986	91	1605	1696	5.37
1987	33	1170	1203	2.74
1988	153	53	206	74.27
1989	1	33	34	2.94
1990	1	64	65	1.54
1991	4	26	30	13.33
1992	8	19	27	29.63
1993	4	11	15	26.67
1994	0	20	20	0
1995	0	3	3	0
1996	0	10	10	0
1997	0	21	21	0
1998	0	13	13	0
1999	1	8	9	11.11
2000	0	8	8	0

Source:- Crime Records Bureau, Pondicherry.

SUICIDE RATE



5. DISTRIBUTION OF CONVICTS BY AGE GROUPS

Year/Region	Under 22 Years		23 to 40 Years		41 to 60 Years		Above 60 Years		All ages		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1998-1999	66	3	272	13	40	--	5	--	383	16	399
1999-2000	79	23	249	27	34	3	2	--	364	53	417
2000-2001	115	30	279	29	31	5	2	--	427	64	491
<u>1998-1999</u>											
Pondicherry	54	3	197	13	30	--	3	--	284	16	300
Karaikal	5	--	48	--	7	--	2	--	62	--	62
Mahe	1	--	19	--	3	--	--	--	23	--	23
Yanam	6	--	8	--	--	--	--	--	14	--	14
<u>1999-2000</u>											
Pondicherry	62	23	181	27	25	3	1	--	269	53	322
Karaikal	10	--	42	--	4	--	1	--	57	--	57
Mahe	2	--	22	--	3	--	--	--	27	--	27
Yanam	5	--	4	--	2	--	--	--	11	--	11
<u>2000-2001</u>											
Pondicherry	102	30	235	28	22	4	2	--	361	62	423
Karaikal	8	--	33	1	8	1	--	--	49	2	51
Mahe	4	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	8
Yanam	1	--	7	--	1	--	--	--	9	--	9

Source : Chief Superintendent of Jails, Pondicherry.

6. NATURE AND LENGTH OF SENTENCE OF CONVICTS ADMITTED INTO JAILS

Year/Region	Not exceeding one month		Above one month but not exceeding six months		Above six months but not exceeding one year		Above one year but not exceeding five years		Above five years but not exceeding ten years	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1998-1999	212	--	71	15	11	1	29	--	22	--
1999-2000	149	32	114	20	27	--	48	--	9	2
2000-2001	223	44	141	15	12	2	12	2	12	1
<u>1998-1999</u>										
Pondicherry	142	--	56	--	8	1	24	--	17	--
Karaikal	43	--	8	--	1	--	4	--	5	--
Mahe	17	--	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanam	10	--	1	--	2	--	1	--	--	--
<u>1999-2000</u>										
Pondicherry	101	31	93	20	22	--	30	--	9	2
Karaikal	22	--	9	--	5	--	18	--	--	--
Mahe	16	--	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanam	10	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<u>2000-2001</u>										
Pondicherry	196	44	122	14	9	2	7	1	6	1
Karaikal	19	--	10	1	3	--	5	1	6	--
Mahe	1	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanam	7	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. NATURE AND LENGTH OF SENTENCE OF CONVICTS ADMITTED INTO JAILS (contd.)

Year/Region	Exceeding ten years		Sentenced to transportation				Sentenced to death		Total		
			For life		For term						
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1998-1999	1	--	37	--	--	--	--	--	383	16	399
1999-2000	2	--	15	--	--	--	--	--	364	53	417
2000-2001	4	--	23	--	--	--	--	--	427	64	491
<u>1998-1999</u>											
Pondicherry	--	--	37	--	--	--	--	--	284	16	300
Karaikal	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	62	--	62
Mahe	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23	--	23
Yanam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14	--	14
<u>1999-2000</u>											
Pondicherry	1	--	13	--	--	--	--	--	269	53	322
Karaikal	1	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	57	--	57
Mahe	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	27	--	27
Yanam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	--	11
<u>2000-2001</u>											
Pondicherry	--	--	21	--	--	--	--	--	361	62	423
Karaikal	4	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	49	2	51
Mahe	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	8
Yanam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	--	9

7. SICKNESS AND MORTALITY AMONG PRISONERS

Year/Region	Daily average strength			Number admitted into hospitals			Daily average number of sick		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1998-1999	190	10	200	16	--	16	17	1	18
1999-2000	220	15	235	19	--	19	24	2	26
2000-2001	256	15	271	26	2	28	29	2	31
1998-1999									
Pondicherry	169	9	178	10	--	10	16	1	17
Karaikal	19	1	20	6	--	6	1	--	1
Mahe	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanam	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
1999-2000									
Pondicherry	182	14	196	11	--	11	23	2	25
Karaikal	36	1	37	8	--	8	1	--	1
Mahe	1	--	1	--	--	0	--	--	0
Yanam	1	--	1	--	--	0	--	--	0
2000-2001									
Pondicherry	210	14	224	19	2	21	27	2	29
Karaikal	44	1	45	7	--	7	2	--	2
Mahe	1	--	1	--	--	0	--	--	0
Yanam	1	--	1	--	--	0	--	--	0

Source : Chief Superintendent of Jails, Pondicherry.

7. SICKNESS AND MORTALITY AMONG PRISONERS (contd.)						
Year/Region	Ratio per '000 average of strength of admission to hospital			Daily average no. of sick		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	11	12	13	14	15	16
1998-1999	84.21	--	80.00	89.47	100.00	90.00
1999-2000	86.40	--	80.90	109.10	133.30	110.60
2000-2001	101.56	133.33	103.32	113.28	133.33	114.39
1998-1999						
Pondicherry	59.17	--	56.18	94.67	111.11	95.50
Karaikal	315.79	--	300.00	52.63	--	50.00
Mahe	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanam	--	--	--	--	--	--
1999-2000						
Pondicherry	60.40		56.10	126.40	142.90	127.60
Karaikal	222.20		216.20	27.80	--	27.00
Mahe	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanam	--	--	--	--	--	--
2000-2001						
Pondicherry	90.48	142.86	93.75	128.57	142.86	129.46
Karaikal	159.09	--	155.56	45.45	--	44.44
Mahe	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanam	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source : Chief Superintendent of Jails, Pondicherry.