

A Study on Marital Rape in India : Causes and Contributing Factors

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Abstract: Marital rape in India remains a complex and unresolved issue, with significant legal and social implications. Despite international recognition of marital rape as a violation of human rights, Indian law continues to exclude it from criminalization, considering sexual intercourse within marriage as a husband's right. The demand for the criminalization of marital rape has gained significant momentum, especially after the landmark Nirbhaya case (2012), yet there has been little progress in changing the Indian Penal Code to reflect these concerns. For decades, marital rape was neither acknowledged by law nor discussed in mainstream discourse. The **Aim** of this study To identify the underlying causes contributing to the prevalence of marital rape in India. **Methodology** used in this research is an **empirical study**. Simple random sampling method is used in this research. This study has used **convenient sampling** and the sample size is **1710**. Data collection was done through questionnaires and analysis was done using SPSS- Graphs and Chi Square. **Objective** of this study is to examine the prevalence, causes, and contributing factors of marital rape in India, with a focus on understanding the socio-cultural, legal, and psychological dimensions that perpetuate this form of violence. **Findings** indicate that the normalization of male dominance in marriages, compounded by inadequate legal protections and lack of awareness regarding consent within marriage, perpetuate the prevalence of marital rape. **In conclusion**, Factors such as fear of social ostracism, economic dependence, lack of family support, and limited awareness of legal rights prevent many women from speaking out.

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