

Pattern of Injuries in Women Sexually Assaulted

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Abstract

Background: Men's violence against women touches half the world's population. Rape is an act of power anger and dominance over another. Sex is a weapon to gain control. The aim of the study was to analyze the type and pattern of genital and extra genital injuries following sexual assault of women in relation to various modifying factors to corroborate the alleged crime. **Materials & Method:** All the rape victims that came for medical examination to our department formed the cohort of the study. Apart from medical examination, information was obtained by interviewing the victims, accompanying persons and records submitted by the investigating officers. **Results:** The study revealed general bodily injuries in 11.3% of victims whereas recent genital injuries were present in 13.2% victims. Majority of the victims were of age group 14-15 years and 18-19 years 35.8% each. Most victims were without prior sexual experience (85%). About 13% victims were parous. The incidence occurred mostly indoors 75%. In most cases there were single accused (96%) whereas in 4% cases there were multiple accused. The vaginal smear revealed spermatozoa in 19% of cases. About 30% of the women were examined within 72 hours of the crime.

Keywords: Rape; Injuries; Victims; Accused.

Introduction

Rape is not primarily the aggressive expression of sexuality but rather the sexual expression of aggression. It involves issues of control and hostility more than those of passion and desire. The rapist is not assaulting because he is sexually frustrated or deprived, same as that the alcoholic is drinking because he is thirsty. The unfortunate incident like rape degrades the very soul of the helpless female. She suffers from a tremendous sense of shame for no fault of her and the fear of being shunned by society and her near relatives

including her husband. Instead of treating her with compassion and understanding she is humiliated.

Sexual intercourse is changed from being a joint and pleasant event to being a crime in this context. This alteration presents many problems concerning the credibility of the reported event and the proof of guilt of the accused and thereby involves the medical examiner as a witness.

Considering the crucial role of the medical finding towards justice to the victims, the present study has been taken up with an aim to identify the type and pattern of injuries in rape victims and the factors that influence such injuries. The factors modifying the injuries in sexual assault like age, prior experience of sexual intercourse and child birth of the victims, place of occurrence, number of accused involved and time of assault to examination were studied. The data collected were compared with previously published literatures.

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