



Sonargaon University

Department of Law

Research Monograph

On

**“Barriers for Ensuring Justice for Rape Victims: Bangladesh
Perspective”**

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Letter of Submission

..... 2025

To,

Muhammad Ali

Lecturer and Coordinator

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Subject: Submission of Research Monograph on “Barriers for Ensuring Justice for Rape Victims: Bangladesh Perspective”.

Sir,

I beg most respectfully to state that, It is a gratification for me to submit the Research Monograph on “**Barriers for Ensuring Justice for Rape Victims: Bangladesh Perspective**” has been successful. While doing this monograph, I tried my level best to prepare this project accordance with the required standard. I hope that this paper will fulfil your expectation and make you contented.

I, therefore, hope that you will be kind enough to go through this paper for evaluation.

I am always available to rectify any part of this paper as per your advice.

Your Sincerely

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Certificate of Supervisor

This is to certify that proposal on “**Barriers for Ensuring Justice for Rape Victims: Bangladesh Perspective**” is the bone fide record of Research work is prepared by **Kowsar Ahmmed** (ID: LLB1803015038) for partial fulfilment of the requirement of the Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LL.B) Sonargaon University.

I do hereby certify that the Research work has been carried out under my direct supervision and assistance.

Muhammad Ali

Lecturer and Coordinator

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Acknowledgement

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

At first, I would like to pay my gratitude to our Almighty Allah for giving me the patience and strength for doing this research work .

I am thankful to my supervisor, **Muhammad Ali**, Lecturer and Coordinator

Department of Law, Sonargaon University, who guided me throughout the work. She assisted and guided me with her best guidance and suggestions. She gives me his valuable time and important information to complete the thesis report. As without her proper guidance it would be quite impossible for me to complete the task. I also express my gratefulness to my parents and my family members who encouraged me all time I was able to take advantage of a great volume of research papers through them.

Finally, would like to thanks that respectable person who support me to accomplish my task works.

Thank you,

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Declaration

I declare that the dissertation entitled “**Barriers for Ensuring Justice for Rape Victims: Bangladesh Perspective**” is original and has been done by myself under the supervisor **Muhammad Ali**. The work has not been submitted to any other university or institute for the award of any degree. I have conformed to the norms and guidelines given in the ethical code of conduct of the institute. It is free from plagiarism research methods and approaches strictly having followed during undertaking the work. Whenever, I have used materials from other sources, I have been due credits to them by citing them in the text of the dissertation and giving their details in the references. Sources consulted are duly referred quoted and incorporated in the text and a bibliography included at the end of work.

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Abstract

Rape Victims is an emerging issue now a day which denotes gender discrimination and human rights violation of women. Many women in Bangladesh are forced to deal with harassment and un-warranted attention, just because they are women. Women are vulnerable to the harassment as they lack in power and self-confidence, and are socialized that they are to suffer in silence. This research is concerning the laws of Rape Victims in different countries including Bangladesh. The main purpose of it is to show the extend of legal measures available on Rape Victims in the country and the initiatives taken by the Government to combat it. In this research, an overview has been given on what we understand by Rape Victims and its effect, the international laws on Rape Victims, Bangladesh laws on Rape Victims and the opinions expressed by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. By amending existing laws with the effective measures from international laws regarding Rape Victims and effectively implement the provisions relating to it in every sphere of our social and economic life, then it is possible to prevent Rape Victims in our country as well as in the world.

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

In recent years, the developing countries of the world including Bangladesh have been focusing attention on the most disadvantaged group in the society – the women. Realization has gradually dawned on all concerned that a society cannot afford to waste half of its human resources by discrimination on grounds of sex. This increasing awareness on the part of the government has led to the adoption of national policies to facilitate a development process involving women in all spheres particularly in economic activities focusing especially on employment development. In Bangladesh, like many other countries, children face discrimination and are subjected to violence and economic exploitation. Deep rooted patriarchy, religious practices, discriminatory laws against women and children, denial of property rights to women in many countries all contribute to the creation of an environment which denies their rights. Despite the constitutional principle of equality and having beneficial provision of many laws, discrimination, gender based violence and Rape Victims continue unabated in Bangladesh. Forced marriage, fatwa-induced violence, Rape Victims in educational institutions and workplaces, eve-teasing and abuse of female domestic workers are common phenomena that violate children rights in Bangladesh. According to a report, from 01 January 2005 to 28 February 2011, 1876 women and 1598 girl children were victims of rape. According to the same report, in 2010, 216 girls and 3 women were victims of stalking. Analysis of Decisions of the Higher Judiciary on Protection of children Rights in Bangladesh.

1.2 Statement of the problem:

Rape Victims is unwelcome attention of a sexual nature and is a form of illegal and social harassment. It includes a range of behavior from seemingly mild transgressions and annoyances to actual sexual abuse or sexual assault. Rape Victims is considered a form of illegal discrimination in many countries, and is a form of abuse (sexual and psychological) and bullying. In recent time this problem become very dangerous for all women.

A week rarely goes by without a reminder of the pervasiveness of Rape Victims as a social problem. Rape Victims is a growing problem in the government agencies, schools, and the corporations of the world. There is a great difference between Rape Victims and romance or friendship, since those are mutual feelings of two people. Often Rape Victims makes the victim feel guilty, but it is important for the victim to remember that it is not their fault, the fault lies totally on the person who is the harasser.

1.3 Research Question

- What are the barriers for ensuring justice?
- How far the laws of Bangladesh are effective to reduce barriers for ensuring justice for rape in victims?
- Barriers for ensuring justice for rape victims are considered as an afferce in Bangladesh?
- How for the protective mechanism are ensuring for the rape victims are the witnesses?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main goal of this study is Barriers for Ensuring Justice for Rape Victims: Bangladesh Perspective. The objective of this research paper is as follows- □

To find out the causes for community rape in Bangladesh?

- To explore the laws to combat against rape in Bangladesh?
- To find out the legal Barriers

- To find out the social Barriers
- To find out the solution to overcome the current situation

1.5 Research Methodology

This research paper is written primarily by taking help of both the primary and secondary. The sources include relevant statutory provisions, case laws in different jurisdiction, reviewing literatures focused on protection to women from the Rape Victims issues e.g., books, journals, articles, reports and newspapers, and searching the internet .specific references of the materials used are given in the footnote of concerned chapters. Additionally, available published research reports and articles are taken into consideration while developing arguments and analysis of different dimensions of Rape Victims against women. I have incorporated my observations while analyzing the nature and causes of the problem.

Sources and Material:

1. The Primary sources:

□ Primary data have been collected through the laws, international convention, and case law.

2. The secondary sources:

- Different books and articles.
- Internet sources, from previous research about this topic.

1.6 Literature Review:

Many researchers have investigated the Rape Victims. Rape Victims is a wrongful conduct. Rape Victims refers to unwelcoming sexual behavior. It includes physical, verbal or nonverbal conduct of sexual nature, unwanted sexual advances, sexist remarks, demands or requests for sexual favors and showing pornography. It is true that every individual has

the right to life, liberty and equality. This is guaranteed by the country's Constitution, which is considered to be the supreme law of that country.

The constitutional provisions with respect to equality and discrimination are primarily contained in Articles 27, 28 and 29. Article 27 enunciates the general principle of equality and forbids classification on arbitrary or unreasonable grounds. Article 28(1) relates to a particular application of the principle of equality which prohibits any differential treatment only on the ground of race, caste, religion, sex or place of birth.

In the absence of an effective policy and legislative framework to combat Rape Victims. Majority of women who have stepped outside their homes in pursuit of education and livelihood have encountered some level of Rape Victims in this country.

Following disturbing and depressing reports by the media and organized protests by the civil society in the wake of increasing incidents of Rape Victims on campus and at workplaces in Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) invoked the writ jurisdiction under Article 102 of the Constitution for prevention, protection and redress against Rape Victims at educational institutions and workplaces.

Section 377 of the Bangladesh Penal Code 1860 continues to punish so called 'unnatural offences' with 10 years or life imprisonment, and is understood as extending to consensual same-sex relations.

The literature review indicates that, there are many law for the Rape Victims but harassment against women can't stop rather this crime day by day increasing.

1.7 Rational of the Study

Many times fear is involved in Rape Victims because it isn't about physical attraction, it's about power. In fact, many Rape Victims incidents take place when one person is in a position of power over the other; or when a woman has an untraditional job such as a police officer, factory worker, business executive, or any other traditionally male job. Typical victims of harassment are young, single, college-educated, members of a minority racial or

ethnic group (if male), in a trainee position or have an immediate supervisor of the opposite sex.

1.8 Limitation of the Study

This study mainly focuses on Rape Victims of women Bangladesh. It is true that women of Bangladesh are suffering by many disabilities and severe problems which are extended the ambit of women normal life. Although these disabilities and problems have corroborated the presenting issue but it is not possible by the researcher to cover the overall disabilities. Only having connection with the Rape Victims has been discussed through this research paper in order to explain the presenting study with an impressive way. Besides, time constraint has been found as a limitation which have refrained the researcher from focusing many aspects of this study.

1.9 Structure of the Thesis

The Chapter-1 presents the introduction and statement of the problem. Besides, in this chapter introduces the author's working methodology with a view to collecting the datum, analyzing the collected data and describes literature review for the purpose of consulting with previous research findings, reading, reviewing of concepts and theories, and evaluating the extent literature in a particular area of interest.

Chapter-2 introduces the meaning and preliminary concept of Rape Victims. This chapter also described the historical background of Rape Victims.

Chapter-3 examines the causes and brings out the consequence of the Rape Victims.

Chapter-4 deals with the laws and remedies for Rape Victims. This chapter also discussed about the case laws on Rape Victims.

Chapter-5 comes up with the main findings, recommendations and conclusion of the monograph.

1.10 Conclusion:

Though there are many legal norms for the Rape Victims but it cannot control in practice. Rather it becomes most serious problem in the modern world. That's why I try to give some recommendation for preventing the Rape Victims in this research.

Chapter Two

Definition of rape and The Concept of Rape Victims

2.1 Introduction:

Rape Victims is one of the dangerous problems in the world. Rape Victims is unwelcome sexual behavior, which could be expected to make a person feel offended, humiliated or intimidated. Rape Victims can be physical, verbal or written¹.

—In the federal context, Rape Victims is considered to be a form of sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Accordingly to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes Rape Victims when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects and

individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.²

Rape Victims is not only occur in any specific place but also it may be happened in any place, such as it may happened in any workplace, academic institution, may be in family , by cyber way etc. Rape Victims is an unexpected dangerous problem in the world.

2.2. Definition of Rape :

Bangladesh follows a 150-year-old definition of rape given in the Penal Code 1860³, which happens to be a colonial holdover. **Section 375 of the Penal Code** defines rape along this line: A man is said to commit 'rape' who, has sexual intercourse with a woman under circumstances falling under any of the five situations. The Code restrictively defines rape to mean only penile-vaginal penetration, even though rape, in real life, may

¹ <<http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/types-of-discrimination/sexual-harassment>> accessed date 20th April 2017

² <<http://employment.findlaw.com/employment-discrimination/sexual-harassment-what-is-it.html>> accessed date 20th April 2017

³ Penal Code, 1860

include an array of violent actions, including, but not limited to penile-vaginal penetration.

The Penal Code also states that penetration is sufficient to constitute sexual intercourse which is a necessary element of the offence of rape. *Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain 2000*⁴ lays down that the definition of rape shall be what the Penal Code provides.

Neither of the laws defines penetration or illustrates the concept of consent. In addition, rape of women and female children happen to be the only recognized form of rape under the governing laws. The definition does not encompass sexual violence against men, male children, and transgender persons. The concept of marital rape is entirely out of purview of the laws.

The jurisprudence of consent is not linear and has many complexities. For instance, when a man and a woman are romantically involved and have sexual intercourse, it happens with consent of both sides. However, it can also happen that there is consent at the beginning of the sexual relationship but later one of the partners revokes/withdraws consent to its continuation and nonetheless, the other one uses force and abuse. In this

situation, what began as a consensual sexual activity, gets transformed into rape. In essence, there must be illustrations (if not a definition *per se*) that may render the concept of consent legally comprehensible.

The Rape Law Reform Coalition, a body comprised of 17 rights organizations, have tabled 10 demands, and the death penalty is not one of them. It aims to identify gaps in the legal and institutional framework that prevent justice for rape victims/survivors, and to formulate clear and specific reform proposals.

They are demanding a definition of rape to cover all forms of non-consensual penetration, irrespective of gender of the perpetrator or the victim/survivor. The definition of 'penetration' for the purposes of determining rape, is demanded to include penetration by use of 'objects' or any part of the perpetrator's body.

⁴ *Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain 2000*

They demand that the term 'child' under the *Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain 2000* include male children. They also demand that a Victim and Witness Protection Act according to the draft prepared by the Law Commission in 2006/ 2011), (for institutional protection, emergency shelter, livelihood support, psycho-social support, and protection of identity or relocation as required, of victims/ witnesses) is put in place and that protection is continued until the victim's and witness's safety is no longer threatened.

The coalition also demands that the laws enable judges to exercise discretion in sentencing by taking into account both mitigating circumstances (such as the age or mental health of the accused) and aggravating circumstances (such as the use of weapon, force or violence and the ensuing permanent physical or mental impairment of the victim/ survivor) and formulate necessary sentencing guidelines which can ensure proportionality of punishment.

An amendment is a must to be brought to **Section 155(4) of the Evidence Act 1872**⁵ to abolish admissibility of character evidence of complainants in rape trials. The manner of examination and cross-examination by defense lawyers about penetration and consent in most cases goes against the basic standards of criminal justice and human rights. The lawyers try to prove the victim as 'characterless' or habituated in sexual relations. The defense lawyers should not ideally be allowed to ask humiliating or degrading questions during cross-examination of rape complainants. Unfortunately, the media and society also blame the victims encroaching indirectly on an array of rights of the victims/survivors in question.

Keeping all these gaps in law where they are and introducing death penalty can prove to be counterintuitive. Bangladesh needs, more than anything, a definition of rape encompassing coerced sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual violence to legally address rape. Instead of death penalty, Bangladesh therefore may consider to re-define rape to ensure that all forms of non-consensual penetration are covered by it, irrespective of gender of the perpetrator or the victim/survivor. The definition of rape should reflect

⁵ Section 155(4) of the Evidence Act 1872

that consent may be revoked at any point and that the absence of proof of force or physical resistance does not necessarily establish consent in any case.

2.3. Meaning of Rape Victims:

Rape Victims is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Section 10 of the Ontario Human Rights Code defines harassment as —engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct that is known or ought to be known to be unwelcome. Using this definition, more than one event must take place for there to be a violation of the Code. However, depending on the circumstances, one incident could be significant or substantial enough to be Rape Victims.⁶

Under section 375 of the Penal Code —rape occurs when a man has —sexual intercourse with a woman under one of the following circumstances:

Firstly, against her will Secondly Without her consent. Thirdly, with her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her in fear of death, or of hurt. Fourthly, With her consent, when the man knows that he is not her husband, and that her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married. Fifthly with or without her consent, when she is under fourteen years of age.⁷ An explanation of what qualifies as —rape is provided at the end of the definition, which states: —penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape. An exception is listed where the sexual intercourse occurs between a husband and his wife. When this occurs, and the wife is not under the age of 13, then the act does not constitute rape.⁸

2.4. Historical Background of Rape Victims.

⁶ Streeter v. HR Technologies, 2009 HRTO 841 at para. 33.

⁷ Penal Code, Act No. XLV of 1860, §375 (1860) (Bangla)

⁸ Ibid

Some two decades after the federal courts first recognized Rape Victims as a form of sex discrimination, debate still continues about what Rape Victims is, why it might be sex discrimination, and what law can and should do about it. Rape Victims is a social practice. Social practices have lives, institutional lives and semiotic lives and so social practices like Rape Victims have histories. The practice of Rape Victims is centuries old at least, if we define Rape Victims as unwanted sexual relations imposed by superiors on subordinates at work.⁹ The term Rape Victims was used in 1973 in "Saturn's Rings", a report authored by Mary Rowe to the then-President and Chancellor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) about various forms of gender issues. Rowe has stated that she believes she was not the first to use the term, since Rape Victims was being discussed in women's groups in Massachusetts in the early 1970s, but that MIT may have been the first or one of the first large organizations to discuss the topic (in the MIT Academic Council), and to develop relevant policies and procedures. MIT at the time also recognized the injuries caused by racial harassment and the harassment of women of color, which may be both racial and sexual. The President of MIT also stated that harassment is antithetical to the mission of a university as well as intolerable for individuals.

Barnes v Train 1974¹⁰. This 1974 lawsuit is considered the first Rape Victims case in America. A female worker claimed discrimination because she had rejected a male

supervisor's advances. The term Rape Victims was not used in the case and the court ruled there was no discrimination.

Meritor Savings Bank v Vinson 1986¹¹. This case involved a woman who did have sex with her male boss because she feared losing her job. The court ruled that although the woman consented to having sex the incident was Rape Victims because the boss's advances were not welcomed. Additionally, the court ruled that the employer could be held liable if they knew about the harassment and did nothing to stop it.¹²

2.5. Concept of Rape Victims

⁹ <https://law.yale.edu/system/files/documents/pdf/Faculty/Siegel_IntroductionAShortHistoryOfSexualHarassmentLaw.pdf> accessed date 20th April 2017

¹⁰ Barnes v Train 1974

¹¹ Meritor Savings Bank v Vinson 1986

¹² <<http://www.mademan.com/mm/history-sexual-harassment.html>> accessed date 29th April 2017

The concept of Rape Victims may be divided into some categories-

2.5.1 Rape Victims at Workplace:

Rape Victims is prohibited under both federal and state laws. It is a type of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 a federal statute that covers employers that have a minimum of 15 employees. Although many people assume a victim and perpetrator must be opposite sexes, or that the perpetrator is most often male, a victim doesn't have to be the opposite sex of the perpetrator, and perpetrators can be of either sex or any gender identity.¹³

Under Title VII there are two recognized types of Rape Victims –

- 1) Quid pro quo and
- 2) Hostile work environment.

Quid Pro Quo Harassment

The most commonly recognized form of Rape Victims involves quid pro quo harassment, in which a supervisor propositions a subordinate for sexual favors in exchange for a promotion, salary raise, or favorable shift assignment. Alternatively, quid pro quo harassment occurs when a rejection of a supervisor's sexual advances results in a tangible loss of job benefits.¹⁴

Supervisors or managers that perpetrate quid pro quo types of harassment are considered to be acting directly on behalf of an employer. However, Rape Victims can be far more subtle and insidious, including any type of unwelcome sexual advance or other sexually charged conduct that affects an individual's job performance or creates a hostile work environment.¹⁵

¹³ <<https://www.justia.com/employment/employment-discrimination/sexual-harassment/>>accessed29thapril 2017

¹⁴ <<https://www.justia.com/employment/employment-discrimination/sexual-harassment/>>accessed29th 4april 2017

¹⁵ <<https://www.justia.com/employment/employment-discrimination/sexual-harassment/>> accessed29th April 2017

Hostile work environment

Hostile work environment harassment is grounds for legal action when the conduct is unwelcome, based on sex, and severe or pervasive enough to create an abusive or offensive working environment. Hostile work environment may include-

- Whether the conduct was verbal, physical, or both;

- Frequency of the conduct;
- Whether the conduct was hostile or patently offensive;
- Whether the alleged harasser was a co-worker or supervisor;
- Whether others joined in perpetrating the harassment; and
- Whether the harassment was directed at more than one individual or singled out the victim.¹⁶

2.5.2 Cyber Rape Victims :

Rape Victims has been a prevalent issue in our society and in the legal system for over fifty years. The ever-increasing use of the Internet in the past twenty to thirty years has served as a medium for Rape Victims that has, until recently, gone relatively unnoticed. While the Internet has provided an array of benefits and advantages for today's society, its darker side has substantially emerged as Internet users are being subjected to online discrimination, Rape Victims, identity theft, cyber stalking, and cyber bullying on a Daily

Rape Victims on the Internet can occur in a variety of ways and through a variety of mediums. Some of these mediums include, but are not limited to:

¹⁶ <<http://employment.findlaw.com/employment-discrimination/sexual-harassment-at-work.html>> accessed 29th April 2017

- (1) Chat rooms
- (2) Internet forums/message boards
- (3) Social networking sites
- (4) Instant messaging
- (5) E-mail
- (6) Avatars
- (7) Flame wars
- (8) Internet Advertising
- (9) Redirected/automatic linking
- (10) Spam
- (11) Pop-ups

A common form of Rape Victims on the Internet occurs when a harasser sends unwanted, abusive, threatening, or obscene messages to a victim via e-mail or instant messaging. Another common form of Internet harassment occurs when a victim is subject to unwanted, abusive, threatening or obscene messages and/or comments on internet forums, blogs, and discussion boards. The majority of Rape Victims activity on the Internet can be categorized into one of the following:

Gender Harassment

Gender harassment can be communicated in both verbal and graphic forms. It is often described as "unwelcome verbal and visual comments and remarks that insult individuals because of their gender or that use stimuli known or intended to provide negative emotions. Verbal gender harassment refers to offensive sexual messages aimed towards a victim that are initiated by a harasser. Such offensive messages include gender-humiliating comments,

rape threats, and sexual remarks which are unwelcome, and are neither invited nor consensual.¹⁷

Graphic gender harassment refers to the intentional sending of erotic, pornographic, lewd, and lascivious images and digital recordings by a harasser to specific or potential victims. Graphic harassment often occurs via email, instant messaging, redirected/automatic linking, and popups.

Unwanted Sexual Attention unwanted sexual attention on the Internet occurs when a harasser uses direct personal communication to harass a victim. Additionally, the harasser uses personal communication to convey messages directly relating to sex and/or sexuality which are unwanted or unwelcome by the victim¹⁸. Such messages often:

- (1) refer to the victim's sex organs;
- (2) refer to the victim's sex life;
- (3) refer to intimate subjects;
- (4) impose sex-related images or sounds; or (5) insinuate or offer sex-related activities.

Furthermore, a harasser who uses unwanted sexual attention to harass a victim online intends to solicit sexual cooperation from his/her victim either on the Internet or in person.¹⁹

¹⁷ <<http://www.unc.edu/courses/2010spring/law/357c/001/internet harassment/internet-harassment.html>> accessed 13th April 2017¹³

<<http://www.unc.edu/courses/2010spring/law/357c/001/internet harassment/internet-harassment.html>> accessed 13th April 2017

¹⁸ <<http://www.unc.edu/courses/2010spring/law/357c/001/internet harassment/internet-harassment.html>> accessed 13th April 2017

¹⁹ <<http://www.unc.edu/courses/2010spring/law/357c/001/internet harassment/internet-harassment.html>> accessed 13th April 2017

(5) 2.5.3 Rape Victims at Academic Institution:

Rape Victims of students is a real and serious problem in education at all levels, including elementary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities. It can affect any student, regardless of sex, race, or age. Rape Victims can threaten a student's physical or emotional well-being, influence how well a student does in school, and make it difficult for a student to achieve his or her career goals. Moreover, Rape Victims is illegal--Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits sex discrimination, including Rape Victims.²⁰

Preventing and remedying Rape Victims in schools is essential to ensure nondiscriminatory, safe environments in which students can learn.

Rape Victims can occur at any school activity and can take place in classrooms, halls, cafeterias, dormitories and other areas. Too often, the behavior is allowed to continue simply because students and employees are not informed about what Rape Victims is or how to stop it. Students, parents and school staff must be able to recognize Rape Victims, and understand what they can do to prevent it from occurring and how to stop it if it does occur.²¹

Harassing behavior, if ignored or not reported, is likely to continue and become worse, rather than go away. The impact of Rape Victims on a student's educational progress and attainment of future goals can be significant and should not be underestimated. As a result of Rape Victims, a student may, for example, have trouble learning, drop a class or drop out of school altogether, lose trust in school officials, become isolated, fear for personal safety, or lose.¹⁸¹⁹

²⁰ Stein, Nan, Marshall, L. Troop, R., Harassment in the Halls (Massachusetts: Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, 1993 - See more at: <http://corporate.findlaw.com/law-library/sexualharassment-it-s-not-academic.html#sthash.fyfTkfw7.dpuf>

²¹ Ibid

2.5.4 Rape Victims at family:

Rape Victims at family is most dangerous problem in the world. Around 87% of females face Rape Victims by their family members at home¹⁹. From January to September 2015, a total of 3,336 women and minor girls were raped and victimized. Also, 158 of the 826 rapes involved gang rape incidents.

During the period, there were 111 cases of attempt to rape and 71 victims died after rape. The number of sexual abuse cases was 27 and that of Rape Victims incidents was 79 while 29 women were victims of acid attack.²⁰

Also, 45 women were burned in fire and 17 of them later died. 65 women were kidnapped while there were 61 cases of trafficking of women and minor girls.

A total of 302 women were subjected to torture for dowry and 161 were killed for dowry.

—Our data reveal that some 87% of females are sexually harassed by their own family members at home and this leads to trauma among the victims. This is why awareness of Rape Victims should be raised from the family and it is the family that has to take a stand against this sort of harassment, said advocate Maksuda Akther, director of legal advocacy at Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.²¹

—Even though the incidence of Rape Victims by family members is so high, we still do not have a proper definition of Rape Victims. Only the justice system cannot prevent torture and Rape Victims of women in the long run. We need to change and to amend our existing laws as well.²²

2.5.5 Rape Victims against Children:

Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse that includes sexual activity with a minor. A child cannot consent to any form of sexual activity, period. When a perpetrator engages

²² <<http://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2016/mar/31/87-girls-sexually-harassed-family-members>> accessed date 29th aphttp://www.unc.edu/courses/2010spring/law/357c/001/internet harassment/internet harassment.html accessed 13th April 2017

with a child this way, they are committing a crime that can have lasting effects on the victim for whole life. Child sexual abuse does not need to include physical contact between a perpetrator and a child. Some forms of child sexual abuse include:²³

- Exhibitionism, or exposing oneself to a minor
- Fondling
- Intercourse
- Masturbation in the presence of a minor or forcing the minor to masturbate
- Obscene phone calls, text messages, or digital interaction
- Producing, owning, or sharing pornographic images or movies of children
- Sex of any kind with a minor, including vaginal, oral, or anal
- Sex trafficking
- Any other sexual conduct that is harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare²⁴

The majority of perpetrators are someone the child or family knows. As many 93 percent of victims under the age of 18 know the abuser. A perpetrator does not have to be an adult to harm a child. They can have any relationship to the child including an older sibling or

playmate, family member, a teacher, a coach or instructor, a caretaker, or the parent of another child.²⁵

—According to 1 in 6, [Child] sexual abuse is the result of sexual abusive that takes advantage of a child's vulnerability and is in no way related to the sexual orientation of the abusive person.²⁶

Abusers can manipulate victims to stay quiet about the sexual abuse using a number of different tactics. Often an abuser will use their position of power over the victim to coerce

²³ <<https://www.rainn.org/articles/child-sexual-abuse>> 22th April 2017

²⁴ <<https://www.rainn.org/articles/child-sexual-abuse>> accessed date 22th April 2017

or intimidate the child. They might tell the child that the activity is normal or that they enjoyed it. An abuser may make threats if the child refuses to participate or plans to tell another adult. Child sexual abuse is not only a physical violation; it is a violation of trust and/or authority.²⁶

2.6 Conclusion

Sexual assault affects many lives—both directly and indirectly. It is a crime that spans age, sexual orientation, religion and gender, and affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. It is estimated that one in five women and one in 71 men are raped in their lifetimes in the United States. Together, that's more than 23.6 million survivors.²⁷

From above discussion it's become clear that, Rape Victims may be happened in any place. Day by day women's and children's are fall in risk of Rape Victims. In recent time, cyber Rape Victims becomes most common problem in modern world. Teenager is highly suffered by the cyber harassment.

Chapter Three

Causes and Consequences of Rape Victims

3.1 Introduction:

Victims of Rape Victims can suffer significant psychological effects, including anxiety, depression, headaches, sleep disorders, weight loss or gain, nausea, lowered self-esteem and sexual dysfunction. They experience job-related costs as well: from job loss, decreased morale, decreased job satisfaction to irreparable damage to interpersonal relationships at work.²⁵

In addition, in the higher education setting, student victims of Rape Victims may feel pressured to drop a class, change their major or minor, and experience physical and psychological distress. Overall, Rape Victims causes a tense and unproductive working and learning environment²⁶.

3.2 Causes of Rape Victims:

There are some different causes by which occurs the Rape Victims. These are given bellow-

3.2.1 Individual Factors:

The individual causes for Rape Victims is an important factor. Persons are individually liable of Rape Victims or their nature. Some individual reason for Rape Victims is discussed below-

²⁵ <<https://www.ramapo.edu/sexual-harassment-resources/consequences/>> accessed date 23th April 2017

²⁶ <<https://www.ramapo.edu/sexual-harassment-resources/consequences/>> accessed date 23th April 2017

3.2.1.1 Drug Facilitated Sexual Assaults:

Drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA), also known as predator rape, is a sexual assault carried out after the victim has become incapacitated due to having consumed alcoholic beverages or other drugs. Alcohol has been shown to play a disinheriting role in certain types of sexual assault, as have some other drugs, notably cocaine. Alcohol has a psychopharmacological effect of reducing inhibitions, clouding judgments and impairing the ability to interpret cues²⁷. The biological links between alcohol and violence are, however, complex. Research on the social anthropology of alcohol consumption suggests that connections between violence, drinking and drunkenness are socially learnt rather than providing the opportunity for antisocial behavior. Thus people are more likely to act violent and universal.³⁰

Some researchers have noted that alcohol may act as a cultural break time, pantry when drunk because they do not consider that they will be held accountable for their behavior. Some forms of group sexual violence are also associated with drinking. In these settings, consuming alcohol is an act of group bonding, where inhibitions are collectively reduced and individual judgment ceded in favor of the group.

3.2.1.2 Psychological Factors:

The psychological factor is also responsible for the Rape Victims. A detailed conceptual analysis shows that objectification might underlie denial of agency and personhood that leads to rape. Sexually violent men have been shown to be more likely to consider victims responsible for the rape and are less knowledgeable about the impact of rape on victims²⁸. Such men may misread cues given out by women in social situations and may lack the

²⁷ Miczek KA et al. (1993) "Alcohol, drugs of abuse, aggression and violence". In: Reiss AJ, Roth JA, eds. Understanding and preventing violence. Vol. 3. Social influences. Washington, DC, National Academy Press, pp. 377–570 ³⁰ McDonald M, ed. Gender, drink and drugs. Oxford, Berg Publishers, 1994.

²⁸ Drieschner K, Lange A (1999). "A review of cognitive factors in the aetiology of rape: theories, empirical studies and implications". *Clinical Psychology Review*. **19**

inhibitions that act to suppress associations between sex and aggression.²⁹ They may have coercive sexual fantasies, and overall are more hostile towards women than are men who are not sexually violent. In addition to these factors, sexually violent men are believed to differ from other men in terms of impulsivity and antisocial tendencies. They also tend to have an exaggerated sense of masculinity. Sexual violence is also associated with a preference for impersonal sexual relationships as opposed to emotional bonding, with having many sexual partners and with the inclination to assert personal interests at the expense of others. A further association is with adversarial attitudes on gender, that hold that women are opponents to be challenged and conquered.³⁰

3.2.2 Family Factors:

Family may also be responsible for the sexual assault. This reason are-

3.2.2.1 Early Childhood Environment:

There is evidence to suggest that sexual violence is also a learnt behavior in some adults, particularly as regards child sexual abuse. Studies on sexually abused boys have shown that around one in five continue in later life to molest children themselves³¹. Such experiences may lead to a pattern of behavior where the man regularly justifies being violent, denies doing wrong, and has false and unhealthy notions about sexuality. Childhood environments

that are physically violent, emotionally unsupportive and characterized by competition for scarce resources have been associated with sexual violence. Sexually aggressive behavior in young men, for instance, has been linked to witnessing family violence, and having emotionally distant and uncaring fathers. Men raised in families with strongly patriarchal structures are also more likely to become violent, to rape and use sexual coercion against

²⁹ Dean KE, Malamuth NM (1997). "Characteristics of men who aggress sexually and of men who imagine aggressing: risk and moderating variables". *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*

³⁰ Koss, MP; Dinero, TE (1989). "Discriminant analysis of risk factors for sexual victimisation among a national sample of college women". *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*.

³¹ Watkins B, Bentovim A (1992). "The sexual abuse of male children and adolescents: a review of current research". *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

women, as well as to abuse their intimate partners, than men raised in homes that are more egalitarian.³²

3.2.2.2 Family Honor and Sexual parity:

Another reason involving social relationships is a family response to sexual assault that blames women without punishing men, concentrating instead on restoring lost family honor. Such a response creates an environment in which rape can occur with impunity. While families will often try to protect their women from rape and may also put their daughters on contraception to prevent visible signs should it occur, there is rarely much social pressure to control young men or persuade them that coercing sex is wrong^{38?} Instead, in some countries, there is frequently support for family members to do whatever is necessary including murder to alleviate the shame associated with a rape or other sexual transgression. In a review of all crimes of honor occurring in Jordan in 1995,³⁶ researchers found that in over 60% of the cases, the victim died from many gunshot wounds mostly at the hands of a brother. In cases where the victim was a single pregnant female, the offender was either acquitted of murder or received a reduced sentence.

3.2.3 Societal Factors:

Societal is another important factor for the Rape Victims.

3.2.3.1 War and Natural Disasters:

Lawlessness during wars and civil conflicts can create a culture of impunity towards human ³³rights abuses of civilians. Wartime sexual violence is rape or other forms of

³² Crowell NA, Burgess AW (eds.) Understanding violence against women. Washington, DC, National Academy Press, 1996. ³⁶

Hadidi M, Kulwicki A, Jahshan H (2001). "A review of 16 cases of honour killings in Jordan in 1995". *International Journal of Legal Medicine*.

³³ "Women in USA Military Raped Whilst Serving by Fellow Soldiers"⁴¹ "Syrian child refugees face exploitation, UNICEF".

sexual violence committed by combatants during armed conflict or war or military occupation often as spoils of war; but sometimes, particularly in ethnic conflict, the phenomenon has broader sociological motives. Wartime sexual violence may also include gang rape and rape with objects. It is distinguished from sexual assaults and rape committed amongst troops in military service.³⁷

Refugees and internally displaced people who flee their homes during war and major disasters can experience human trafficking for sexual or labor exploitation due to the breakdown of economies and law and order⁴¹. Speaking at the UN General Assembly in 2010, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences noted women's particular vulnerability and increased risk of experiencing violence following disasters.³⁴ Following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, large numbers of women and girls living in Internally Displaced Persons camps experienced sexual violence. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights recognized the need for state actors to respond to gender-based violence committed by private actors, in response to a petition by Haitian groups and human rights lawyers calling on the Haitian government and international actors to take immediate measures—like increasing lighting, security, and access to medical care—to address sexual violence against women and girls in the IDP camps.³⁵

3.2.3.2 Poverty:

Poverty is an important cause for all illegal acts. Poverty is linked to both the perpetration of sexual violence and the risk of being a victim of it. Several authors have argued that relationship between poverty and perpetration of sexual violence is mediated through forms of crisis of masculine identity.³⁶

³⁴ MADRE, et al. *Gender-Based Violence Against Haitian Women & Girls in Internal Displacement Camps*.

³⁵ MADRE, et al. *Gender-Based Violence Against Haitian Women & Girls in Internal Displacement Camps*; Submitted to the 12th Session of the Universal Periodic Review. 2011.

³⁶ Morrell R, ed. *Changing men in Southern Africa*. Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 2001 Bourgois P (1996). "In search of masculinity: violence, respect and sexuality among Puerto Rican crack dealers in East Harlem". *British Journal of Criminology*.

Bourgeois, writing about life in East Harlem, New York, United States, described how young men felt pressured by models of successful masculinity and family structure passed down from their parents' and grandparents' generations, together with modern-day ideals of manhood that also place an emphasis on material consumption. Trapped in their slums, with little or no available employment, they are unlikely to attain either of these models or expectations of masculine success. In these circumstances, ideals of masculinity are reshaped to emphasize misogyny, substance abuse and participation in crime and often also xenophobia and racism. Gang rape and sexual conquest are normalized, as men turn their aggression against women they can no longer control patriarch ally or support economically.

3.2.3.3 Physical and Social Environment:

While fear of rape is typically associated with being outside the home, the great majority of sexual violence actually occurs in the home of the victim or the abuser. Nonetheless, abduction by a stranger is quite often the prelude to a rape and the opportunities for such abduction are influenced by the physical environment³⁷. The social environment within a community is, however, usually more important than the physical surrounding. How deeply entrenched in a community beliefs in male superiority and male entitlement to sex are will greatly affect the likelihood of sexual violence taking place, as will the general tolerance in the community of sexual assault and the strength of sanctions, if any, against perpetrators⁴². For instance, in some places, rape can even occur in public, with passersby refusing to intervene. Complaints of rape may also be treated leniently by the police, particularly if the assault is committed during a date or by the victim's husband.⁴⁸

3.2.3.4 Laws and Policies:

There are considerable variations between countries in their approach to sexual violence. Some countries have far-reaching legislation and legal procedures, with a broad definition of rape that includes marital rape, and with heavy penalties for those convicted and a strong response in supporting victims. Commitment to preventing or controlling sexual violence

³⁷ "Forbidden or forgiven?: Rape in cross-cultural perspective". *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. Horvath, Miranda A.H. (2012), "Troubling notions of male entitlement: men consuming, boasting and confessing about paying for sex", in Coy, Maddy, *Prostitution, harm and gender inequality: theory, research and policy*, Farnham, Surrey, England Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate, pp.

is also reflected in an emphasis on police training and an appropriate allocation of police resources to the problem, in the priority given to investigating cases of sexual assault, and in the resources made available to support victims and provide medico-legal services.³⁸ At the other end of the scale, there are countries with much weaker approaches to the issue where conviction of an alleged perpetrator based on the accusation of the women alone is not allowed, where certain forms or settings of sexual violence are specifically excluded from the legal definition, and where rape victims are strongly deterred from bringing the matter to court through the fear of being punished for filing an unproven rape suit.³⁹

3.2.4 Gang Rape:

Gang rape occurs when a group of people participate in the rape of a single victim. Rape involving at least two or more violators (usually at least three) is widely reported to occur in many parts of the world. Systematic information on the extent of the problem, however, is scant.

One study showed that offenders and victims in gang rape incidents were younger with a higher possibility of being unemployed. Gang rapes involved more alcohol and other drug use, night attacks and severe sexual assault outcomes and less victim resistance and fewer weapons than individual rapes⁴⁰. Another study found that group sexual assaults were more violent and had greater resistance from the victim than individual sexual assaults and that victims of group sexual assaults were more likely to seek crisis and police services, contemplate suicide, and seek therapy than those involved in individual assaults. The two groups were about the same in the amount of drinking and other drug use during the assault⁴¹.

3.3 Consequence of Rape Victims:

³⁸ *Ibid*

³⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes_of_sexual_violence

⁴⁰ "A Comparison of Gang and Individual Rape Incidents". *Violence and Victims*.

⁴¹ "A Comparison Of Group And Individual Sexual Assault Victims". *Psychology of Women Quarterly*

There are many short- and long-term effects of sexual assault and rape that affect the mind, body and spirit. Many survivors experience one or more of these effects and they are not mutually exclusive. For example, a physical reaction to trauma such as self-injury can be the result of depression. There are some consequences for Rape Victims are given below-

3.3.1 Health Effect:

The health consequences of sexual assault can be severe. In addition to the injuries that may be sustained as a result of physical abuse that may accompany the sexual assault, forced sexual contact can also result in genital injuries and gynecological complications, such as bleeding, infection, and chronic pelvic pain, pelvic inflammatory disease, and urinary tract infections. Sexual violence also put women at risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; unwanted pregnancies may lead to an unsafe abortion or to injuries sustained during an abortion.⁴²

Victims of sexual assault can experience a wide range of psychological and emotional disorders, including shock, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder or rape trauma syndrome, and other trauma-related mental health issues⁴³. Victims may also experience disturbed sleep, loss of self-esteem, sexual dysfunctions, and behavioral and eating disorders. Psychological and emotional trauma can also manifest itself in physical reactions such as stomachaches, headaches, and back problems. Sexual assault victims are more likely to attempt or to commit suicide. Victims often blame themselves for the assault. Self-blame, in turn, can have further serious and significant psychological consequences for victims. Self-blame is associated with feelings such as fear, depression and anxiety.

3.3.2 Financial Effect:

The financial impact falls into three main categories-

First, Rape Victims can degrade employee performance. At the very least, victims are forced to waste time blocking and parrying unwanted attention. It is distracting (and

⁴² http://www.stopvaw.org/health_consequences_of_sexual_assault accessed date 25th April 2017

⁴³ http://www.stopvaw.org/health_consequences_of_sexual_assault accessed date 25th April 2017

disturbing) for the victim, and certainly erodes the working relationship, both manager to subordinate and peer-to-peer. At the same time, the harassing employee is wasting valuable company time on personal pursuits. Generally, Rape Victims diverts human energy away from achieving business objectives.⁴⁴

Second, harassment can breed resentment and mistrust in the workplace. Camaraderie and cooperation are replaced by a negative tension that can impair the concentration of all employees. A widespread cynicism can suffuse the workplace; productivity suffers; and absenteeism increases. How can an employee work enthusiastically for a company that tolerates hurtful, demeaning behavior? With no recourse (quitting is not often a viable option), employee/victims typically retreat into a passive or even sullen acceptance. Twelve percent of females who face harassment report stress-related health problems, 27% claim undermined self-confidence, and 13% see long-term career damage.⁵⁶ Third, harassment contributes to costly turnover. Women are nine times as likely as men to quit because of it, five times as likely to transfer, and three times as likely to lose jobs. Fully 25% of females who believe they have been harassed have been dismissed or have quit. Every woman who leaves because of harassment represents a large loss of the investment in training her, compounded by the costs of employee replacement.⁴⁵

3.4 Conclusion:

Rape Victims is a wrong against the honor, dignity, and self-respecters. Especially it hurts women immensely. There is a strong need for combating this fast growing problem.

This study deals with the analysis of the causes and consequence of Rape Victims.

⁴⁴ <<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Economic+impact+of+sexual+harassment+in+the+workplace.a016805688>>accessed date 29th April 2017 56

⁴⁵ <<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Economic+impact+of+sexual+harassment+in+the+workplace.a016805688>>accessed date 29 April 2017

Chapter- Four

Social Barriers for ensuring justice for Rape Victims

4.1 Introduction

In many cases when sexual assault crosses borders and is known to everybody, it becomes intolerant to the victims and sometimes she is forced to commit suicide. Media, newspapers etc. are always full of dangerous news of suicide after being teased by vagabond. From January to December 2010 Odhikar documented that 129 female victims were assaulted or injured by stalkers.

4.2 Social Effect

Some social effects are given below:

Suicide:

In addition, 25 women and 127 men were assaulted or injured due to protesting against stalking. Also 25 women and a father of a victim committed suicide and 10 women were saved from the attempts of suicide. 7 women and 14 men were also killed in stalking related incidents (Odhikar, Human Rights Report-2010). Another report of Odhikar shows that 29 girls committed suicide in 2011 because of Eve teasing.⁴⁶

Family Trouble:

Sometime Rape Victims may bring new and unbelievable family trouble. A girl under the umbrella of eve teasing when discloses the matter to the family, a troublesome miss understanding may arise in the family. Father mother may blame the victim unknowingly

⁴⁶ AminulHoque, Md. (2012). *Eve teasing: Causes and Eradication (Trans)*, in Bengali: *eve teasing karon o protikar*. Dhaka:

Kamiabprokashon limited.

rather than the teaser. There may be some troubles regarding marriage proposals of the girls. The family blames the girl as soon as the proposal is negated.⁴⁷

Blocking education:

Sexual assault has become so alarming that many students and their guardian are compelled to stop education of their children. They are of the opinion that it is better to save life of their children than education. The education minister admits that some schools and their examinations have to be closed down temporarily to minimize eve teasing.⁴⁸

4.3 Conclusion:

Every sexual assault has some reason which consequence always bring the dangerous for the victims as well as society. In many times when the sexual assault crosses the borders the victims commit to suicide. Tempest of sexual assault not only fall to the victims but also to the family member.

⁴⁷ <<http://tijoss.com/TIJOSS%2015th%20Volume/aminul%20hoque.pdf>> accessed date 22th april 2017

⁴⁸ <<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Economic+impact+of+sexual+harassment+in+the+workplace.a016805688>> accessed date 29th

April 2017

Chapter Five

Legal Barriers for ensuring justice for Rape Victims

5.1 Introduction:

Laws that protect person from Rape Victims conceive of Rape Victims in a number of different ways: as discrimination based on sex, as an offense against dignity, or as an issue of health and safety in the workplace. The discrimination conception of Rape Victims law reflects an understanding that such law is designed to protect a vulnerable group—in this case mainly women—that is the target of inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace. From this viewpoint, laws prohibiting Rape Victims must be implemented so as to remove an obstacle to the integration of women.

Legal remedies for Rape Victims vary from country to country according to the form of legal protection available to victims of harassment .All countries that prohibit Rape Victims, however, have complaint mechanisms, separate from internal reporting processes, which allow victims to seek a legal remedy.

5.2 Legal Instrument For Rape Victims:

There are some legal instruments which can protect the person from Rape Victims.

5.2.1 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

On December 18, 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (in short, CEDAW) was opened for signature. The treaty came into force and closed for signature on September 3, 1981 with the ratification of 20 states. CEDAW is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination The Convention defines discrimination against women as

—any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women,

irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.⁴⁹

By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms. State parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures at the national level aimed at achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the Convention

5.2.2 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women:

The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights recognized violence against women as a human rights violation and called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women in the Vienna Declaration and Programmed of Action. It contributed to the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (Resolution No. 48/104 of 20 December 1993) became the first international instrument explicitly addressing violence against women, providing a framework for national and international action. It defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.⁵⁰

The Declaration states three categories of violence against women: violence perpetrated by the State, such as violence against women in custody and as part of warfare; violence occurring within the general community, including rape, Rape Victims, trafficking in women and intimidation at work; and violence in the family and in the private sphere, for example selective abortions.⁵¹

⁴⁹ *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*

⁵⁰ *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* <www.includegender.org/about-genderequality/conventions/thedeclaration-on-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/>

⁵¹ *Ibid*

According to the Declaration, violence against women is rooted in the historically unequal power relations between women and men. It also explains that violence against women in

one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.⁵²

The UN member states are therefore urged to legislate against the violence, work preventively and improve the situation of victimized women.

5.2.3 LAWS OF BANGLADESH ON RAPE VICTIMS:

Bangladesh has signed its commitments to the —Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1984 as well as —Declaration on the

Elimination of Violence against Women and endorsed Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in 1995 to attain the objectives of safeguarding gender equality, legal rights and thus empowerment of women. The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action identifies specific actions for Governments to take to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Ending violence is one of 12 areas for priority action. The platform includes an expansive definition of forms of violence. The Government has also adopted National Women Development Policy 2008. In the said policy, the Government reiterated its position to comply with different international covenants and instruments to protect the rights of women.⁵³

The journey to ensure women empowerment in Bangladesh began since the independence in 1971 by ensuring the equal rights in the Constitution. The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equal rights for both men and women in all spheres of state and public life. Article 28 (1) states that the State shall not discriminate

⁵²*The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women* <www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/violence.htm>

⁵³<http://www.lawjournalbd.com/2015/08/how-effective-are-the-laws-of-bangladesh-in-protecting-women-from-sexualharassment/> accessed date 26 march 2017 ⁵⁶ Constitution of the people's republic of Bangladesh 28(1)

against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth⁶⁶. In addition, Article 28 (4) states —Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favor of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens. Article 10 further provides that steps shall be taken to ensure participation of women in all spheres of national life as a fundamental principle of state policy (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 1972).⁵⁴

During the recent decades, the initiative to protect equal rights of women and nondiscrimination has gained momentum and has been successful in mobilizing and synchronizing women to uphold their rights. Bangladesh Government has been pro-actively adopting in adoption of preemptive policies, legislations, strategies and taking national affirmative action plans and program for accelerating the implementation process in achieving the goal of holistic empowerment of women in Bangladesh (Mow CA, 2009). Notable actions have been taken by the government to protect women's legal rights and improve their social status. Those include enacting of The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980 which forbids anyone from giving or receiving dowry⁵⁵ and The Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000 (Law on the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children, 2000) for the first time expanded the definition of rape considerably and the sexual assault and sexual harassment have been made punishable offences^{56,57}; Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2000 and Acid control Act, 2000 to prevent from the acid violence⁷⁰. For preventing women from violence, government has enacted Family Violence Prevention and Protection Act, 2010 and National Women policy, 2011⁵⁸ was adopted for the empowerment of women

The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act came into force in February 2000. It is intended to address the need for more effective prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women and children than existed previously, and provides redress for

⁵⁴ *Constitution of the people's republic of Bangladesh art.28(4) & 10*

⁵⁵ *The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980*

⁵⁶ *The Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000*

⁵⁷ ; *Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2000 and Acid control Act, 2000*

⁵⁸ *Family Violence Prevention and Protection Act, 2010 and National Women policy, 2011*

victims of various manifestations of violence, including trafficking and acid throwing. Punishment for sexual oppression is stated in Section 10 of the Act, which includes —Whoever, to satisfy his sexual urge illegally, assaults a woman sexually or makes any indecent gesture, his act shall be deemed to be sexual oppression and he shall be punished with imprisonment for either description which may extend to seven years but not less than

two years of rigorous imprisonment and also with fine.⁵⁹ Even though women in Bangladesh have equal rights both under the Constitution and most of the other laws, the actual legal status and entitlement are greatly influenced by culture, customs, norms both social and religious.

At present, there are no legislative provisions to address Rape Victims of women and girl; and in the absence of the legislative provisions the need to find out an effective and/or alternative mechanism to cater the need is an urgent social imperative.

⁵⁹ *Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) V Government of Bangladesh and Others, Writ Petition No. 5916 of 2008*
<www.law.georgetown.edu/rossrights/chapters/BangladeshWomenLawyers.html

Chapter Six

Remedies for Rape Victims

6.1. Remedies for Rape Victims:

The remedies for Rape Victims at workplace

- back pay, such as wages women lost while she were out on leave due to harassment or a raise you didn't get because you refused to date your boss
- out of pocket losses, such as the cost of therapy or expenses associated with hunting for a new job
- front pay, to compensate he for money lost from the date of the court judgment going forward (for example, if the company is ordered to reinstate you but can't do so for a month or two) □ court costs
- attorney fees
- injunctive relief, such as an order that your employer provide harassment training or adopt a complaint and investigation policy
- damages for pain and suffering (also called emotional distress damages or compensatory damages)
- Punitive damages, intended to punish the employer for egregious behavior.⁶⁰ Under the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996 (Vic), victims of sexual assault are entitled to be compensated for financial losses incurred as a result of a sexual assault. Under changes that came into effect on 1 January 2001, victims can also be awarded compensation for pain and suffering. However, the availability of assistance depends on when the assault took place and when it was reported.⁶¹

The Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) may award a victim up to \$60,000 for expenses or loss of earnings incurred as a result of a sexual assault. This may include

⁶⁰ <http://www.employmentlawfirms.com/resources/employment/discrimination/legal-remedies-employerharassment>

⁶¹ *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996 (Vic)*,

money for counseling and medical expenses, and up to \$20,000 for loss of earnings. There may also be compensation for loss of, or damage to, clothing and potentially for: removal expenses and the installation of any security devices, if the victim has moved house; and costs involved in pregnancy or fear of pregnancy. Primary victims of sexual assault, depending on when they were injured and when they reported the offence, can be awarded up to \$10,000 for pain and suffering. In addition, —secondary victims of sexual assault, such as a victim’s partner or parents, can apply for compensation and receive up to \$50,000 for counseling and medical expenses and, in exceptional circumstances, up to \$20,000 for loss of earnings.⁶²

6.2 Case law on Rape Victims:

Case no.1: *State vs. Anwar Hossain (2004)*⁶³

Court: High Court Division, Bangladesh

Citation: 56 DLR (2004) 324

Relevant Law: *Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000*

Facts: Anwar Hossain was accused of abducting and raping a minor girl under the *Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain*. The prosecution claimed that the victim was forcibly taken and sexually assaulted.

Trial Court Decision:

Anwar Hossain was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment under Sections 7 and 9(1) of the Act, reflecting the seriousness of the offense involving a minor.

High Court Division Judgment:

The High Court Division examined the evidence and found the prosecution’s case credible and strong. The court upheld the trial court’s conviction and sentencing, emphasizing:

⁶² *The Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT)* ,

⁶³ *State vs. Anwar Hossain (2004)*, 56 DLR (HCD) 324

- The importance of protecting minors from sexual exploitation.
- The strict application of the *Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000*⁶⁴ to deter such crimes.
- The necessity for strict penalties to serve as a deterrent.

The court did not accept any defense argument suggesting consent or delay in reporting.

Legal Significance:

This judgment is significant for reinforcing the strict enforcement of laws protecting women and children against sexual violence in Bangladesh. It confirms the judiciary's commitment to uphold the rights and dignity of victims, especially minors, by ensuring offenders are punished severely.

Case no.2: *Yasmin Akhter case.*

On August 24, 1995 Yasmin Akhter, a fourteen-year-old girl from Dinajpur was on her way to her mother's house. It was a quiet evening, when a group of police officers picked her up and assured her that they would drop her home safely.

A day later, her dead body was found at the roadside and the entire district of Dinajpur rose up in arms against the police and the local administration, forcing the government to take note of this incident.

Yasmin Akhter's case represents one of the most shameful moments in Bangladesh's history. The public protests ignited by Yasmin's rape and murder made her a symbol of violence against women, of the violence of the powerful perpetrated on the powerless. At the same time, public protest and women's movement in reaction to Yasmin's murder also became a means of social resistance to such violence.

⁶⁴ *Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000*⁶⁴

Yasmin's murder led to widespread protests in Rangpur – one police station was besieged by a crowd for two days. In the ensuing riot, officers fired on the protesters. Seven people were killed and there were calls for the government to stand down.

Following strong judicial inquiry and police investigations, the three officers were finally arrested in 1997. Two out of three policemen convicted in Yasmin rape and murder case were hanged in Rangpur jail after midnight, nine years later on September 1, 2004.⁶⁵

Case no.3:Ananya case

Ananya, 8, studies in class 2. One day Ananya's neighbor, Monir came to her house and took her on the pretext of giving her ice cream. Monir then raped her and ran away. Ananya came home crying and told her mother about the rape. Ananya's mother took her to the hospital and other villagers went to the local Thana to file a case. However, the Thana was unwilling to register their complaint. Then they went to BLAST's Faridpur Unit to seek legal support.

The BLAST Faridpur Unit staff provided them with legal assistance for filing the criminal case, and spoke to the police officers of the local Thana and Superintendent of Police in Faridpur to seek an investigation. In the meantime, a case was filed under section 9 (1), Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 (amended 2003)⁶⁶ (Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000)⁶⁷ with the assistance of BLAST's Faridpur Unit. On 7 August 2012 the Court convicted the accused and sentenced him to serve five years rigorous imprisonment and to pay a Taka 20,000 fine.

Through BLAST's legal support the perpetrator was brought to justice and Ananya was prevented from further sexual assault by Monir.⁷⁷

⁶⁵ http://www.risingbd.com/english/Yasmin_rape_and_murder_day_today/5792 ⁷⁷<<https://www.blast.org.bd/success/criminallaw>> accessed date 27th April 2017

⁶⁶ Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 (amended 2003)

⁶⁷ Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000

Case no.4: State vs. Md. Shahidul Islam⁶⁸

Court: Appellate Division

Year: 2005

Law Applied: Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000 ⁶⁹(Section 7 & 9(1))

Summary:

Shahidul Islam was accused of abducting and raping a 15-year-old girl. The trial court sentenced him to life imprisonment. However, the High Court found issues with the case:

- FIR was filed 7 days late,
- No physical injuries on the girl,
- Love letters and photos showed a romantic relationship.
- The Appellate Division agreed with the High Court and upheld the acquittal. The court ruled that since there was **doubt** about the use of force or lack of consent, the accused must get the **benefit of doubt**.

Key Point:

- The judgment shows that **strong evidence** is required in rape cases. Delay in reporting, lack of injury, and signs of mutual relationship can lead to acquittal.
-

Case no.4: State vs. Babul Mia, 40 DLR (AD) 2006⁷⁰

In this landmark decision, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh emphasized the mandatory procedures for recording confessional statements under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.).

Key Directives:

1. **Mandatory Memorandum:** After recording a confessional statement, the Magistrate must prepare a memorandum confirming that the accused was:
 - Informed they were not obligated to confess.

⁶⁸ State vs. Md. Shahidul Islam

⁶⁹ Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000

⁷⁰ State vs. Babul Mia, 40 DLR (AD) 2006

- Advised that the confession could be used against them.
 - Assured that the statement was voluntary and truthful.
 - Informed that the statement was read over and accurately recorded
2. **Magistrate's Responsibilities:** The Court highlighted that recording a confession is a solemn act. The Magistrate must ensure that the confession is made voluntarily, without coercion, and in compliance with legal requirements.

This ruling underscores the importance of adhering to procedural safeguards to ensure the admissibility of confessional statements in court.

Case no.5: Shazneen Tasnim Rahman Rape & Murder Case (1998)⁷¹

Supreme Court Summary

- On April 23, 1998, 15-year-old Shazneen was raped and stabbed to death at her home in Gulshan, Dhaka
- A special tribunal sentenced six individuals to death on September 2, 2003
- In July 2006, the High Court upheld the sentences for five accused, acquitting on
- On August 2, 2016, the Supreme Court's Appellate Division upheld the death sentence for Shahidul Islam, the domestic help, and acquitted the other four
- Shahidul's review petition was rejected and he was executed on November 29, 2017, at Kashimpur Jail

Summary:

Only Shahidul Islam was ultimately held responsible by the Supreme Court and executed; the remaining accused were cleared.

Case no.6: Sohagi Jahan Tonu Case (2016)⁷²

⁷¹ Shazneen Tasnim Rahman Rape & Murder Case (1998)

⁷² Sohagi Jahan Tonu Case (2016)

- **Victim & Incident:** Tonu, a 19-year-old student and theatre activist, was raped and murdered inside Comilla Cantonment on March 20, 2016 .
- **DNA Evidence:** Despite two autopsies being inconclusive, a CID DNA test confirmed semen from three unidentified men on her clothes .
- **Investigation Status:** Over nine years, six investigation officers from four agencies (DB, CID, PBI) have failed to make any arrests or submit a probe report .
- **Latest Developments:** The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) took over in 2020. Inspector Tariqul Islam was appointed in October 2024, but no notable progress has been reported .

Summary: Despite DNA-confirmed rape, the case remains unresolved—with no suspects, arrests, or trial after nine years—highlighting systemic failures in achieving justice.

Case no.7: Sohagi Jahan Tonu Case⁷³

- **Victim & Timing:** In early March 2025, an 8-year-old girl was raped at her sister’s house in Magura Sadar Upazila during Ramadan and died on **March 13, 2025**, after multiple cardiac arrests at CMH Dhaka.
- **Accused & Arrests:** Four family members—including the father-in-law **Hitu Sheikh**—were arrested under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

High Court Orders: HC directed:

- Police investigation to be completed in 30 days
- Tribunal trial to conclude within 180 days
- Removal of the victim’s photos/videos from media within 24 hours
- Social welfare support and security for the victim’s younger and elder sister

Public Response: Nationwide protests erupted. Reddit users voiced heartbreak and anger, such as:

⁷³ 2025 Magura Child Rape Case (*Asiya*)

“I just can't process the news about Asiya... sitting here with tears... We need to see tangible actions, not just words.”

Summary: A horrific case that resulted in the death of a child, prompting swift legal directives and widespread public outcry demanding justice and systemic protection.

6.3. Conclusion:

Whenever discrimination is found, the goal of the law is to put the victim of discrimination in the same position (or nearly the same) that he or she would have been if the discrimination had never occurred.

The types of relief will depend upon the discriminatory action and the effect it had on the victim. For example, if someone is not selected for a job or a promotion because of discrimination, the remedy may include placement in the job and/or back pay and benefits the person would have received. The employer also will be required to stop any discriminatory practices and take steps to prevent discrimination in the future. A victim of discrimination also may be able to recover attorney's fees, expert witness fees, and court costs.

Chapter Seven

Finding, Recommendation & Conclusion

7.1 Summary of major findings:

This study has shown that the women are extremely vulnerable in terms of their personal security and for men, their high-risk behaviors. Women especially suffer from physical violence at the hands of both their husbands and outsiders, such as law-enforcement officials, local miscreants, and boyfriends. The earlier study found that 53% of urban female respondents in Bangladesh had experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by an intimate partner. This study shown that for many reason a women can become victim of Rape Victims. This research finds out the causes for Rape Victims and its consequences. Persons are committed crimes for their individual factors, social factors, psychological factors as well as their family honor and sexual parity is also responsible for Rape Victims. Children's are also faced the unwanted Rape Victims. Many victims whose are sexually harassed by their family members. The study of research is also discussed about the laws and remedies for sexual assault. In practices the laws are not success to prevent the Rape Victims.

The archaic definition of rape prevalent in Bangladeshi laws should be amended addressing all possible manifestations of the incidents in this digitalized modern era. To ensure equality and non-discrimination, the amended definition should also be gender neutral so that women are no longer regarded an inferior class to men. Making women the only victim is also another indicator to indirectly prove them inferior to men and it is a gross humiliation and insult to the womankind. Marriage being a consensual relation, it raises some responsibilities and duties towards one another. But it does not give a partner unfettered right to fulfill any kind of sexual lust which the other partner does not rationally consent to and so while redefining the offence of rape, marital rape should also be included in it with proper extent, limitation and illustrations. Any sexual assault to third gender

people should also be considered while defining rape. Along with penile-vagina penetration, all possible types of penetration should also be defined. as rape.

In this regard, Bangladesh may consider the new definition of rape provided in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code after adopting Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2013 based on the Justice Verma Committee Report after the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape case. According to the definition of rape inserted in section 375 of Indian Penal Code, a man is said to be a rapist if there is

- (a) penile penetration into vagina, urethra, mouth or anus of any person, or making any other person to do so with him or any other person;
- (b) insertion of any object or any body part other than penis into vagina, urethra, mouth or anus of any person, or making someone else to do so with him or any other person;
- (c) manipulation of any body part of a woman so as to cause penetration of vagina, urethra, mouth or anus or any body part of such woman or makes her to do so with him or with any other person;
- (d) application of mouth to the vagina, urethra, anus of a woman or making her to do so with him or with any other person. (The Gazette of India Extraordinary, 2013)

Rape definition should also address all such types of sexual offences which are considered severe and recent in form and manner. Deceitful cohabitation is a kind of recent form of sexual behavior amongst many young couples now-a-days. Many a time, sexual cohabitation is carried on on the promise of marriage and later on, the partner promised to marry breaks his/her promise.

No legal provision is in existent in any of the statute now in Bangladesh. Since this sexual deceitful cohabitation is an emerging dilemma, law should also address the issue when rape is to be defined. A study may also be carried on to expose the ways and types of perverted sexual behaviors which are recent phenomenon and which may be seen in future,

In Bangladesh, whenever any law is intended to be amended, the growing mindset is just to increase the punishment in many of the cases even without taking in consideration the theories behind sentencing such. Only provisioning of maximization is not enough to deter crimes in the society, rather the socio-cultural mindset and understanding should be read whenever any punishment is being provisioned. There may be carried on some research whether our sentencing should be retributive, exemplary or deterrence in nature. The introduction of suitable sentencing system is a dire need for the country to combat heinous crimes like rape.

To combat the everyday crime rape, the following matters may be taken into consideration while amending and changing the prevalent rape laws of Bangladesh;

- The definitions of rape as enshrined in the Penal Code 1860 or Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain, 2000 (Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000) are not exclusive and needs to be reformed immediately so that every possible sexual assault which has any connotations because of its severity may be considered as rape.
- The definition of rape in laws of Bangladesh is a gender biased one which is also an indicator of lower position of women in the society. To ensure equal rights of both man and woman the definition should be a gender neutral one. In today's world male prostitution has become already prevalent (Cowan, 2017) and so a male may become victim of rape as well.
- The major flaw of the statutory definition of rape is it allows having sex with a girl under the age of consent i.e., 18 years if she is a bride of any man. This provision is an indirect inspiration to child marriage in Bangladesh and there should be an amendment so that sexual relation with a girl below 18 always should always be considered rape.
- The present definition of rape does not tell anything about the third gender or transgender people. If sexual offences take place against those communities what will be the status that should be clarified in the definition of rape and sexual offences.

- To remove the procedural dilemma a coordinated agency may be established to ease the early disposal of rape cases. In this regard the time to time directives of the honorable Supreme Court of Bangladesh should be obeyed including the directives regarding medical test of the victims and 18 directives for the procedure of rape cases. An independent investigation agency may be introduced to make the trial speedy.
- The government may rethink about the nature of sentencing and theories of punishments which are mostly suitable for our country. Increasing the extent of punishment is in no way a path to lessen crimes from any given society.
- The victims are to be provided with compensation because of her civil right violation. In this regard law may be amended so that the compensation becomes a mandatory remedy for rape cases.
- Without increasing the punishment only, an overall amendment of rape laws may be done on the basis of an exclusive research carried on by some reputed experts in this field. In this regard, an exclusive statute may be enacted relating to rape and sexual offences.

7.2 Recommendation:

The most effective weapon against Rape Victims is prevention. Harassment does not disappear on its own. In fact, it is more likely that when the problem is not addressed, the harassment will worsen and become more difficult to remedy as time goes on.

Most successful preventive strategies and plans on Rape Victims require the involvement of all those concerned and a clear statement of intent. The statement of intent should reflect a real commitment from all parties concerned to recognize the importance of the fight against Rape Victims. This is usually accompanied by the establishment of a written policy.

Measures for workplace:

For the Rape Victims in work place the following measures can take in order to create a harassment-free workplace, based on guidelines from the British Columbia Human Rights Commission manual Preventing Harassment in the Workplace.

- Make it clear that this is a workplace where harassment will not be tolerated.
- Provide education and information about harassment to all staff on a regular basis.
- The circulation of information, open communication and guidance is of particular importance in removing the taboo of silence which often surrounds cases of Rape Victims. Information sessions, personnel meetings, office meetings, group discussion and problem-solving groups can prove very effective in this respect. Staff should also be informed of the best way of coping with aggression by means of guidelines and staff development programs on Rape Victims at work.
- Develop an anti-harassment policy together with employees, managers, and union representatives.
- Communicate the policy to all employees.
- Make sure that all managers and supervisors understand their responsibility to provide a harassment-free work environment.
- Provide protection and support for the employees who feel they are being harassed.
- Take action to eliminate discriminatory jokes, posters, graffiti, e-mails and photos at the work site.

For others:

- The laws governing sexual assault should be defined in terms of women's dignity and bodily integrity.

- Accurate and systematic reporting of incidents of violence against women, by Computerized database maintained by Police department: Based on cases various governmental (e.g. police, courts, OCC or local government) and non- governmental organizations. This should include: reported to the police.
- Routine community based prevalence studies of violence against women: The primary responsibility to conduct this study should rest on government but the NGO with the cooperation of UN organization also could conduct this type of research once every two to three year.
- media could be an effective tool for awareness and education about Rape Victims
- Speak up. Women should tell the person to stop who harassed her. State clearly and firmly that she want a particular behavior to cease. This is not a time to be polite or vague. Consider the possibility that the harasser may not realize that a particular behavior is offensive.
- Keep records or a journal and save any letters, e-mail, or notes the person has about the situation if the harassment persists. Record dates, places, times, witnesses and the nature of the harassment—what was said when, and how she responded.

7.3 Concluding Remarks:

Rape Victims is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement. It derives essentially from cultural patterns, in particular the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices and is exacerbated by social pressures; women's lack of access to legal information, aid or protection; the lack of laws that effectively prohibit Rape Victims; failure to reform existing laws; inadequate efforts on the part of public authorities to promote awareness of and enforce existing laws; and the absence of educational and other means to address the causes and consequences of harassment.

Actions to combat Rape Victims need to be urgent and effective. As there is no legislation on Rape Victims in Bangladesh, it is necessary to enact specific Legislation on it. However, adopting a law is not sufficient to resolve Rape Victims abuses. In addition to law, Governments and other actors in addressing Rape Victims should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes. Equality, partnership between women and men and respect for human dignity are essential in all stages of the socialization process. Educational systems should promote self-respect, mutual respect, and cooperation between women and men. Prevention action is the key to combat Rape Victims, thus large scale awareness rising is needed.

Rape Victims is a gender issue and a human right issue. Importantly, it violates the right of women to be treated equally without any discrimination. It is imperative that the stakeholders give the problem its due attention and contribute in promoting a safe and secure environment for women.

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