

Sexual violence against women in Sri Lanka: cases in Rathnapura and Kelaniya Police Divisions

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Crime against women is a common phenomenon in the world. Among such crimes sexual violence is more severe as it affects on women physically, psychologically and socially in short term as well as long term. At present, this crime is spreading rapidly in Sri Lankan society threatening to women's lives. According to the annual Police Reports in Sri Lanka, severe sexual abuses, incest, trafficking, and abnormal sexual behaviours etc. have been increasing in the civil society recently.

Taking into consideration of the situation, this study tried to identify the nature of the above crime, the relationship among time, space and crime, and the relationship between offender's alcohol use and sexual violence against women. 100 women who had been victimized to sexual violence in Rathnapura and Kelaniya Police Divisions which have been reported as the highest sexual harassments against women in the areas during last few years, were randomly selected as the sample of the research. The open interview is used as the method of primary data collection. Secondary data were collected from books, magazines, research reports, police records, websites etc.

This research found that space and time highly affect on such crimes. 69% of respondents had to victimize rape while 22% of the others had been victimized to gang rape. And further there was a clear relationship with sexual violence activities and sue of alcohol. When such crimes occurred 52% of the offenders had used alcohol.

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