

Social Dominance Orientation And Sexual Violence Against Dalit Women In India

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Abstract

According to the National Crime Record Bureau (2017) crime against Dalit women have increased by 7.1 per cent since 2015. Moreover, according to this report, 24923 rape cases were reported across India in 2012. Whether the government of India has made amendment in Indian Penal Code for sexual offenders in recent days and initiating strong atrocities act, day by day rapes are increasing rapidly. The rape rate per 100000 people is highest in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal and Maharashtra. Among the various rural areas in India, the highest number of rapes reported in villages rather than metropolitan cities. Rape victims in India, especially in a rural area often subject to shaming and considered no suitable for married life and the life of victim became destroyed. Hence, the rape and violence against Dalit women are a massive problem in India. Most of the sex offences on Dalit women are committed by the people who belong in upper castes. The present study aimed to predict sexual violence risks among dominant caste group people on the bases of social dominance orientation and sex behaviour attitude. The convenient and purposive sampling technique was used to collect the data. 600 students ranged in the age from 22 to 25 year were selected. SDO by Dr Vikas Minchekar, Sex behaviour attitude scale and sexual violence scale was used to collect the data. Obtained data were analysed through PPMCC and multiple regression analysis. Results revealed a high correlation among these variables. Sexual violence risk was significantly predicted on the basis of SDO and sex behaviour.

Key Words:*Sexual Violence, Dalit Women, Social Dominance, Orientation, Sex Behaviour Attitude.*

Introduction

Sex violence against Dalit women is an important barrier to modern India. Day by day in modern India communal forces became stronger and stronger. It has been 3,000 years since the caste system established Hinduism hierarchy in India and 72 years since it was outlawed. Yet, Dalit women face an increasing amount of sexual violence on a daily basis. Caste dynamics permeate upper caste group people throughout the nation's rural areas to commit a sexual crime against Dalit women. When it comes to sexual violence, a potent mix of caste-driven rivalries, and sometimes religion-based ones, have been the prime motivational reasons were seen behind such incidents. Belief in domination, sex behaviour attitude towards Dalit women, belief in the chaturvarn system, social exploitation and other factors are playing a crucial role in sexual violence in the various states of India. To examine the role of these factors in sexual violence against Dalit women, the present research is designed.

Social dominance in India is the most important topic among scholars. Social dominance orientation is a personality trait which predicts social and political attitudes. SDO is conceptualized as a measure of individual differences in levels of group-based discrimination; that is, it is a measure of an individual's preference for hierarchy within any social system and the domination over lower-status groups. Individuals who score high in SDO desire to maintain the differences between social statuses of different groups. Moreover, people high in SDO also prefer hierarchical group orientations. Often, people who score high in SDO adhere strongly to belief in a "dog-eat-dog" world (Levin, S et. al. 2002). Studies have found that SDO has a strong positive relationship with social exploitation and discrimination. Sociologists have deeply studied the notion of a 'dominant' castes in India. M N Srinivas first defined the term 'dominant caste' to refer to the caste in the village which is numerically strong and also wields the greatest economic and political power (Srinivas 1987). Louis Dumont later insisted that dominance arises solely from economic power (Dumont 1970). Social dominance orientation provides an explanation for why prejudice and discrimination existed across different societies and nations and also so extremely resistant to change. Social dominance theory seeks to integrate societal-level and individual-level causes and effects of prejudice and discrimination. This multilevel focus is a key strength of the theory. However, the vast majority of research on social dominance theory has focused on individual-level effects on individual-level outcomes (Sidanius, Pratto, van Laar, & Levin, 2004). In this research, the researcher will try to find out the effects of social dominance on a societal level.

Prejudice refers to an unjustifiable negative attitude toward a group and its individual members. The caste is very complex and poisons issue than any other issue in India. It is also a major obstacle to any kind of national development. People thought that we never demolish the caste. So, they didn't use any remedy and holds it up to their existence. The caste prejudice is a negative attitude towards the individual who belongs to another caste group. If once a person evaluates negatively to the other caste group member, he systematically thinks that these people are our servant and they are only made for the same. There are many examples in government and private sectors where the authority persons are sexually exploiting the lower caste women. They are pressurizing such women to keep the sexual relation with them.

Caste discrimination is a highly sensitive issue in India. Day by day exploitations of lower caste peoples is increasing rapidly. Each and every corner in India do not remain liberal for them. Discrimination against Dalit women is also a burning issue which may see and listen every day on television radio and in newspaper. A number of reports have been shown that government system becomes failure to protect Dalits men and women in India. According to a recent report of "Access to Justice for Dalits in India" the violence and atrocities against Dalits are rising in India and there is an urgent need to stop them. According to National Crimes Statistics, the 19,4% sexual crimes against Dalits women are increased in 2016. The number of cases registered under the Atrocities act has also risen every year. The report concludes that dominant castes in India are using violence against Dalits women. Social psychologists have tried to understand why people are interested to sexually exploit Dalit women. According to Carrell and her colleagues (2010) discrimination

refers to unjustifiable negative behavior towards a group or its members, where behavior is adjudged to include both actions towards, and judgments or decisions about, group members. The projection of discrimination may be classified into two types: direct, and subtle forms. Across a range of domains, cultures and historical periods, there are and have been systemic disparities between members of dominant and non-dominant groups (Sidaniuis and Pratto, 1999). Various theories of discrimination have shown that the subtle forms of discrimination are mainly linked with social dominance orientation style.

Caste violence is a form of violence that is perpetrated across ethnic or communal lines, the violent parties feel solidarity for their respective groups, and victims are chosen based upon group membership (Horowitz, D. L. 2010). The term includes conflicts, riots and other forms of violence between communities of different religious faith or ethnic origins. The term was constructed by the British colonial authorities as it wrestled to manage violence between religious, ethnic and disparate groups in its colonies, particularly Africa and South Asia, in early 20th century. The issue of communalism has received central attention in Indian Politics for last many decades. Data about communal incidents in the country provides very interesting insights into the spread of these incidents and the states where they mostly happen. According to the data available with the Home Ministry, a total of 3365 sexual offenses against Dalit women occurred in the country from 2011. Out of all states in India, only 8 states contributed for close to 85% of all the communal incidents. Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh are leading states of sexual violence against Dalit women in India. Karnataka & Kerala are from the South, Gujarat & Maharashtra are from the West, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh from the North, Bihar from the East and Madhya Pradesh from Central India are leading states of India where caste violence is increasing rapidly.

Objectives of the Study:

- (a) To find out the correlation coefficient between social dominance orientation and sexual violence risk against Dalit Women among upper caste group people.
- (b) To search the correlation between sex behavior attitude and sexual violence risk against Dalit women among upper caste group people.
- (c) To investigate the correlation between social dominance orientation and sex behavior attitude among upper caste group people.
- (d) To predict the sexual violence risk against Dalit women among upper caste group people on the basis of social dominance orientation, sex behavior attitude.

Hypotheses of the Study:

- a) Social dominance orientation and sex violence against Dalit women among upper caste group people would be significantly and positively related each other.
- b) Sex behavior attitude and sexual violence risk among upper caste group people would be significantly and positively related each other.

- c) Social dominance orientation and sex behavior attitude among upper caste group people would be significantly and positively related each other.
- d) The sexual violence risk against Dalit women among upper caste group people would be significantly predicted on the basis of social dominance orientation and sex behavior attitude.

Method

- a) **Sample:** Geographically, India is very big country and it is roughly divided into five different regions viz. North province, Western province, Central province, North-East province and South province etc. Hence stratified sampling design was considered. The random selection of the subjects is not impossible in the study; however, the limitation of time frame not permits to use this approach. Hence, the convenience sampling design was also considered. How so far, the stratified convenience sampling design was used in the study. Approximately six hundred students were surveyed to collect the data. The colleges and universities were fixed as a target area. The data was collected by using survey monkey online tool.
- b) **Tools:**
 - (1) **The Social Dominance Orientation Scale (SDOS):** Social Dominance Orientation Scale was developed by Dr Vikas Minchekar. The Chronbach Alpha value is .94 which is quite high. The construction of the items is based on the social dominance orientation scale developed by Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto. This scale consists 16 items with five alternatives. First eight items are negative, and last eight items are positive. A high score on this scale indicates a strong tendency toward Social Dominance Orientation.
 - (2) **Sex Behavior Attitude Scale (SBAS):** The sex behavior attitude scale is developed by Yashvir Singh. This scale consists 40 items. Measures attitude towards sex behavior in the permissiveness and restrictiveness dimension. The reliability and validity index of SBAT is quite high.
 - (3) **Sexual Violence Risk 20 (SVR20):**The SVR20 is developed by Douglas R. Boer, Stephen D. Hart, P. Randall Kropp, and Christopher D. Webster. The SVR-20 is a 20-item checklist of risk factors for sexual. The reliability and validity index of this scale is also high.
- c) **The procedure of Data Collection:** As roughly the five regions of India were considered for data collection, the various colleges and universities in this region were contacted to obtain the permission. After getting the permission from the universities and colleges the link of survey monkey online data collection link was sent to the WhatsApp group of the students. Only the upper caste students were called for psychological testing. Their consent was sought to respond the psychological scales. Afterwards, they were ask to fill the demographic sheet and respond all three given scales.
- d) **Design of the Study:** Accordingly, the topic chosen for this study, there are three highly interconnected variables. If one variable existed the other also present at counter side. The present research has been carried out by employing correlational research design. The social dominance orientation and sex behavior

attitude among upper caste group people would be predictor variables while sexual violence risk among upper caste group people was criterion variable.

Results and Discussion:

Table 1 Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient among study variables

| Variables | SDO | SBAS | SVR20 |
|-----------|-----|--------|--------|
| SDO | - | .756** | .704** |
| SBAS | | - | .726** |
| SVR20 | | | - |

** significant at .01 alpha level

SDO: Social Dominance Orientation, **SBAS:** Sexual Behaviour Attitude Scale **SVR20:** Sexual Violence Risk 20

It is seen from table 1 that all variables under the study have higher correlation coefficient index. The social dominance orientation and sex violence have .704 correlation coefficient index which is very strong and significant on 0.01 alpha level. Hence, the first hypothesis ‘Social dominance orientation and sex violence against Dalit women among upper caste group people would be significantly and positively related each other’ is accepted in the study. The correlation between sex behaviour attitude and sexual violence risk is .726 which is also significant. Hence, the second hypothesis ‘Sex behaviour attitude and sexual violence risk among upper caste group people would be significantly and positively related each other’ is also accepted in the study. The correlation between social dominance orientation and sex behaviour is also significant ($r = .756$ df 598 $p < .01$). Hence, the hypothesis ‘Social dominance orientation and sex behaviour attitude among upper caste group people would be significantly and positively related each other’ is accepted in the study. How so far, the observation of researchers and systematic review of literature on sexual violence against Dalit women by the upper caste group people is theoretically and empirically proven in the study.

Table 2 Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis Results in which Sexual Violence Risk is Criterion Variable while Social Dominance Orientation and Sex Behaviour Attitude are Predictor Variables.

| Sr. No. | Predictors | Adjusted R Square | df | F | Standardized Coefficients Beta | Sig. |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Social Dominance Orientation | 0.246 | 1,598 | 196.781 | 0.195 | 0.001 |
| 2 | Sex Behaviour Attitude | 0.284 | 2,597 | 120.049 | 0.248 | 0.000 |

As seen from Table 2 that the 'Social Dominance Orientation' and 'Sex Behaviour Attitude' emerged as significant predictors of 'Sexual Violence Risk' among upper caste people. When the first variable, 'Social Dominance Orientation' was entered the obtained adjusted $R^2 = .246$, when 'Sex Behaviour Attitude' was entered the adjusted $R^2 = .284$. It means that this model accounts for respectively 24.6% and 28.4% of the variance in sexual violence risk factor among upper caste people. For first predictor $F = 196.781$; $p < 0.000$, for second predictor $F = 120.049$, $p < 0.000$ The standardized coefficient Beta for 'Social Dominance Orientation' $B = .195$; $p < 0.000$, for 'Sex Behaviour Attitude' $B = .248$; $p < 0.000$ Therefore, it is stated that these predictors have a significant impact on criterion variable. The hypothesis 'The sexual violence risk against Dalit women among upper caste group people would be significantly predicted on the basis of social dominance orientation and sex behaviour attitude' is accepted in the study.

Conclusions: The four conclusions are drawn from the study

1. The factors social dominance orientation and sex violence against Dalit women among upper caste group people have a significant and positively correlation.
2. The variables sex behavior attitude and sexual violence risk among upper caste group people have a significant and positive correlation.
3. The concepts social dominance orientation and sex behavior attitude among upper caste group people have a significant and positive correlation.
4. The sexual violence risk against Dalit women among upper caste group people is very high and it is significantly predicted on the basis of social dominance orientation and sex behavior attitude.

Implications of the study: If we strongly intend to become of super power in the world the notion of national integration should develop first in our mind. The Japanese history is the greatest example of national integration in front of us. In world politics and economy, although Japan is small nation, they are now a super power. They have obtained such status after developing the sprout of national integration into the mind of each and every citizen. Samurai, the warier community who give up their privilege for the nation. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar strongly gave his stress on 'First I am an Indian and last also an Indian'. We should foster a common identity amongst the citizens of a country making them feel that they are all one. The national integration makes the nation strong and organized. In Indian culture, the social, political, economic and religious power is in the hand of upper caste community. Through this status, they have exploited to the lower caste people from long ago. This study can help to identify the students who have social dominance orientation style and sexual violence risk among upper caste students. We can persuasive their attitude by developing the seeds of national integration into their mind.

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