

Socio-Cultural Factors that Affect Rape (in Relation to Mahara Prison)

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A woman living in any country and in any social background can be put under physical or mental pressure due to the influence of economic, social or cultural factors. It can either be physical or mental pressure. Situations such as rape, rape and murder can be identified as instances of being physically pressured. At present, this crime is increasing numerical. According to the annual police reports in Sri Lanka, rape rate increased from 7.4 cases per 100,000 population in 2004 to 10.6 cases per 100,000 population in 2013, growing at an average annual rate of 6.57%. 2008 cases of rape were reported to the police in 2014 and the number of reported rape cases have increased to 2033 in 2015. The problem of this study was 'what socio-cultural factors affect rape? Mahara prison was selected for the study because it had some inmates who were convicted as repeat offenders for rape. Taking into consideration of the situation mentioned above, the main objective of this study was recognition of the socio-cultural factors that affect rape. Understanding the ethnicity, age group, civil status, educational level and family background of the rapists, the relationship between reape and the non-sexual needs, were the other specific objectives of the study. 40 detainees who were convicted by the courts for female rape were randomly selected as the sample of the research. Structural and non-structural interviews, case studies and observations were used as the method for primary data collection. Secondary data were collected from books, magazines, research reports, police records, websites, etc. This research found that uncontrollable lust highly affect rape. There was a clear relationship between rape and use of alcohol or drugs. 27.5% of rapes were affected by alcohol or drug consumption. Further, this research found that non sexual factors such as revenge (10%) and break up of love affairs (2.5%) have also affected rape. The sexual curiosity occurred in the duration of love affair, non-fulfilment of sexual intentions, prostitution were found as the other socio-cultural factors that affected rape.

Keywords - grave crime; prostitution; rape; sexual curiosity; socio-cultural factors.