CHAPTER I

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Background

Geography is a subject which deals with the spatial-temporal arrangement of all the phenomena lying on the surface of the earth. It is an interdisciplinary subject covering a wide spectrum which includes physical, environmental, human as well as social, cultural and economic aspect and examines numerous tangible and intangible, natural and man-made phenomena. Basically it is divided into Physical and Human geography. In human geography the major thrust is on the study of human societies which covers the relationship between man and the natural environment and the way in which his activities are distributed. However with the passage of time, as knowledge grows and culture advances, the scope of the subject also changes and covers wider field. Now it also embraces the study of human races in various parts of the world- their growth, distribution, density including demographic attribute and migration patterns. It also studies the physical and cultural differences between human groups and economic activities and also takes into account the types and patterns of settlements and so on.

Human geography encompasses all subject matters of geography that are not directly concerned with the physical environment. It also incorporates all social sciences by providing necessary spatial and systematic perspective. The societies and cultures created in the landscapes of different regions of the earth helps to understand the economic, social, and political systems within which individuals or groups exist and operate. Analyses of spatial interaction of the phenomenon create more awareness of realities and scenario of the societies in an increasingly troubled and changing world.
Kalidas Sarma (2010) has presented a detailed account on crimes in Assam during 1975 to 2001 with special reference to Brahmaputra valley. He has pointed that the geographical study of the incidence of crime delinquency is generally thought to have begun a century and a half ago with the work of the “Cartographic school” pioneered in the 1830’s by the French writer Guerry and followed by others in Britain and elsewhere. He further stated that a sharp regional variation in offences rates disclosed by these early mapmakers, supplied the first systematic evidence that criminality is space-specific.¹ Hence, geographical studies related to gender issues can provide essential information that facilitates an understanding of the important issues faced by communities, enabling one to prepare better contribution towards solutions.

Gender discrimination is one of the most serious and worldwide issue encountered by every society these days. The term ‘gender discrimination’ (sexism) basically means that a person or a group are being treated in a detrimental manner due to their gender or sex. From theoretical point of view gender discrimination can affect both men and women.² However, discrimination against women is the most prevalent as many cultures in the world are patriarchal or male dominated. In many countries, women get less opportunity than men in terms of education, participation in social, economic and political functions etc. Women are also paid less than men for the same type of work and their right to ownership of land and property is conditioned by local customs and laws.

One of the main goals of the United Nations is to promote and encourage respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms for all irrespective of race, sex, language, or religion. Although international and intergovernmental bodies had

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¹ (Kalidas Sarma, 2010, pp1-2)  
² (Rita Putatunda, 2008, pp.1)
contributed towards betterment in the status of women, nevertheless discrimination against women in political and civil life continues to prevail in nearly every region of the world. Women are being neglected in areas such as higher education and professional careers. The occupation prospects for women are usually less than men in many countries. The number of employed women gradually decreases as one goes to highest level of occupations. Even in advance and developed countries, women have experience the unfairness of the ‘glass ceiling’, in which they just do not get promoted beyond a certain level. Limited access of women in Science-related careers as well as in their profession was reported by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in 2005. Out of the 42 laboratories of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) spread over different states of the country, not even one is headed by women. So far no woman has held the post of Director-General of CSIR or President of INSA.\(^3\) Thus, indicating a clear evidence of the presence of gender discrimination.

Besides being neglected in the various socio-economic spheres, women are also prone to crime and violence in many forms which has threatened their security in the society. Women suffer from violence at home when being ill-treated by their spouse, in-laws, relatives, neighbor etc. and also suffer from harassment at work when humiliated and being presented as sexual object in media and many more. According to Ram Ahuja (1998) violence is not merely aggression or injury committed by one individual against another; it is more precisely the abuse of power. It involves such behavior in which a powerful person takes advantage over a less powerful person.\(^4\) Women at all point of time are encountered with harassment and exploitation in various spheres of life. The incidence of violence by men towards women is not the same in all communities, due to cultural, social and family norms followed by different communities which differ from

\(^3\) (Manoranjan Pal, et.al, 2011pp.2)
\(^4\) (Ram Ahuja, 1998,pp.31)
one another. However it is essential to examine violence against women from the general point of view.

Many initiatives have been taken by the Government of India to curb the gender violence in the country. Some of the major actions are as follows:

i. **National Commission for women (NCW):** The central government has set-up this statutory body in January 1992 with a purpose to examine and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women, to review the existing legislation and to suggest amendments wherever necessary.

ii. **Reservation for women in local self-government:** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Acts passed in 1992 by the Parliament ensure one-third of the total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies whether in rural or urban areas.

iii. **The National Plan of Action for the Girl child (1991-2000):** The main aim of the plan is to ensure survival, protection and development of the girl child with the ultimate objective of building up a better future for the girl child.

iv. **National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (NPEW), 2001:** The department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has prepared the “National Policy for the Empowerment of Women” in the year 2001. The goal of this policy is to bring about advancement, development and empowerment of women.

v. **National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), 2010:** It was launched in March 2010 and provides the much required fillip to coordinate assessment of current government interventions and aligning future programs so as to translate the NPEW prescription into reality. The mission was in operation during 2011-2012.
Various organizations in the state established support services for women victims of crime and violence. The Meghalaya State Social Welfare Advisory Board (MSSWAB) works on programmes meant for the welfare of children, women, the handicapped, the aged and the infirm. These programmes take place in different districts of Meghalaya. The MSSWAB has two kinds of action plan:

i. Providing Legal aid – The Voluntary Action Bureau (VAB)

ii. Providing awareness to women in distress- The Family Counseling Centre (FCC)

There are two FCC supported by the MSSWAB:

i. The Bosco Reach Out (NGO)

ii. The North East India Education Society

The Activities of the FCC are:

i. To provide curative, preventive and rehabilitation services to women who are victims of abuse, atrocities and exploitation.

ii. The Counseling services are normally extended to women who are involved in family disputes.

iii. The FCC works in creating awareness about prevailing laws pertaining to the welfare of women and in assisting women with legal services such as claimant for maintenance after divorce and others.

iv. Very often some of the cases are referred to employment agencies in the field of crafts, tailoring centers, depending on the person’s interest.

Though the constitution of India guarantees equality, freedom, opportunity and protection for women, yet, they remain far behind men in many respects. Some linked it to illiteracy, poverty, social customs, ignorance, and lack of awareness of rights, while others are of the opinion that it is due to personal sentiments like helplessness, weak,
inferiority complex, lack of self confidence and self-reliance etc. The poor implementation of laws granting rights to women has kept women in low status in the social, economic and political sphere. It is observed that not only women who are socio-economically deprived are victims of crime and violence, but well to do women are also being exploited in many ways. Such ill-treatment is perpetrated by senior colleagues, to maid-servants by their masters, and to ware-earners by contractors and middlemen and in some cases even police officers are involved. Even the disabled in the society like deaf, dumb, lunatic, blind women and beggars are not spared.5

In recent years, incidence of violence against women are reported to be escalating alarmingly in our country which has vexed everyone in the society, on the other hand, the increasing awareness of the rights of women and feminist movement has resulted to greater sensitivity of the issue. The problem encountered by women in the developed countries is mostly one of identity, job and equality, while their counterpart in developing countries suffered from abused and violence. Since, time immemorial women all over the world are being considered as passive, weak and sometime perceived as sexual objects only. The occurrence of gender discrimination against women is a phenomenon which also include crime and violence ranges from simple eve-teasing to deadly ones such as being sold into sex-trafficking trade, to rape, to abuse, to sex-selective abortion, to infanticide, to dowry death and honor killings and the list is in exhaustible. Such issues have cause concern to everyone in the society including academicians and scholars and therefore require a collective effort to resist this menace. It is believe that widespread education and economic independence can tackle this problem in developing world, in develop countries it can be control to a large extent.

5 (Ram Ahuja,1998,pp.21)
extent by continuous sensitization of men about the detrimental effects of such social menace.

In most countries of the world women remain economically disadvantaged, making them vulnerable to violence and incapable of escaping it. The concept of women’s right enabled women around the world to question about the widespread discrimination and violence that women experience in all walks of life and facilitates the emergence of collaborative strategies for promoting the human rights of women. Crime and violence against women may not be identical in all communities because moral and social beliefs including family traits differ from group to group. There is no woman at any point of time who has not suffered from harassment, humiliation, exploitation and violence that shadow her sex. Even in matrilineal society of the Khasis in Meghalaya in which women are anticipated to be independent of violence, are not free from such violence.

The state of Meghalaya is the home of Khasi, Jaintia and Garo tribal groups believed to be one of the largest surviving matrilineal culture of the world. In the matrilineal system, the authority, title, inheritance, and residence after marriage and succession are traced through the female line. One may presume that things could be better off for the women of Meghalaya as they enjoy special social status. And many expect that it can provide the much needed hope in setting an example to bring about a change in the mindset towards women into a positive, acceptable and respectable one throughout the world. However, crime and discrimination against women is reported almost on a daily basis, even in a matrilineal social setup. Therefore, an in-depth study will help in understanding the status of women in a matrilineal society and the crime and discrimination against women prevailing in such society.
1.1 Statement of the Problem

The capital of Meghalaya lies in East Khasi hills (Shillong). Different activities of the state like administration, economic, social, health, educational etc. are concentrated in the district. With the passage of time, the district has experienced growth in terms of population, literacy rate, socio-economic development and migration. Along with these growths, one can observed the changes happening in the city both in the physical and social environment, and also positive changes like improvement in education, health facilities, technology, etc. and the negative changes that have brought down the socio-cultural values of the entire society, especially the moral ethics which keeps on degrading day by day. The most alarming experienced that is reported time and again these days, is the increasing crime and discrimination against women similar to those that happened in other parts of the world which include rape, molestation, kidnapping/abduction, eve teasing, murder for dowry, attempt to commit murder, dowry death, attempt to commit suicide, cruelty by husband, abetment of suicides, importing of girls, immoral trafficking etc.

The most important question is that “why these things happen in our society amidst growth and development that we have experienced around us?” These things keep tickling in the minds of many people who are concerned about the well being of the society especially the women. In the past the state witnesses a regular flare up and outrage against excesses on women. Ms. Wansuk Syiem, members of the National Commission for Women (NCW) expressed concern over increasing crimes against women in Meghalaya, the only matrilineal society in the country. Quoting her, "Unlike in other states, we at the National Commission did not expect that crime graph on violence against women would rise so high in a matrilineal society of Meghalaya". The
Chairperson of Meghalaya State Women Commission admitted that the womenfolk in Meghalaya are no longer safe due to rising crimes against them. Moreover, the National Commission for Women (NCW) called for an urgent need to study the causes of violence against women.

According to Police report, during 2001-2013, out of 2525 cases the number of crime cases against women was 72 in 2001, 87 in 2002 and 85 in 2003. It rose gradually to 110 in 2004 and 143 in 2005. The crime graph increases more in 2006 with 186 registered cases and 171 in 2007. It escalated further to 209 in 2008, 241 in 2009 and 279 in 2010. Thus, the crime increases further with a total of 391 in 2013. In 2013 the highest registered crime against women is in East Khasi Hills (162), followed by West Garo Hills (55), Jaintia Hills (54), West Khasi Hills (47), Ribhooi (43), East Garo Hills (19) and the lowest is recorded in South Garo Hills (11).

Figure 1.01: Crime against women in Meghalaya, 2001-2013

![Crime against women in Meghalaya (2001-2013)](image)

*Source: Office of the Director General of Police, Shillong, Office of the Superintendent of Police, Shillong, All Police stations of East Khasi hills, Meghalaya.*

The type of crimes committed and the location appears to have spatial-temporal dimensions and therefore it requires a geographical study. The contribution of scholars
and academicians is very important in this aspect in order to understand the very nature of this social evil and to find ways and means to mitigate and eradicate the problem. Therefore, the present research study, entitled “Gender Discrimination in East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya - A spatial Analysis” has been taken. The present study will not only provide awareness and understanding but also helps in finding out solutions to such problem and also bring about anticipated security, and dignity of women in the society.

1.2 Study Area

The study area covers the East Khasi hill district of Meghalaya. It is located in fairly rolling topography of the central part of the Meghalaya plateau at 25° 07’ to 25° 41’ North Latitude and 91° 21’ to 92° 09’ East Longitude and covering an area of about 2748 sq km. It acts as a water divide between the Brahmaputra river basin in the north and the Surma river basin of Bangladesh in the south. The district enjoys a pleasant monsoonal type of climate, favoring a diverse vegetation cover comprising of mixed tropical forest, grassland, and temperate forest with rich biodiversity. East Khasi Hill district is a landscape shared by many indigenous tribes following a kaleidoscope of colorful, unique and rare cultures. The main tribal inhabitants of the district comprise the Khasis, Jaintias and the Garos. Besides these, the district is also the home of other smaller ones such as the Hajongs, Kochs, and the Rabhas.

Most of these communities are still following the age old simple traditional way of life. However with the influence of the colonial regime that came about in the 17th century and lasted for one and a half century, the region was fairly exposed to the outside world and a significant part of traditional way of life has been eroded and the people thrive to adopt the modern lifestyle especially in the urban areas.
At present the district is also the home of many non-tribal communities. According to Census of India (2011), the population of the district was 8, 25,922 persons scattered over 8 Community & Rural Development blocks comprising of 962 villages and 8 towns. Shillong, being the capital of the state caters to a population of 1, 43,007 persons. The urbanization in the district is about 44.42%. The city is the hub of all administrative, education, health, recreation, culture and a vast array of functions. The density of population of the district is about 301 persons per sq km, and the sex ratio is 1011 female per 1000 males (Census of India 2011). The average literacy rate of the district is 84.15% and the differences between the urban and the rural is 91.41% and 77.73% respectively indicating the uneven developmental scenario within the district which is a matter of concern.

East Khasi Hills has considerably better infrastructural facilities compared to other districts of the state. The city of Shillong which is located in the district is fairly cosmopolitan where one can see the co-existence of a multi-ethnic society. The matrilineal system is the culture in the region where social concessions such as authority, title, inheritance, residence after marriage and succession are traced through the female line. However, the political and administrative affairs of the society are left to the men folks to decide. Besides, the occupational structure within the urban centers is basically tertiary with little presences of secondary sector and the rural counter parts are mostly engaged in primary activities.

1.3 Objectives

1. To examine the causes of gender discrimination in East Khasi hills district.

2. To study the extent of crimes and discrimination against women.

3. To identify the areas where these types of crimes are more concentrated, and
4. To correlate between crime against women and socio-economic condition of the area.

1.4 Significance of the study

Geography is an interdisciplinary field of study, encompassing subject matters like physical, environmental, human as well as social and economic aspects. Since it is a subject which deals with the spatial-temporal arrangement of all the phenomena lying on the surface of the earth, therefore studies related to problems in any of the above aspects can in some way or the other help to bring about some solutions concerning to the problems.

The study area is witnessing crime against women like rape, molestation, kidnapping/abduction, eve teasing, murder for dowry, attempt to commit murder, dowry death, attempt to commit suicide, cruelty by husband, abetment of suicides, importing of girls, immoral trafficking and so on which deteriorate the social environment. These are very serious issues faced not only by the tribal societies but also the develop region of the world. An effort has been made in this study to highlight the factors that lead to the increasing crime against women in the society. It is strongly believed that only with proper understanding of the problem one can come out with an effective solutions that will ensure a safe and secure society for women, free from discrimination which will led to social stability and economic development of the state.

1.5 Hypothesis

1. Does the social and economic disparity gives rise to gender discrimination.

2. Do modern technology and changing lifestyles weakens the socio-cultural and moral ethics.
3. Does the issue of gender discrimination in the society a sign of social malfunction and breakdown of family values.

4. Does the occurrence of crime and violence against women a concern for every member of the society.

1.6 Methodology

The study involves both primary and secondary data. It is based on empirical facts and figures obtained through three systematic phases which are as follows:

a) **Pre-field work phase**: In this phase, data related to the study area both concerning physical, socio-cultural and economic aspects are gathered from topographical maps, imageries, statistical hand books and other secondary sources.

b) **Field work phase**: This phase include field survey on the study area based on observation and gathering of socio-cultural and economic information and questionnaires. The study includes both primary and secondary data. Crime data for the district has been collected from State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB), Shillong and Office of the Superintendent of Police, East Khasi hills district, Shillong. The data were also collected from all the Police stations in the district which is based on the occurrence of offense reported in each Police Station. The base year for the study has been taken from 2001. Simple random sampling technique has been adopted for the collection of samples. Relevant and meaningful opinions and information from the Police Department, Women organization, Support services for women, print and electronic media, private
and other organization, including from experts, scholars, and others are gathered and incorporated to fulfill the spelt out objectives of the thesis.

c) **Post Field Work Phase:** All data, information and evidences from primary and secondary sources are analyzed, interpreted and presented. Cartographic and GIS techniques are being utilized for spatial analysis.

### 1.7 Limitation of the work

Like all other research work the present study has its own limitations and drawbacks. Inspite of being the first of its kind in the district possibly the study have limitations. The methodology used in the study has come across limitations and possible biasness which maybe broken down into the following categories.

1) Like in other parts of the country, the only source of data on crime against women in Meghalaya is administrative records. The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) at the national level and the State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) at the state level brings out the crime statistics on an annual basis compiled through various police stations and agencies. Other less recognized but useful statistics include those collected by the health sector and by various types of Institutions and Organizations that provide services to women who are victims of crime. The data on crime against women is recorded on a daily basis at various police stations and is submitted monthly to the office of the Superintendent of Police of the respective districts, which compiled and maintained the data for the entire district. Furthermore, all the data collected and compiled at the district level are then send to the State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) which maintained the record of all the crimes for the entire State. Therefore during the process of transferring data there is every possibility of clerical errors. A variation has
been observed in the data collected from the state crime bureau and those collected from the Superintendent of Police. Thus, while considering the study area in this case the data collected from Police stations and SP office are incorporated.

2) Collecting primary data on the study of crimes and violence against women is not as easy as expected because such issues are connected with the personal feeling and sentiment of the victims. Therefore lots of hindrances are encountered in getting contact with the victims as the identity of the victim remains concealed. Moreover, hesitance of the victims to discuss the issues other than the concern person is another problem. Even authority like the Women Police Department does not encourage any individual to discuss the matter with the victims as such issues are being handled by the investigating officers of the Police department. Hence with much effort some samples could be collected for the study with the help and support of counselors, women support centers, newspapers etc. Though the available samples are limited however, sufficient fact and information has been able to extract for the purpose of the present study.

3) Due to varying degrees of non-reporting cases, simple trend analyses were considered. Number of crimes in the rural areas is likely to be unreported more often than in the urban areas. Only relatively major crimes occurring in families due to domestic violence are expected to be reported to the police and concerned agencies with varying degree of coverage in rural and urban areas.

1.8 Review of literature

A review of relevant literature and research work to support the present study is very much needed to attain a clear understanding of the nature of the problem
undertaking for the study. There are various literatures, research works and articles related to crime and discrimination against women that has been done widely. Thomas Laird (1995) in his article, *A woman's world - Meghalaya, India, matrilineal culture*, discussed on the changing traditions that have been in existence for thousands of years, but which are now seen as sources of social discrimination. The paper has offered a clear understanding of the social status of women in Meghalaya. Anup Shah (1998) in *Women's Right* has highlighted on the discrimination against women at various stages of life that takes in the form of feticides and infanticides where there is a clear economic and cultural preference for sons, the middle years of childhood and adolescence in which mostly girls suffer from educational disadvantage. The author stress on the point as highlighted by the UNICEF that “Among the greatest threats to adolescent development are abuse, exploitation and violence, and the lack of vital knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS”. Women face double discrimination on the basis of both gender and age as many older women are plunged into poverty at a time of life when they are very vulnerable.

R.K. Dutta in a book entitled *Crime against women* (2003) has emphasized on domestic violence in correlation with the family and social system in India. The author has illustrated his work with examples of the incidence of violence encountered by women. He has also attempted to classify the different form of violence perpetrated against women in the family and highlighted their causes. The different laws and Acts pertaining to crime and violence against women and the problem of implementing them have also been discussed. The book has also included the various strategies taken up by various governmental and non-governmental institutions to address the issue. The author remarked that “inspite of all that is being said and done in the name of feminism or the upliftment of women and all the tall claims being made by the government, the
paths of women are still beset with several difficulties though since women cover half
the sky, it should be one of society’s primary concerns to look into the problems women
are confronted with and to try to solve these problems.” Valuable information on the
various aspects of crime and discrimination against women has been highlighted in the
book. The types of crimes against women, their causes and the different laws and
strategies undertaking to tackle the issue have also been incorporated.

Kalidas Sarma (2010), in his book entitled “Geography of Crime: Assam” has
presented a detailed account on crimes in Assam during 1975 to 2001 with special
reference to Brahmaputra valley. He pointed out that the geographical study of the
incidence of crime delinquency is generally thought to have begun a century and a half
ago with the work of the “Cartographic school” pioneered by the French writer Guerry
in the 1830’s followed by other in Britain and elsewhere. Moreover he stated that the
sharp regional variation in offences rates disclosed by these early mapmakers, offered
the first systematic evidence that criminality is space-specific. The author has
extensively made a comparative study of spatial-temporal pattern of different types of
crimes. Nehal Ashraf (1997) in Crime against Women (A case study of Bihar) is of the
viewed that women and crime have always made news which generally are noticed,
keenly read and attract the attention. Leading newspapers almost daily publish as banner
news crimes against women both in rural and urban areas of Bihar. The police who are
supposed to protect the women sometimes turn into perpetrators of such crimes. The
author has tried to explore the nature of crime against women and analyze the
characteristics of the offense, the offenders and the victims. The data was analyzed to
examine the rural urban differences and the regional variations across four cultural
zones of Bihar. The study has succeeded in identifying causes of such crimes and
suggested action necessary for prevention.
Furthermore, according to Ram Ahuja (1997) in *Social Problems in India*, has done an extensive research studies on women issues in India. He stress on the fact that women are victims of violence from time immemorial when he states that “the problem of violence against women is not new. Women in the Indian society have been victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation for as long as we have written records of social organization and family life”. He further pointed out that, today women are being gradually recognized as important, powerful and meaningful contributors to the life of men, but till a few decades back, their condition was pitiable. In spite of the legislative measures adopted in favor of women in our society after Independence, the spread of education and women’s gradual economic independence, countless women still continue to be victims of violence.

The paper on *Status of Women in the Rural Khasi Society of Meghalaya*, by De Utpal Kumar Ghosh, Bhola Nath (2007), highlighted the importance of empowerment of women which has been much discussed at various levels to find out the solution to age old problem of gender discrimination, exploitation of women and upliftment of their status and position in the society. It has been pointed out that in most of the tribal societies even if poor, women always have an instilled special position and role they play in different spheres with great responsibility vis-à-vis their counterpart men. The direction to which the position and status of women are moving with the development of the society has been enquired. This paper has attempted to examine the dynamics of the status and role of tribal women in Meghalaya, especially of Khasi women.

*Gender and Discrimination-health, nutritional status and role of women in India* (2011) is a book edited by Manoranjan Pal, Premananda Bharati, Bholanath Ghosh and T.S. Vasulu. The book has highlighted on how the issue of gender discrimination in different spheres of life like health and nutrition, work participation, sex ratio
imbalances and various socio-cultural constraints etc. underlying discrimination is addressed. It has integrated the various ways in which gender inequality is measured and incorporates the policies related to women empowerment and the challenges in achieving gender equity.

*Violence against women* by Ram Ahuja (1998) is a book dealt comprehensively with the nature and patterns of crime and violence against women in India based on socio-cultural perspective. The author has adopted case study method of some cities of Rajasthan on the various incidences of violence against women. The different types of crime and violence have been discussed in detailed and accordingly examples have been incorporated for the purpose. Moreover, it has also highlighted the remedial measures that can be adopted to tackle the problem by focusing on humanistic approach. According to the author, violence is not merely aggression and injury causing to women, but it is the abuse of power. The book contains various aspects on the issue of crime and gender discrimination and its correlation with the socio-cultural features. Loya Maisnam (1999), a journalist of an Imphal based Vernacular Daily ‘Kangla-Pao’ in an article on “*Girls and Gender Discrimination*”, has stress on the seriousness of the issue of gender discrimination in the society. According to him, “Gender discrimination and patriarchal domination has shown us today a case to be study in a wide range of scope. Many human rights institutes and other forth runner frontal organizations have taken many serious steps towards human dignity, including gender discrimination, for liberty and for human rights violation in the region a long time ago. Though a particular reflections in regarding the gender crisis has not been measured in the region, despite peoples’ local voices against the gender humiliation and so on, a wide spread discrimination has already been dominated the contiguous regions of the state. When we discuss the gender discrimination, we could never ignore the root cause of the matter,
which is still remained in a negligible status, the girls' right. We all have gone through many known crisis and disputes, and moreover gender discrimination. But we left to focus the discrimination of girl rights, which is the basic case study of the gender discrimination.” Thus the paper has reflected on the growing importance of the issue of crime and gender discrimination and call for serious attention by all concern in the society.

Stuart Malkin (2005) in *Gender Bias, Gender Discrimination, Gender Equality* has address on the issue of gender discrimination in the society. He stress on the importance of the equality of women in the society and pointed out that “from Looking for a Better World: One of my major interests is in the equality of women in all societies. Gender bias is as hurtful and destructive as any other bias.” Rita Putatunda (2008) in an article on *Sexism – Gender Discrimination* has elaborately discussed the concept of gender discrimination. According to the author gender discrimination is a reality face by women all over the world in various field of life- in the work place from being sexually harassed by male colleagues to women getting paid less for the same job to preferential treatment given by male bosses and many more. Further the author stated that gender discrimination also occurs in religion as practically all religions in the world are male dominated, and that most gender discrimination has their roots in these religions, with women being relegated to a much lower level than men. It has brought into light the facts that gender discrimination is a universal issue surpassing every level of the society.

James Vadackumcherry (2002) in his book entitled *Society, Police and Crimes- Task and challenges* express that crimes begin at home and then develop. Hence any attempt to control and prevent crimes must start at home. Investigation, detection, control and prevention of crimes with the people’s participation ensure better results
than the same by police muscles, torture, human rights violations and degrading treatment. The author is of the opinion that archaic laws must be replaced by new laws to ensure efficiency and certainty in police work. The book enlightens with ideas which must guide the law enforcement for the third millennium.

Anil Bhuimali (2005) in *Poverty and Human Rights of women* is a compilation of papers on the various issues pertaining to human rights by focusing more on poverty and violations of women rights. It has provided valuable information related to the role of various national and international institutions to tackle the issue of crime and violence against women in the various spheres of life including the establishment of various institutional mechanisms to safeguard and promote women’s right.

*Women who dared* edited by Ritu Menon (2002), is a book that reflect on the contribution of a few representative women who have engineered in the Socio-cultural landscape of the country over the last 50 years. It has provided a glimpse of the nation’s own biography as it has highlighted the lives of women through their brief cameo autobiographies. The anthology features women, who, in their diverse ways, have not only left on their own but in some significant ways represented the struggles and aspirations of the entire womenfolk. The book, *Behind Closed Doors- Domestic Violence in India*, edited by Rinki Bhattacharya (2004), a renowned women’s right activist and a former victim of domestic violence. The book contains the life stories of seventeen women from diverse culture, class, education and religious backgrounds in India who were victims of domestic violence. Apart from being a first person account, this book is a tribute to the courage and determination of women who decided to break their silence. It has inspires other victims of this ‘hidden crime,’ to speak out, share their plight and change their face. The book has focused on the very important issue of violence practically experienced by women.
1.9 Chapterization

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5.2 Crime in relation to Socio-economic condition of the area

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5.4 Observations and reflections

CHAPTER VI: Conclusion

6.1 Findings

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