

# Victim-Offender Relationship and Attitude Towards Premarital Sex of Convicted Rapist

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## ABSTRACT

Sexual violence is a problem that affects children and adolescents regardless of age, religion, education level, marital status, or sexual orientation. The aim of this study is to analyze the victim-offender relationship and the attitudes toward premarital sex of offenders. This study was carried out at Eleven Central Prisons in Madhya Pradesh, India. The Non-Probability sampling design used the Purposive sampling method to collect the data. The tools used for the research work were the interview schedule and the sexual attitude scale. In 46.5 percent of cases it was found that the victims were known persons and already knew the offender. The reason behind in most of the cases, the offender used to make the children the victims. 1.75 percent of the cases, the level of sexual behavior of the offenders towards premarital sex relations were very high. From this, it can be concluded that this behavior was due to context of pre-marriage, live-in relationships and love affairs with the victim. Revenge against the victim by the offenders and conflict with the victim's family, which included temptation of the victim to marry, etc. Change in the behavior of offenders can be brought through various corrective programs being run in the prison. Vocational training, yoga, meditation and other activities change the convicts' attitude inside the prison.

**Keywords:** Offenders, Sexual Attitudes, Pre-Marital Sex. Live-in-relationship.

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## 1. Introduction

Sexual violence against women and children is globally recognized as a social and human rights concern, In India sexual violence towards women is a serious public health problem. Sexual knowledge and attitudes are often studied together. Sexual attitude refers to the attitude one has toward sexuality or sexual behaviors, which could be either liberal

or conservative. Internet was found to be the major source for gathering information and was considered the most reliable source. Indian youth continue to have poor sexual knowledge. Internet is a major source of information and is considered as the most reliable one among youth (Dutt & Manjula, 2017). The youth gathered information about sexuality largely from Internet, friends, movies, newspapers, magazines and books compared with getting knowledge from parents and family members. With respect to clarifying doubts, most of them relied on friends, and the least preferred source was parents. They trusted Internet as the most reliable source of information followed by friends and printed material compared with other sources (Avasthi, 1992). The World Health Organization defines sexual violence as “*any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting including but not limited to home and work*” (Etienne et al., 2002). Rape is a severe physical or mental health problem that has lasting harmful effects on individuals, families and communities (Galun et al., 2020). The victim–offender relationship may be an important factor in the effects of sexual assault for the victim. The psychosocial aftermath of rape may vary according to the victim–offender relationship, even though most survivors have a range of symptoms that are typically greater than those of nonvictimized women (Resick, 1993). One of the most popular theories of criminal behavior, especially among sociologists and social psychologists, is the notion that criminal behavior is learned behavior (Jeffery, 1965). The relationship between victimization and offending, also referred to as the victim- offender overlap, is widely documented. While crime victims do not always become offenders, most offenders have been victims. The victimization experience can produce negative physical, mental, and behavioral outcomes in individuals and some may go on to commit their own crimes (DeLong & Reichert, 2019). The sexual impulse is an instinct like hunger and thirst. The reason for pornography’s increasing importance in our society is that sex has become a larger business than music and film industries combined (Abraham, 1997). The sexual offender and Pornography research shows relationship between the crimes. In the study of Padgett & Brislin Slutz (1989) report that patrons of adult theaters who view more pornography than college students who were also studied, more favorable attitudes toward women than college students, and attitudes toward women are not influenced by type of exposure (Holmes & Holmes, 2009). According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data Statistics Crime in India 2020 offender’s relation to victims section 376 IPC data shows cases in which offenders were known to the victim is (26,808), in first category cases Family members (2,502), Family Friends, Neighbors, employer or other known persons (10,751), friends online or live-in partners on the pretext of marriage, separated husband (13,555) and cases in which offenders unknown to the victim or not

identified (1,238). On the other hand, according to POCSO Act, 2012 offender's relation to child victims section 4&6 data shows cases in which offenders were known to the victim is (26,934), in first category cases Family members (2,556), Family Friends, Neighbors, employer or other known persons (11,272), friends online or live-in partners on the pretext of marriage, separated husband (13,106) and cases in which offenders unknown to the victim or not identified (1,131) (NCRB, 2020).

## 2. Typology of Rapist

According to Groth et al., (1977), the authors divided rape into two motivational categories: Power rape and anger rape they identified six subcategories as follows: Power-assertive rapist, Power-reassurance rapist, Anger-retaliation rapist, Anger excitation rapist, Opportunistic rapist, Gang rapist.

- ❑ **Power- assertive rapist:** commits rape for the purpose of expressing his virility, mastery, and dominance. This type of rapist feels entitled to take it from his victims and uses sexual domination to keep his victims usually women in line.
- ❑ **Power- reassurance rapist:** commits rape in an effort to dispel doubts about his sexual adequacy and masculinity by gaining total control of his victims and rendering them helpless
- ❑ So they cannot resist him.
- ❑ **Anger- retaliation rapist:** commits rape for the purpose of expressing his hostility and rage toward women. This rapist's primary motive is revenge and he seeks to achieve it by Degrading and humiliating the victims.
- ❑ **Anger excitation rapist:** commits rape for the purpose of deriving pleasure, thrills, and excitement from observing the suffering of his victim. This type of rapist experiences sadistic
- ❑ urges and therefore seeks to punish, hurt and torture his victim.
- ❑ **Opportunistic rapist:** commits rape for the opportunity, the opportunistic rapist is an impulse offender, the opportunistic rapist may be the only rapist whose primary motivation for assaulting a woman is sexual in nature.
- ❑ **Gang rapist:** commits rape is one of the most frightening situations for a victim's the victim's attacked by a group of males (three or more) who are operating with a Pack mentality. Each offender is trying to prove himself in some manner to others and Subsequently, the victims may be permanently traumatized.

## 3. Review of Literature

Alfred Kinsey's (1948) conducted interviews with Americans of all ages and from diverse backgrounds. He published the results in Sexual Behavior in the Human Male in 1948 and results of the men were 46% engaged in heterosexual and homosexual behavior or were aroused by persons of both sexes. Only 12% of White males (between the ages of 20–35)

received a score of 3 on a 7- point scale, indicating about equal heterosexual and homosexual experiences/responses (Kinsey et al., 1948).

Holmes & Holmes discussed the study of Kant and Goldstein and found three groups “*Normal’s*,” “*users*,” and incarcerated rapist. They found that sex offenders all reported less exposure to pornographic material than did the other group. The most important finding is that sex offenders, not only as adolescents but also adults, see less pornography than do normal and or users.

According to the victim-offender relationship, Ullman and his colleagues studied and identified differences in background, assault, and post assault factors. Than 1,000 female sexual assault survivors response rate 90% recruited from college, community, and mental health agency sources. Stranger assailants are associated with a greater victim perceived life threat, more severe sexual assaults, and ethnic minority victims. Positive social reactions do not vary according to the victim- offender relationship, but stranger victims report more negative social reactions from others than do victims of acquaintances or romantic partners. Assaults by strangers and relatives are associated with more posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms than assaults by acquaintances and romantic partners (Ullman, et. al., 2006).

The 2016 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) revealed U.S. residents experienced 5.4 million violent victimizations. Children are at higher risk for victimization 61 percent of U.S. youth under age 17 were exposed to violence in the past year, and 39 percent of children and their caregivers reported multiple direct victimizations (Morgan & Kena, 2017).

Research of Tjaden & Thoennes shows that nearly two thirds of sexual assaults are committed by known offenders including friends, acquaintances, intimate partners, and relatives, of which up to 15% may be committed by husbands or romantic partners.

Amir (1958 & 1960) studied rape and rapist in Philadelphia police rape records. Because more than one man was sometimes involved in raping a single victim, there were a total of 1292 offenders responsible for the raping 646 victims. He found the median age of the Philadelphia rapist was 23 but the largest age group among rapists was the 15-19 year olds. Amir found most rapists were unmarried, however that could be due to their young age. He also found that the older rapist the younger the victim several years. He also found that 19% of all forcible rapes were victim precipitated by such factors as the use of alcohol by both parties; seductive actions by the victim; and the victim’s wearing of revealing clothing, which could tantalize the offender to the point of misreading the victim’s behavior.

In this study a survey conducted by Opinion and Future Trends (COFT) as reported in the Times of India (July18th, 1994) Attitudes towards premarital relationship are drastically changing in the Indian society. An interesting finding, especially in the context of the

apprehension among some sections about growing sexual permissiveness as a result of the influence of films and foreign satellite television program, is that 43% of young unmarried women and 61% of men approve of some degree of physical intimacy before marriage (Abraham, 1997).

#### **4. Objectives of the Study**

To know about the relation of offenders with the victim of rape crime.

#### **5. Methodology**

The 400 convicted offenders of rape were taken from the all eleven central prisons of Madhya Pradesh for the study. In this work, Personal information was taken from the offenders related to the age of offenders at the time of the crime, victim's age, type of residence, marital status, educational qualifications, family type, occupation, relation with the victim. The method of purposive sampling has been used for the collection of data. The data was collected with the help of an interview schedule and a psychological Scale. The interview schedule was pre-tested and standardized before conducted the interview. The data analysis has been done through the SPSS software and represented through the table and the diagram by using frequency statistics analysis.

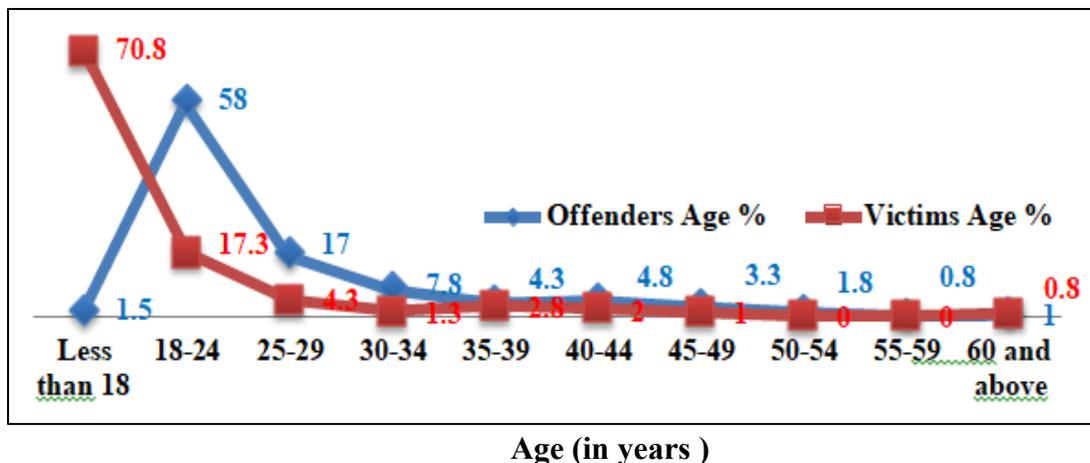
#### **6. Result**

Table 1 shows that 76.8 per cent of the offenders were from rural areas, and others were from urban areas. Marital status shows that 55.8% of offenders were unmarried, and 40.3% were married, followed by divorced 1% and 2.3% of the separated or .8% of the widower. In case of Family background was found that 68% of the offenders lived in joint family system and 32% in nuclear family system. In educational qualification, the highest number of offenders were 22% received primary level of education, 16.5% middle school level, 17.5% high school, 6.3% higher secondary school, 3.8 per cent graduate, and 1.3% post-graduation level education completed. Nearly 1/3rd of the offenders were found uneducated. Education helps in the mental and intellectual development of the person, and in the absence of this, personal development is not possible.

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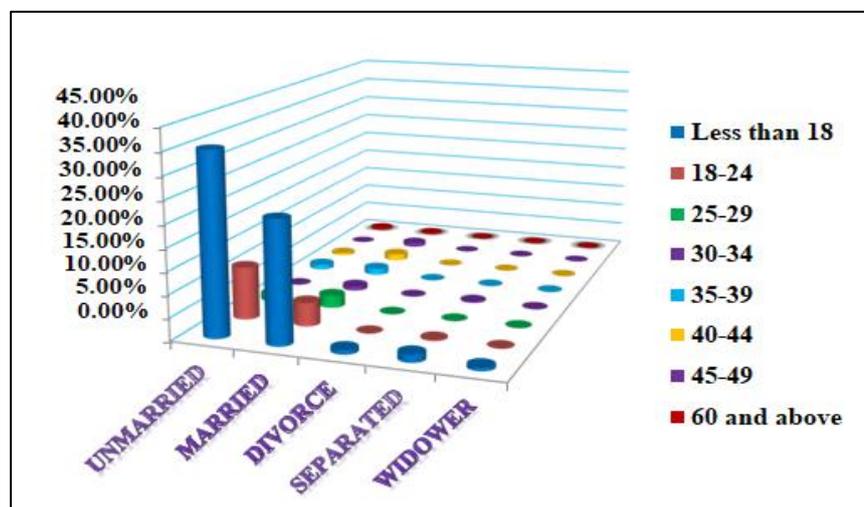
**Table: 1.** Personal information of offenders by selected background characteristics

Offenders	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1. Residence</b>		
Urban	93	23.3
Rural	307	76.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2. Marital Status</b>		
Unmarried	223	<b>55.8</b>
Married	161	40.3
Divorce	4	1.0
Separated	9	2.3
Others	3	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>3. Family Status</b>		
Nuclear family	128	32.0
Joint Family	272	68.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>4. Education Status</b>		
Illiterate	131	32.8
Primary School	88	22.0
Middle school	66	16.5
High school	70	17.5
Higher secondary school	25	6.3
Graduate	15	3.8
Post Graduate	5	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Figure 1:** Offender's and Victim's age at the time of crime

Figure 1, shows that 1.5% of the respondents were below the age of 18, even though they were not adults when they committed the crime. They were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board for the trial of criminal proceedings. Most of the respondents 76.5% were in the age group of 18 to 30. Sexual attraction emphasizes sexual desire, illiteracy, unemployment; loneliness creates a mental impulse to create the criminal environment for the fulfillment of excessive sexual desires. Victim's age is a relevant variable of any research study, in which it was found that the highest percentage 70.8% of the victims were less than 18 years of age and the 0.8% cases were from the 60 year and above of age. On comparing the age of the victim and the offenders at the time of the crime commission, children were more in number then the adult victims. When we compare the age of victim and offender the diagram indicates that offenders were aged than victims.



**Figure 2:** Marital status of offenders & victims age

Figure 2, shows how the victim is targeted on the basis of marital status. In most of the cases, it is found that unmarried youth were involved in this crime. On the basis of the findings obtained in the study, nearly seventy five percent girls less than 18 years of age were victimized by unmarried, married, and separated widower offenders to fulfill their unsatisfied sexual desires. Unmarried, married, and isolated, widower offenders exploited minor girls. The 2.25% of the offenders committed after separation from their wives. Most of the offenders were unmarried, and few married were committing this crime.

In figure 3, shows that for how long the offender did know the victim. The study found that most of the offenders had known the victim since childhood, in which 42.4% of the offenders knew the victim for more than nine years. 31% of offenders knew the victim for more than one year but less than five years, and 17.3% knew the victim for less than one month but more than one year. 9.5% of the offenders did not even know the victim, and they directly victimized the victim in the first instance. Study shows that most

offenders already know the victim before the crime takes place.

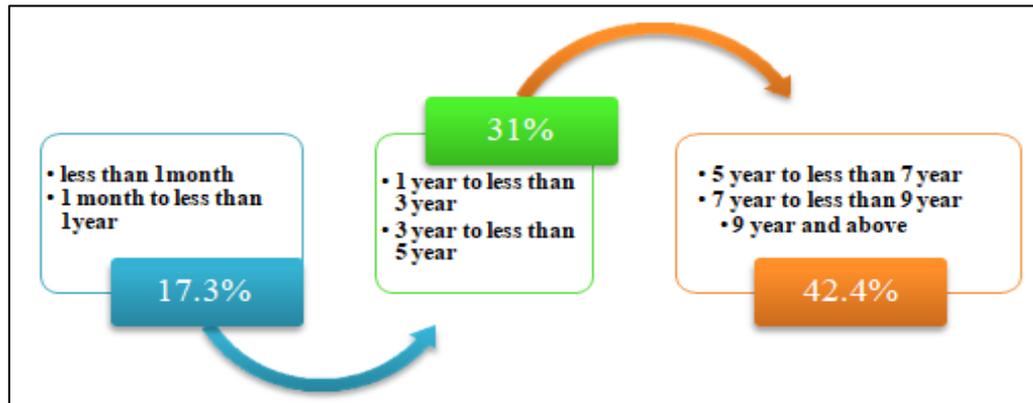


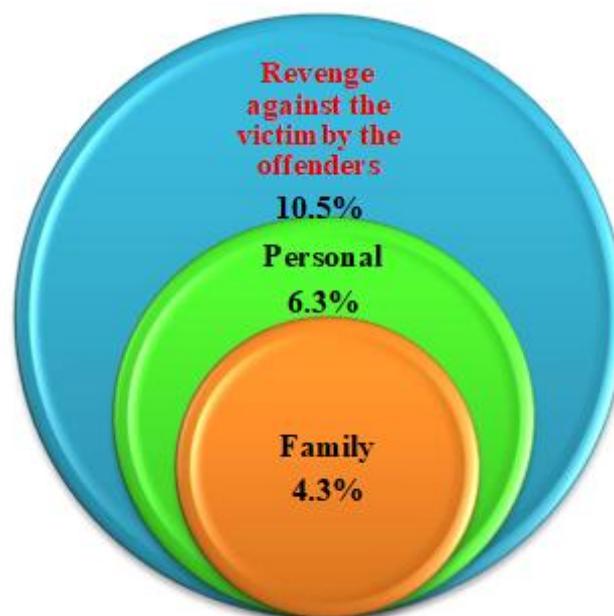
Figure 3: Duration of offender's known to the victim



Figure 4: Victim offender relationships

Figure 4, shows that the relation between the offenders and the victims. This research study categorizes each relationship into five categories: Family members, Relative, Intimate, Acquaintance, and Stranger. The first category consists of Family members with 7.5% in which the percentage of the daughter is 3%, niece is 2.5%, and sister is 0.5%, brother's wife is 1%, and aunty is 0.5%. The second category consists of Relatives with 5.3%, in which the percentage sister in law is 1.4% and 3.9% is relative's daughter and relatives aunt. Finally, the third category consisting of Intimate victims is 31.3%. The fourth category consists of the victims known to the offenders in one way or another.

In this category, the neighbor is 34%, the neighbor colony is 1.5%, and the neighbor city is 0.5%, the neighbor village is 9% or same village 1.5% other known members of the same society. Finally, the fifth category consists of the who were strangers to the offenders. This category consists of 9.5% unknown persons to the offenders. After analysis of this study found that the offenders had known the victim for a long time concerning the victim. In which the highest percentage was of people who are known to the offender. In which it was found that the victim were the immediate neighbor. In all they were from either a neighboring colony or a neighboring village, a neighboring city. After this, the third category had the highest percentage of the girlfriend or Lover. In which offenders was also in a live-in relationship with the victim. Offenders always escorted the victim along without his consent or disagreement. In the study of Black et al. (2011), Sexual assault is a pressing and prevalent concern in our society, with estimates that nearly 1 in 5 women in the United States will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. Of those women who have been sexually assaulted, 41% have been assaulted by an acquaintance (Gravelin et al., 2019).



**Figure 5:** Revenge against the victim by the offenders

Figure 5, reveals that the offenders had committed this crime to take revenge on the victim. The study found that 10.5% of offenders targeted the victim because they wanted to take revenge on the victim, due to family dispute or personal matter. In which 4.3% of the criminals had a family dispute with the victim's family. 6.3% of perpetrators personally targeted the victim because of any love affair conflict or mutual deceit.

Table 2, shows that highest no. of cases were agree and strongly agree in intimate relation before the crime i.e. 20 cases in the statements of sex before marriage is normal attitude. In case of acquaintance fifteen cases were found with the statement agree.

**Table 2:** Sex before marriage is normal \* victim relation with offender

Sex before marriage is normal	What was the victim relation with you					
	Family member	Relative	Intimate	Acquaintance	Stranger	Total
Strongly disagree	14	9	73	90	18	204
Disagree	5	4	28	23	11	71
Undecided	10	5	4	58	7	84
Agree	1	3	16	14	2	36
Strongly agree	0	0	4	1	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>400</b>

**Table 3:** Youngsters who do not indulge in premarital sex miss out a lot in life\* victim relation with offenders

Youngsters who do not indulge in premarital sex miss out a lot in life	What was the victim relation with you					
	Family member	Relative	Intimate	Acquaintance	Stranger	Total
Strongly disagree	7	6	63	70	16	162
Disagree	5	2	21	23	8	59
Undecided	18	10	25	83	13	149
Agree	0	3	16	9	1	29
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>400</b>

Table 3, shows that Youngsters who do not indulge in premarital sex miss out a lot in life. Towards this concept sixteen offenders were agreed those were intimate to the victim where as ten offenders were acquaintances who were agreed by this statement but in family members no one was agreed with this statement.

**Table 4:** Boys and girls should freely indulge in sexual activities before marriage\* victim relation with offenders

Boys and girls should freely indulge in sexual activities before marriage	What was the victim relation with you					
	Family member	Relative	Intimate	Acquaintance	Stranger	Total
Strongly disagree	12	9	68	69	15	173
Disagree	2	2	18	18	11	51
Undecided	14	9	20	86	10	139
Agree	1	1	18	13	2	35
Strongly agree	1	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>400</b>

**Table: 5:** Offenders Attitude towards Premarital Sex (PSS)

S.No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
		(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(0)
1	Sex before marriage is normal	05	36	84	71	204
2	Teenage sexuality should not be suppressed	03	32	98	63	204
3	Sex should not be restricted till marriage	03	37	95	63	202
4	Before marriage young boys and girls should meet freely outside their homes	06	50	80	64	200
5	Necking and petting is acceptable during dating	02	56	90	69	183
6	Sexual experience before marriage is educative	02	25	115	79	179
7	Youngsters who do not indulge in premarital sex miss out a lot in life	01	29	149	59	162
8	Indulging in sexual acts before marriage is not a sin	01	34	119	73	173
9	Premarital sex in essential as training for the satisfactory performance of the complex act of love making	-	20	188	40	152
10	Boys and girls should freely indulge in sexual activities before marriage	02	35	139	51	173
11	Safe premarital sex should be practiced	03	59	114	46	178
12	Premarital affairs are not a menace to marriage	02	41	127	44	186
13	Some degree of physical intimacy before marriage should be accepted	02	44	114	52	188
14	Sexual relations with other persons before marriage does not matter	01	22	120	57	200

Table 5, describes the responses of offender’s attitude towards premarital sex. In the study, the Sexual Attitude Scale was used by the researcher to find out the sexual attitudes towards premarital sex of the offenders. There are fourteen questioned and their responses are respectively. For sex before marriage is normal highly responses is strongly

disagree (51%). For teenage sexuality should not be suppressed, highest score is strongly disagree (51%). For sex should not be restricted till marriage, highest responses is strongly disagree (50.5%). For before marriage young boys and girls should meet freely outside their homes, highest response is strongly disagree (50%). For necking and petting is acceptable during dating, highest score is strongly disagree (45.8%). For sexual experience before marriage is educative, highest response is strongly disagree (44.8%). For youngsters who do not indulge in premarital sex miss out a lot in life, highest response is strongly disagree (40.5%). For indulging in sexual acts before marriage is not a sin, highest score is strongly disagree (43.3%). For premarital sex is essential as training for the satisfactory performance of the complex act of love making, highest response is undecided (47%). For boys and girls should freely indulge in sexual activities before marriage, highest response is highly disagree (43.3%). For safe premarital sex should be practiced, highest response is strongly disagree (44.5%). For premarital affairs are not a menace to marriage, highest score is strongly disagree (46.5%). For some degree of physical intimacy before marriage should be accepted, highest response is strongly disagree (47%). For sexual relations with other persons before marriage does not matter, highest response is strongly disagree (50%).

**Table 5.1:** Offenders level of sexual attitude towards Premarital Sex (PSS)

Sr. No.	Raw score Range of Sexuality Scale Premarital Sex (PSS)	Percent	Grade	Level Of Sexual Attitude
1	44 & Above	0.25	A	<b>Extremely High</b>
2	39 to 43	1.5	B	<b>High</b>
3	33 to 38	2.25	C	<b>Above Average</b>
4	25 to 32	23.5	D	<b>Average</b>
5	19 to 24	6.75	E	<b>Below Average</b>
6	13 to 18	12	F	<b>Low</b>
7	12 & Below	53.75	G	<b>Extremely Low</b>
	<b>Total =</b>	<b>100</b>		

In Table 5.1 it was found that 53.75% of the offenders had the extremely low level of sexual attitude and 23.5% of the offenders had average level of sexual attitude. 1.5% of offenders who had a high level of sexual attitude and 0.25% and an extremely high level of sexual attitude. Offender's attitude towards premarital sex shows that only 1.75 % offenders had premarital sexual attitude.

## 7. Conclusion

The relationship between the victim and the offender is generally pre-existing in most cases. For example, the victim is an acquaintance, family member, relative. In addition,

several studies have found that the offender already knows the victim. In sporadic cases, it is found that the victim and the offenders were strangers to each other. Due to lack of control over sexual desires and mental impulses, the offenders target the victim to fulfill their sexual desires. In 46.5 percent of cases it was found that the victims were known persons and already knew the offender. The reason behind in most of the cases, the offender used to make the children the victims. Children are primarily innocent and vulnerable and readily available. It was also found that most of the victims known to the offender. This study found that many reasons behind this heinous crime. In Indian culture, we rely and believe on a known person, but sometimes that neither victims nor victims family think that type of heinous crime committed by the relatives, neighbors, acquaintance and even the family members. But many reasons or sexual desires compel the person to commit a sexual offence. It shows that only sexual desire was not the main motive of this crime; it may be extra sexual desire; revenge, a live- in-relationship concept, the influence of pornographic effects, sudden attraction, and personal fun may be a sexual desire by the victims. The study found that the offenders had been in a live-in relationship before the crime. The studied offenders' attitudes towards premarital sex relations under the sexual attitude scale. 1.75 per cent of the cases, the level of sexual behavior of the offenders towards premarital sex relations were very high. From this, it can be concluded that this behavior was due to context of pre-marriage, live-in relationships and love affairs with the victim. Personal revenge with the victim and conflict with the victim's family, which included temptation of the victim to marry, etc. Change in the behavior of offenders can be brought through various corrective programs being run in the prison. Vocational training, yoga, meditation and other activities change the convicts' attitude inside the prison.

**Author Contributions**

Dr. Pankaj Choubey – Methodology, Data acquisition and processing, Manuscript preparation  
Prof. Mamta Patel – Conceptualization, Supervision

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**Statement of Conflict of Interest**

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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