

**Comparative Study**

## **Comparative Study of Mental Health on Hate Crime and Crime Victims**

Ishangi Mishra<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. Madhu Karnat S<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Pooja Rai<sup>3</sup>

### **ABSTRACT**

Hate crime is an extreme form of prejudice against race, religion, caste, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity. No mental health professionals are specially assigned for hate crime victims neither is any law standing and speaking for the victims of hate crime in India. This framework is essential to understand the nature of the contemporary crisis of mob violence, lynching and vigilantism in India. The aim of the study is to spread awareness about hate crime and highlight outcomes through a quantitative study of the mental health of victims using Mental Health Inventory -38 for evaluating overall emotional functioning through a comparative study on victims of hate crime and crime in India. N= 80 participants, 20 to 30 years drawn from data of mental hospitals, police records, NGOs and general public. There would be no significant difference between hate crime victims and crime victims for mental health. Analysis of data will increase awareness of the impact of hate crime and the information can be used for further studies for law enforcement in India in order to address hate crime. This study does not attempt to explain fully the nature of hate crime in India. Its aim is to provide reflection on the need for mental health professionals needed for hate crime victims and crime victims.

**Keywords:** *Hate Crime, Mental Health.*

Indians are seeing an unexpected ascent in the episodes of hate crimes in contemporary occasions. Episodes under this for the most part include savagery against an individual or a gathering, of a specific social gathering, by crowds, basically on strict issues, which make unrest in the general Social Structure. Inspired by hate and one-sided mentality hate crimes are regularly planned for making an impression on a specific gathering of society to ingrain in them dread and say something. Here right now, I would manage the importance, history, nature and outcomes of Hate Crimes in the Indian context.

As per the Organisation on Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE), Hate crimes are criminal acts carried out with a predisposition motive. Also known as an "inclination roused

<sup>1</sup>Consultant psychologist

<sup>2</sup>Psychologist

<sup>3</sup>Assistant Professor, Jain University, India

\*Corresponding Author

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crime" or "inclination crime" they are not characterised as a legitimate offence yet as an idea which happens when a culprit focuses on a casualty of a specific social gathering.

In India, Hate crime has become a subject of expanded intrigue and research in ongoing decades. Hate crime episodes—some of them fierce and a couple even deadly—have gotten the media's consideration too. While a collection of information about hate crime is gradually developing, numerous inquiries stay unanswered. This research tends to a portion of the primary issues identified with hate crime, starting with characterising them and the need of mental health professionals for them and a look into an appropriate law on hate crime was an entire.

The point of the study is to spread mindfulness about hate crime and feature results through a quantitative investigation of the mental health of victims utilising Mental Health Inventory - 38 for evaluating overall passionate working through a relative report on victims of hate crime and crime in India. Hate crime is an outrageous type of bias against race, religion, caste, disability, sexual direction, ethnicity, sex, or sex personality. No psychological well-being experts are uncommonly allotted for hate crime victims nor is any law standing and representing the victims of hate crime in India. This structure is fundamental to comprehend the idea of the contemporary emergency of crowd brutality, lynching and vigilantism in India. Analysis of information will expand attention to the effect of hate crime and the data can be utilized for additional investigations for law authorization in India so as to address hate crime. This examination doesn't endeavour to clarify completely the idea of hate crime in India. It's expected to give reflection on the requirement for psychological wellness proficiency required for hate crime victims and crime victims.<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Herek (2002) Conducted a study on experiences of hate crime on sexual orientation victims using interview data for a sample of 450 lesbian, gay and bisexual adults. Most of the victims were victimised in a public setting, local, neighbour, workplace and familiar places, victims tended to rely primarily on contextual cues and perpetrators' explicit statements. Another study done by Hanes (2014) on hate crime in the wake of terror attacks. The data was collected from four police force areas in England of Asian/Arab populations from 7/7 and 9/1. The data showed a link between terror attacks and subsequent increase in hate crime reflecting that media framing and coverage may act as a channel link for terror attacks and hate crimes. The study was conducted by Barnes (1994) on the impact of hate violence on victims including the emotional and behavioural responses to attacks. The study revolves around Indian students in Australia: victims of crime, racism or the media? Spolc (2010) A series of attacks on Indian students in 2009 in Australia led to an international media frenzy about the safety of International students in Australia and Australia's apparently racist culture. Sullaway (2004) conducted a study on Psychological perspective on hate crime . Hate crimes are those in which the victim is selected because of his or her actual or perceived race, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin. Hate crime laws have frequently been met with objections. Sharma (2013) anticipated Hate Crimes in India: An Economic Analysis of Violence and Atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Crimes against the historically marginalised Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) by the upper castes in India represent an outrageous type of preference and dis-crimination. Anderson (2018) conducted a study on How victims conceptualise their experiences of hate crime. The aim of the study is to provide the victims' perspective to the contemporary conceptualization of hate crime. Cabeldue (2016) did

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Measuring Attitudes About Hate: Development of the Hate Crime Beliefs Scale study. Employing the government Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) of 2009 and other such legislation as a scenery, the present study evaluated the nature of beliefs about hate-crime legislation, offenders, and victims. In addition, it investigated construct legitimacy (i.e., political beliefs and prejudice) and prescient legitimacy (i.e., accuse attribution and sentencing recommendations). assigned to read one of four hate-crime vignettes, which varied in regard to type of prejudice (racial-, sexual orientation-, transgender-, and religion-based prejudices) and then responded to blame and sentencing questions. Kilpatrick (1989) defined Victim and crime factors related with the development of crime-related post-traumatic stress disorder. This study examined the relationships between the development of Crime-Related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CR-PTSD) and chose casualty and crime qualities. Violence against women: Physical and mental health impacts. Interpersonal violence is an omnipresent wellspring of dread, distress, and injury in the lives of women in the United States, crossing lines old enough, race, ethnicity, and economic status Goodman (1993) (Coley and Beckett, 1988; Frieze and Browne, 1989; Koss, 1988; Straus, Gelles, & Steinmetz, 1980). Advanced Hatred, Real Violence: Majoritarian Radicalisation and Social Media in India was reflected by Michandani (2018). Web-based social networking's effect on mainstream media, and the manner in which individuals communicate with one another and disseminate information, has become a subject of genuine examination for journalists, scholastics and policymakers. Srinivas (2007) viewed Victims and the Criminal Justice System in India: Need for a Paradigm Shift in the Justice System. Until the 1970s the victims of crime were an overlooked ten entities in the criminal justice system. The disposition began to change as the discipline of victimology made its mark. In sum, the investigator put forth to identify the need of the study and formulate hypotheses. Additionally, it provides the basic understanding to work on the methodology for the current research work which includes the research design, sample selection, tools used and statistical analysis to carry out the current empirical work.

### *Need of the study*

In accordance with the literature reviews, we can see that there is a need to understand more about hate crime affecting the mental health of hate crime victims. Hate crime has globally changed how individuals communicate and act with one another. Nowadays we can see that hate crime results in violent acts. We can also see hate crimes resulting in cyber bullying. Mental health of victims is neglected in India. There is not much consideration and professionals who are particularly trained for victims of hate crime or even crime. As constitution of India, there is no proper law also on hate crime as a whole as well as neither any emphasis is given for the mental health of the victims. For the crime rate in India only 3000 mental health professionals are there. This research will be done to find out how important it is for hate crime victims to have proper professional help as it is for crime victims in case of mental health. The importance of initiating mental health help as well as implementing it as a law. This framework is essential to understand the nature of the contemporary crisis of mob violence, lynching and vigilantism in India. The analysis of data will increase awareness of the impact of hate crime and the information can be used in raising law enforcement in India to address hate crime.

### *Research Problem*

To study the relationship between the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims.

### *Research questions*

1. Is there any significant relationship of poor mental health with hate crime victims ?

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2. Is there any significant relationship between the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims.?

### *Objectives*

- To establish the relationship of poor mental health with hate crime victims.
- To establish the relationship between the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims.

### *Hypotheses*

- There would be a significant relationship between poor mental health of hate crime victims. There would be no significant mental health relationship between hate crime victims and crime victims.

### *Variables*

- Independent: hate crime/crime victims
- Dependent: mental health
- Extraneous variable: age of sample

### *Operational Definitions*

- Crime: Blackstone (1968) defined crime as an act committed or omitted in violation of a public law either forbidding or commanding it.
- Hate crime: According to Penal Code 422.55 PC, means a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation, Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.
- Mental Health: mental health index indicates greater psychological wellbeing and relatively less psychological distress. (Davies, Sherbourne, Peterson, and Ware, 1998) subscales: anxiety, depression, loss of behavioural/emotional control, general positive affect, emotional ties and life satisfaction (mental health inventory - 38)

### *Research Design*

The present study is a between group so to accomplish the objectives of the present proposed research between- group (comparative) research design is followed in order to achieve the present investigation (t-test) research design was used,

### *Participants*

A Sample of 80 young adults who are a victim of hate crime or crime within a year would be selected for the study including participants from both the genders (N=100). The victims would be selected on the basis of following inclusion and exclusion criterion:

### *Inclusion Criteria:*

- People who are citizens of India currently living in Uttar Pradesh.
- People who have been victims of hate crime and crime within a year.
- Between the age 20 to 30 years

Figure 1: Chart of distribution of sample.



The above figure 1 shows the number of participants with distribution between two main samples (hate crime victims, crime victims) with sub-division into male and female in each sample.

#### Exclusion Criteria

- People who are below 20 years and above 30 years
- People who are not a citizen of India residing in Uttar Pradesh.
- People who are not victims of hate crime or crime.

#### Tool

##### Mental Health Inventory by Veit C. T and Ware J.E., Jr (2003).

The Mental Health Inventory - 38 (MHI – 38) is a consumer self report tool designed to measure general psychological distress and well-being. All of the 38 MHI items, except two, are scored on a six-point scale (range 1-6). Items 9 and 28 are the exception, each scored on a five-point scale (range 1-5). The pre-coded values of each item are shown on the copy of the instrument on the preceding pages. The MHI may be aggregated into: Six subscales – Anxiety, Depression, Loss of Behavioural / Emotional Control, General Positive Affect, Emotional Ties and Life Satisfaction;

Two global scales - Psychological Distress and Psychological Well-being; and A global Mental Health Index score.

For the current study, only the global mental health index is used.

#### Procedure

In the study 80 participants were selected through purposive sampling. The individuals were selected on the first basic criteria of age (20 to 30 years). There were two samples, the first sample (n=40) consisting of females (n=20) and males (n=20) who were a victim of crime within a year. The second sample (n=40) consisting of females (n=20) and males (n=20) who were a victim of hate crime within a year. Before starting the procedure of collecting the data a letter from the college to the Police Department of Uttar Pradesh, India was given for collecting the data of victims. The data was drawn from mental hospitals, police records, NGOs and the general public. At first, the socio demographic details were taken then the informed consent was given. The selected participants are told that they can withdraw from

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the test at any point of time and their results and details will be kept confidential. The data was collected from the state of Uttar Pradesh with consent of the victims. The instructions were explained clearly and any confusion was rectified on the spot. After collecting all the data, the scoring of each test was done and the total scores of each participant was analysed by using SPSS.

### *Ethical Considerations:*

- Letter for collection of data was issued from the university.
- Confidentiality is assured.
- Informed consent taken from the participant before the test is conducted.
- Participants are allowed to withdraw at any time.

### *Statistical Analysis*

In order to obtain the objectives of the present research descriptive statistics was computed which included mean (*M*) and standard deviation (*S.D.*) for each of the variables. The descriptive statistics are followed in order to achieve the present investigation. As per the hypothesis and T-test analysis is used. The study shows relationship of mental health between hate crime victims and crime victims reflecting on importance of mental health care needed by victims.

## RESULT

The current study was conducted in order to find the relationship between mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims. After the calculations using Pearson *r* correlation it was found that there is high significant correlation between mental health among the hate crime victims and crime victims.

### *Descriptive statistics*

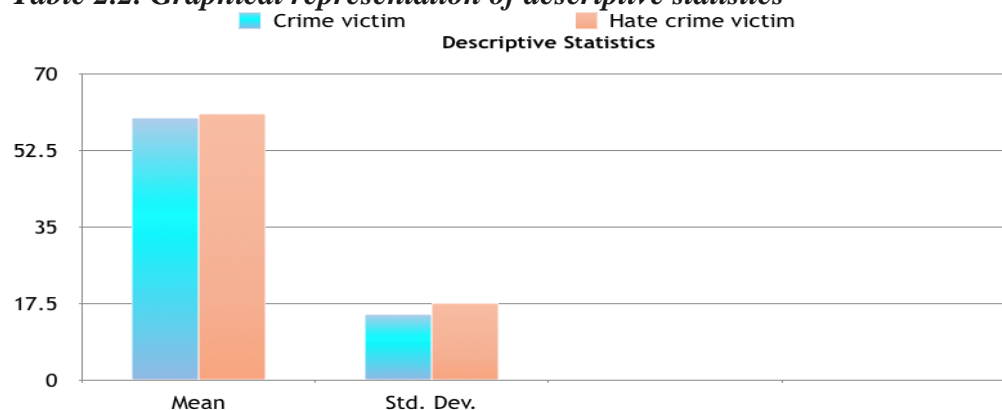
**Table 2.1 Paired Samples Statistics shows Mean and SD**

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
CV	59.9	15.08
HCV	60.92	17.58

*Note: CV= crime victims and HCV= hate crime victims.*

Table 2.1 shows the mean and standard deviation of mental health inventory results for crime victims and hate crime victims. Group 1 represents crime victims and the Mean is 59.9 and standard deviation is 15.0857, Group 2 represents hate crime victims and the mean is 60.925 and standard deviation is 17.5811.

**Table 2.2. Graphical representation of descriptive statistics**



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Table 2.2 shows the mean and standard deviation of mental health inventory results for crime victims and hate crime victims in a graphical representation.

**Table 3.1: shows the result of test of normality**

### Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	P	Statistic	df	P
CV	0.10	40	0.20	0.93	40	0.02
HCV	0.17	40	0.00	0.88	40	0.00

*Note- CV- crime victims, HCV- hate crime victims*

From the above table, the result shows that the P value of crime victims and hate crime victims is 0.02 and 0.00 indicating that the Pearson correlation method should be employed.

### Paired Samples Correlations

**Table, 3.2 shows the correlation matrix between mental health of the groups (n=80)**

	Hate crime & crime victims
Mental health	0.38

*Note: \*\* significant at .01 p level (2-tailed)*

Table 3.2 The results show that there is a high significant correlation between mental health among the hate crime victims and crime victims participants of present empirical research ( $r = 0.38$ ;  $p < .01$ ). The association in nature between the two samples with mental health indicates that victims of hate crime and crime victims reported low mental health for both samples.

**Table 3.3 shows paired samples test paired differences**

	t	df	P
CV & HCV	-0.30	39	0.76

*Note: CV= crime victims and HCV= hate crime victims.*

The table 3.3 shows t-test analysis, shows mental health of crime victims and hate crime victims.

As in the above analysis it can be reflected that there is no significant difference between the mental health of crime victims and hate crime victims. Equal variance met as value of P is more than 0.05. The study has investigated the mental health of the participants.

## DISCUSSION

The aim of the study is to find out the relationship between the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims. This study was done on young adults between the ages 20-30 years. The samples were taken from various NGOs, police records, and general public hospitals in Uttar Pradesh. One questionnaire was given to the subjects on mental health known as Mental Health Inventory-38. The hypothesis of the study is that there would be no significant difference between mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims. There were two examples, the first sample (n=40) comprising of females (n=20) and males (n=20) who were victims of crime within a year. The second sample (n=40) comprising of females (n=20) and males (n=20) who were victims of hate crime within a year. Before beginning the system of gathering a letter from college to the Police Department of Uttar Pradesh was

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given. The tools used for the study was Mental Health Inventory by Veit C. T and Ware J.E., Jr (2003).

The results show that there is no significant difference between mental health among the hate crime victims and crime victims members of present exact research. The relationship in nature between the two examples with mental health shows that victims of hate crime and crime victims revealed poor mental health for the two examples. The scores were calculated and SPSS was used for the analysis of data. The findings were that there is a high significant correlation between mental health of hate crime and crime victims ( $r = 0.38$ ;  $p < .01$ ). Which states that individuals who are victims of hate crime have poor mental health. So the results state that individuals who are victims of hate crime also have poor mental health as compared to mental health of crime victims. Both hate crime and crime victims are more prone to psychological problems with poor mental health due to the brutality meted to them. Examples include difficulty in emotional functioning, behavioural issues, social interactions (e.g., having a conversation, meeting unfamiliar people), being observed (e.g., eating or drinking), anxiety, etc. The individual's mental health is highly affected due to the hate crime faced by them, making them question about themselves as a group, religion, caste, colour, creed, gender, etc. While answering the questions, the individuals were shy, felt humiliated or embarrassed while sharing the incident. The fear or anxiety is out of proportion to the actual threat posed by hate crime on mental as well as physical health of the individuals. The individuals showed overly rigid body posture or inadequate eye contact, or speak with an overly soft voice. The hypothesis states that there will be no significant difference between the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims. The Pearson correlation is 0.14. Which indicates that there is no significant difference between mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims. The findings for the relationship between mental health of hate crime and crime victims indicates that there is no significant difference between mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims ( $r = 0.14$ ). Which shows that individuals being a victim of hate crime have poor mental health reflecting on major psychological help needed. When Mental health professionals help victims of hate crime as well as crime, it will improve the mental health of individuals reducing the chances of psychological disorders. A light is reflected through this study on the importance of mental health professionals needed specially for victims in India. If an individual has poor mental health there can be problems related to behavioural issues, relationships, education, social interaction, daily life activities, emotional outburst (anger, fear, helplessness), physical health problems (weight, appetite changes), substance abuse, addiction, sleeping issues and psychological disorders.

A crime is an unlawful demonstration deserving of a state or other power. Hate crimes are criminal acts persuaded by predisposition or preference towards specific gatherings of individuals. Crime has critical, yet changing results, on singular crime victims, their families, companions and networks. The effect of crime on victims brings about psychological, emotional, physical, financial, social and otherworldly results. The need of mental health professionals for victims in India is highly needed. According to a study done by Yuvaraj B. Y., Poornima S., Rashmi S. in the International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health 2016. They used the mental health inventory-38 to assess the overall mental health status of undergraduate medical students studying in a Government Medical College of North Karnataka. Their study was done on 210 study participants, 119 were male and 91 female students. After the calculations were done using SPSS overall computed MHI total score ranges from 58-74, mean score 63.5, median 64.43 and a standard



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deviation of 4.01 found a significant poor mental health and presence of some emotional health problems among medical students and further diagnosis, support needed.

According to Hardie, Elizabeth; Ming Yi Tee in 2007. An online survey of 96 adults showed that criteria for the Internet Addiction Test, 40% of the sample could be classified as average internet users, 52% as problem over-users and 8% as pathologically addicted to the internet. The three groups differed on a range of factors, with over-users and addicts spending increasingly more time in online activities, being more neurotic and less extraverted, more socially anxious and emotionally lonely, and gaining greater support from internet social networks than average internet users. Further analysis revealed that only neuroticism and perceived support from online social networks were significant predictors of excessive internet use. These studies have also contributed to the results which are projected above. As per study done by Hanes in 2014, Spole in 2010 and Barnes in 1994 studied hate crime attacks on asians/arabs, Indian students, black/white and south asians in countries like the United Nations and Australia. Reflecting on media influence on hate crime attacks, safety issues and cultural bias, emotional and behavioural responses. While studying about physical and mental health effect on victims of violence on women in the United states done by Goodman in 1993..Major perspective through personal 28 semi-structured interviews of hate crime victims was studied by Anderson in 2018 showed experiences and trauma at a very personal level highlighting the importance of mental health help needed for them.

The study does not finish here but is throwing light on the need and further studies as well importance which should be given to the victims of hate crime as well crime for mental health support.

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The aim of the study is to find out the difference between the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims. A total sample of 80 young adults who are between the ages 20 to 30 years and were a victim of hate crime or crime within a year.

The hypothesis of the study was, there would be no significant difference between mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims.

The summary of the study and the conclusions drawn from the results of the study are presented below:

- The present study measured the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims.
- The results show that there is no significant difference between the mental health of hate crime victims and crime victims.

#### *Limitations*

- The size of the sample could be more as this study only includes 80 samples.
- The study includes only one global scale.
- The sample was collected only from Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Implications**

- This study can be used for future research to gain a better understanding if mental health has an effect on hate crime victims and crime victims.
- This study can be replicated on a larger sample so as to get more accurate results.

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### Suggestions

- Samples could be taken from different states and not just Uttar Pradesh.
- More impact of hate crime on victims can be calculated.
- Demographic information could be highlighted to get the in-depth understanding of psychological constructs.
- In-depth interviews might help to better understand the impact of hate crime on hate crime victims.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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