

Victimization and Psychological Impacts of Crime against Scheduled Tribes

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ABSTRACT

This study describes the profound impact of crime on the victim's lives from a criminological perspective. It also investigates the serious and wide-ranging psychological impacts of crime on the lives of the victims of Scheduled Tribes, focusing on their unique position as a historically marginalized group in India. By analyzing the physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences of criminal victimization, the study aims to cover the deep-rooted vulnerabilities that these communities face. Victimization, often resulting from exposure to distressing events such as violent and serious crimes, significantly affects the victim's psychological and physical well-being. This research delves into the psychological effects of crime, such as trauma, depression, anxiety, aggression, irritation, suicidal tendencies, and avoidance behaviors, which also describes their implications for victim's daily lives. The study's objective was to analyze the worst ordeal faced by the victims of a crime and examine the impacts of crime on the victim's life. A total of 376 cases were registered from 2020 to 2022; 304 victims were interviewed for the study, and 142 victims were found to have been impacted psychologically. The study's universe was Sagar District in Madhya Pradesh, and the survey method was used for an in-depth study. The study found that out of the total respondents, a maximum of 52.6 percent of the victims have faced mental stress problems after the commission of a crime. However, 46.7 percent of the victims have been impacted psychologically after the commission of a crime. The study concluded that the victims who were criminalized by serious crimes faced more psychological impacts due to differences in the affective and cognitive processing of victimization situations. The findings underscore the need for culturally sensitive interventions, victim support mechanisms, and legal reforms tailored to the needs of Scheduled Tribes communities, with the ultimate goal of reducing victimization, improving access to justice, and enhancing the overall well-being of these marginalized groups.

Keywords: *Crime, Impacts, Scheduled Tribes, Victims*

Scheduled Tribes in India, often marginalized and vulnerable, are facing unique challenges when it comes to the relationship between crime and victimization, which also exacerbates their socio-economic exclusion and systemic oppression. These

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communities, rich in cultural heritage, are frequently subjected to various forms of violence and discrimination, which significantly impact their social and psychological well-being. Understanding the extent and nature of crimes against Scheduled Tribes is crucial for developing effective policies and support systems for them. This study explores the multifaceted major impacts of crime on the victim's life, focusing on both immediate and long-term consequences. It aimed to provide a comprehensive overview that will help policymakers, social workers, and law enforcement agencies, ultimately contributing to more targeted and effective interventions for these marginalized communities (Tiwari & Dixit, 2023; Das, 2024).

Section 2(wa) of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 defines the term victim means "any person who has suffered any loss or injury caused by reason of the act or omission for which the accused person has been charged" and Section 2(1)(y) of the *Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023* also defines the term victim means "a person who has suffered any loss or injury caused by reason of the act or omission of the accused person and includes the guardian or legal heir of such victims". While, victimization means a process through which a person or group has made to become a victim of crime; in other words, victimization is when individuals, communities, and institutions suffer considerable harm or injury (Sharma, 2013). Crime against Scheduled Tribes, also termed as hate crimes against minorities, refers to unlawful, violent, threatening, or destructive conduct with a vulnerable or socially backward class group of people. It becomes a serious concern when the crime pattern drastically affects the victim's life and well-being (Mohanty, 2017).

India constitutes the second largest tribal population in the world after South Africa. The Constitution of India has mentioned 744 Tribes across 22 states of India. After independence, India has a rich heritage country, but many of indigenous communities, particularly Scheduled Tribes, remain faced with exploitation, harassment, and social exclusion. The increasing rate of atrocities or discrimination against Scheduled Tribes, such as land grabbing, forced displacement, and lack of access to basic amenities, is a matter of serious concern. Therefore, it becomes mandatory to implement appropriate safeguards and act against their problems. The Indian Constitution of 1950 has abolished the word 'untouchability' in practice, but it still exists. The Scheduled Tribe population is described as "one of the most economically backward and marginalized groups in India; while they are still living in remote areas with somewhat natural resources, that is why they are neglected and are unable to get proper benefits" (Chantia & Misra, 2015).

The consequences of crime on the victims extend far beyond the immediate physical or financial harm. While, emotional and psychological harm is also often compounded by a lack of support, social isolation, and stigmatization from family, friends, and social institutions, creating a 'second wound' that can be as incapacitating as the crime itself (Cohn et al., 1978). This secondary victimization can severely obstruct the healing process. Additionally, societal tendencies to blame victims for their misfortune further exacerbate the psychological impacts of victimization (Maguire, 1991). The lack of adequate support systems for victims trying to recover from a crime can intensify the psychological harm caused by victimization, making recovery even more challenging. This compounded psychological impact highlights the urgent need for comprehensive and empathetic support structures to aid victims in their journey towards healing the victimization of crime (Norris, 1992; Hoffmann, 2002).

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The psychological impact and types of crime are also one of the major and serious concerns for the victims, which mainly changes the sense of safety and security in the victim's life; because of that, they become more fearful or anxious about their safety and always take extra precautions for their self-defense. According to Jamuna et al. (2023) and Das (2024), every criminal act results in an unpleasant experience for the victim, contributing to the erosion of confidence in other people. This is particularly true when the offender is someone the victim knows or trusts. An increased likelihood of re-victimization is associated with victims who have particular impairments or illnesses related to their mental health, underscoring the urgent need to address the impact of crime on victim's mental health. However, the victim's actions, thoughts, responses, and behaviors, in addition to other aspects related to the circumstance, also have a part in continuing victimization. This highlights the possibility of the victims protecting themselves against more victimization of crime (Shapland & Hall, 2007).

The victims of crime often endure a diverse array of adverse feelings, including fear, anxiety, anger, and despair, which may have enduring impacts on their mental health and overall well-being. Crime not only inflicts emotional distress but also imposes physical and financial consequences on victims, hence exacerbating the psychological ramifications (Berliner & Conte, 1990). Gaining insight into the psychological ramifications of crime on victims is crucial for formulating efficacious therapies and support services to facilitate their restoration and progression. Crime may have a significant and enduring effect on those who experience it. The most immediate effect of crime on the victims is physical, emotional, and psychological harm, affecting the victim's quality of life and ability to function (Andrews et al., 2003; Alim et al., 2006; Jamuna et al., 2023).

According to Hanson et al. (2010), crime can impact the victims in many ways, including:

- **Emotional and Psychological Impact:** Victims often endure overwhelming emotions like fear, anger, shock, numbness, guilt, confusion, helplessness, and shame, which can escalate into serious mental health challenges, including depression, trauma, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These emotional and psychological effects can last long after the crime has occurred, disrupting the victim's sense of safety, stability, and security.
- **Physical Impact:** Many victims suffer physical injuries, which can range from temporary to permanent disabilities. These injuries can limit their ability to work, perform daily tasks, or live independently, adding another layer of hardship. Victims can also experience physical symptoms such as headaches, nausea, sleep problems, or fatigue after the victimization.
- **Financial Impact:** Crime often incurs significant financial costs, including medical bills, lost wages from time off work, and expenses related to property damage or theft. These economic consequences can exacerbate the victim's stress and complicate their recovery process.
- **Social Impact:** Victims may experience social isolation or stigmatization, which can strain relationships with family, friends, and the broader community. The emotional toll of the crime can lead victims to withdraw from social interactions or fear judgment from others.
- **Behavioral Impact:** In an effort to cope with trauma, victims may develop unhealthy behaviors such as substance abuse or avoidance of situations that remind them of the crime. These coping mechanisms can hinder their ability to heal and move forward.

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- **Cognitive Impact:** The trauma associated with crime can impair cognitive functions, affecting a victim's memory, concentration, and decision-making abilities. This mental fog can make it difficult for them to focus on daily responsibilities or engage fully in their personal and professional lives.

Conducting research on the psychological impacts of crime experienced by the victims of Scheduled Tribes is essential because of their particular vulnerabilities, such as discrimination, social isolation, and economic marginalization, which may intensify the psychological effect of victimization. These groups are often under-represented in research, resulting in a lack of targeted assistance and resources. This focused study would give valuable insights into historically unique forms of psychological impacts, enabling the creation of more effective and culturally responsive mental health care for the victims. Finally, such research will empower Scheduled Tribes communities by advocating for their mental health needs, helping to break the cycle of victimization, and ensuring proper support for their well-being. The study will also guide the victims to overcome with traumatic incidents and live a healthy life.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

McCann et al. (1988) presented a model of psychological adaptation to trauma, victims, and victimization. The study reviewed the literature on the psychological impacts of crime and victimization, which argued that traditional models of psychological adaptation do not adequately capture the complexity of the experiences of the victims. The authors proposed a four-stage model of psychological adaptation that includes an initial period of shock and denial, followed by a period of intrusion and avoidance, then a period of active coping, and finally, a period of resolution and integration. The study suggested that victims who receive adequate social support and who use adaptive coping strategies are more likely to navigate the process of psychological adaptation successfully. Overall, this article presented a valuable contribution to the field of victimization, providing a framework for understanding the complex experiences of the victims. It concluded that those victims who use meditation, therapies, and counselling would have a high chance of recovering from psychological harm.

Berliner and Conte (1990) worked on the victim-centered approach to the study of victimization, which emphasizes the importance of understanding the subjective experiences of victims and the psychological, social, and cultural contexts in which victimization occurs. The authors started by giving an outline of the different types of victimization, including physical and sexual assault, robbery, and property crimes. They then described the various stages of victimization, from the pre-assault stage (including risk factors and situational factors that may increase vulnerability) to the assault stage (including the experience of victimization) and finally to the post-assault stage (including psychological reactions and coping strategies). This article was notable for its focus on the victim's perspective, and the authors draw on a range of sources to provide rich and detailed descriptions of the psychological impacts and reactions of the victims. They also highlighted the importance of understanding the social and cultural context of victimization, including the impact of crime on the gender, race, and socio-economic status of the victims.

Devalve (2005) studied a qualitative exploration of the effects of crime victimization on victims of personal crime. It addressed the effects of victimization on psychological and daily life functioning. Additionally, the study investigated the recovery from victimization, that is, how social support contributes to healthy coping and recovery and how interactions with the offender can contribute to the recovery. This study utilized a qualitative research

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method to provide a more in-depth assessment of the experience of victimization. A total of 152 victims were taken in this study. It has also presented a comprehensive examination of the effects of criminal victimization on both primary and secondary victims. The study was focused on a wide range of aspects, including the characteristics of victimization, the effects of crime on the individual's psychological well-being and lifestyle, social support from family and friends, recovery assistance needed from the offender, and one's attribution for the cause of the crime. The study concluded that crime could have a life-altering effect on the victim's personal relationships, influencing emotions, generating fear of victimization, and affecting their daily life activities.

Campbell (2008) worked on the review-based research that examines rape victim's experiences seeking post-assault assistance from the legal, medical, and mental health systems and how those interactions impact their psychological well-being. The ethnographic research method was used in this study. This research has observed that although some rape victims have positive, helpful experiences with social system personnel, for many victims, post-assault help-seeking becomes 'a second rape', which later causes secondary victimization. It found that sexual violence is a pervasive social problem, with national epidemiological data indicating that 17 to 25 percent of women are raped in their adult lifetimes. However, it concluded that the mental health effects of rape victims are significant, while up to 65 percent of rape survivors were found to be with psychological problems, and most of them were facing trauma, depression, anxiety, and social boycott kinds of problems in their lives. Victims may need mental health services to overcome their problems, but still, fewer facilities are available to improve their psychological health.

Jackson (2009) examined vulnerability and risk perception in the fear of crime. Past studies have often treated gender and age as proxies for vulnerability, and on the few occasions that vulnerability has been operationalized, there has been little agreement on the mechanisms that underpin perceived susceptibility. The study aimed to examine the relationship between risk perception, personal control over crime, and anticipated consequences. The study involved 1800 residents from two contrasting areas of London, Victoria Gardens and Catherine House. A questionnaire was sent to participants, with responses ranging from 26.6 percent to 20 percent. The study found that women might worry more frequently about falling victims due to their perception of the event as more likely, more consequential, and less controllable. The findings suggested that understanding these psychological processes can help individuals better manage their fear and vulnerability towards crime.

Hanson et al. (2010) examined the functional impact of crime victimization on quality of life. The authors reviewed the extant literature examining these impacts. This study used content analysis, while research related to crime victimization was used to analyze the impact on the victim's lives. They observed that crime victimization impacts multiple domains, including parenting skills, impaired occupational functioning, higher rates of unemployment, and problematic intimate relationships. However, data on relationships between crime victimization and overall life satisfaction were mixed, suggesting the need for further investigation. The study found that within a conceptual framework comprised of role functioning, life satisfaction, and social-material conditions, mental healthcare utilization can be focused on multiple contexts to understand the significance of life events, physical and mental health disorders, and various interventions on an individual's functioning and overall sense of well-being. It also indicated that crime victimization is associated with changes and impairments in functioning that adversely impact the quality of life.

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McBrearty (2011) worked on the lived experience of the victims of crime. The focus of this research was to ascertain the impacts of crime on individuals who presented with injuries as a result of aggravated burglary, theft, or assault to the emergency department of Ireland. The study was qualitative in nature and used a phenomenological approach. In-depth, unstructured audio-taped interviews were conducted to elicit the essence of the experience of being a victim of crime. The findings of the study revealed that the impacts of crime play a devastating role in both the physical and psychological well-being of the victims, which generates fear as a significant effect of being a victim of crime. This study concluded that there was an absence of a psychological or social rehabilitative plan for the victim of crime. It existed between victim support, the police, and the emergency department, where only one victim benefited from this, while the emergency department of Ireland made no such referrals to utilize the social workers for the victim's counselling and their proper rehabilitation from the criminalization.

Jamuna et al. (2023) worked on the psychological impact of crime on the victims. The study was based on an in-depth exploration of the psychological impact of crime on the victim's life, drawing on both existing research and the results of a survey conducted by the author. The qualitative research method was used, and the survey was planned to gather information on the types of crimes with the most significant psychological impact, the specific negative emotions experienced by victims, and their coping strategies. The study highlights the physical, emotional, and financial consequences of a crime for the victims and emphasizes the importance of addressing their psychological needs for their recovery and well-being. The findings of the study revealed that many victims were trying to move on from the traumatic experiences. However, some still struggle with concerns and fears, while others face specific worries about their safety and well-being.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the worst ordeal faced by the victims of a crime.
- To examine the impacts of crime on the victim's life.

METHODOLOGY

The present study has adopted a quantitative data analysis method. A total of 376 cases were registered from 2020 to 2022, and 304 victims were interviewed for the study. The survey method was used to collect the primary data, which has been used to analyze the victimization of crime against Scheduled Tribes. The research tools were categorized into various forms, such as the demographic profile of the victim, the victim's family information, the main reasons for the causes of crime, and the impacts of crime on the victim's life. The interview schedule was prepared for the collection of primary data. The data was analyzed descriptively and inferentially by using SPSS statistical software. The cross-tabulation (a comparison of two or more variables) method was also used in this study. The final analysis of the data was converted into various figures and charts. The study design also used statistical tools to analyze the association between variables; the variables were examined by using the Chi-square test, and the obtained value was compared with the significance level. The study had properly followed ethical norms and conditions while collecting research data. The universe of study was Sagar District in the state of Madhya Pradesh, which covers twelve tehsils such as, Sagar, Bina, Khurai, Malhona, Banda, Shahgarh, Rahatgarh, Jaisinagar, Garhakota, Rehli, Deori and Kesli. Tehsil-wise, the total reported cases are shown in the diagram below.

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Diagram 1: Map of research area with total reported cases between 2020 to 2022

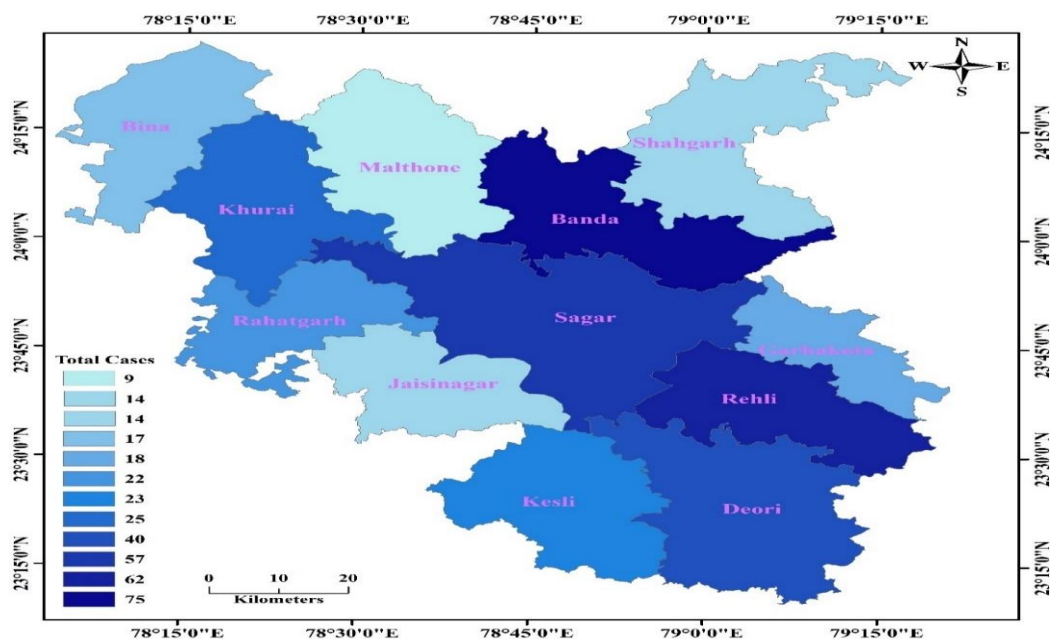


Diagram (1) shows the total number of reported cases and their locations by tehsil. According to the data given in the map, a maximum of 75 cases were reported in Banda, while a minimum of 9 cases were reported in Malthone.

RESULT

Table 1: Demographic profile of the victim

Variables	Descriptions	Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	210	69.1
	Female	94	30.9
	Total	304	100.0
Religion	Hindu	290	95.4
	Christian	14	4.6
	Total	304	100.0
Marital status	Unmarried	94	30.9
	Married	200	65.8
	Divorced	1	0.3
	Widow/Widower	9	3.0
	Total	304	100.0
Residence	Rural	235	77.3
	Urban	69	22.7
	Total	304	100.0
Family status	Nuclear	223	73.4
	Joint	81	26.6
	Total	304	100.0
Educational status	Illiterate	147	48.4
	Primary	12	3.9
	Middle	53	17.4
	High School	60	19.7
	Higher Secondary	18	5.9
	Graduate	11	3.6
	Postgraduate	3	1.0
Total	304	100.0	

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The researcher studied registered victims of a crime. The analyzed data shows the personal information of the victims. In the gender overview, 69.1 percent of the victims were male, followed by 30.9 percent who were female. Related to this, a study also found that most of the victims are males who were victimized by the crime (German & Patel, 2020). In the religion overview, 95.4 percent of the victims were identified as Hindu, followed by 4.6 percent who were Christian. Marital status is also important for the analysis of victimization; according to the data given in the table, the highest 65.8 percent of victims were married, followed by 30.9 percent unmarried. Only 3 percent of the victims were found to be widows or widowers, while a marginal 0.3 percent of the victims were found to be divorced. Based on the residence, the majority of 77.3 percent of the victims belonged to rural areas, and the remaining 22.7 percent belonged to urban areas. Related to this, the study in Chicago were also found that the rise in crime due to social changes is always reflecting and accommodating the regions where offenses have been taken place (Shaw & Mckay, 1942; as cited in Choubey & Patel, 2022). Based on family status, the highest of 73.4 percent of the victims belonged to nuclear families, and the rest, 26.6 percent of the victims, belonged to joint families (Table 1).

Education undoubtedly serves as a keystone for personal development, enriching lives through access to knowledge and information. However, its absence can create significant barriers, distancing individuals from the wealth of understanding available within their environment. Related to this, a study described that education plays an important role in an individual's life (Upadhyay & Patel, 2023). Table (1) also describes the educational status of the victims. The data has been categorized education level into different categories. As the data shows, the highest of 48.4 percent of the victims were found to be illiterate, followed by 19.7 percent of the victims have completed high school and 17.4 percent who had a middle school education. Only 3.6 percent of the victims were found to be college graduates, and the rest of the single percent of the victims had achieved post-graduation qualifications. Related to this, the researcher has analyzed that due to illiteracy and less educational background, most of the victims are still not raising their voices; because of that, they face many problems in revealing proper justice (Sharma & Patel, 2024).

Figure 1: Age of the victim and accused at the time of a crime

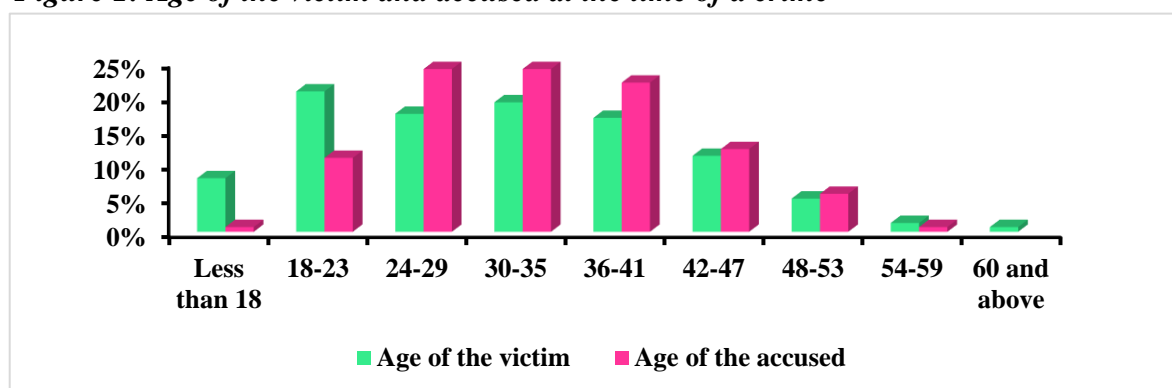
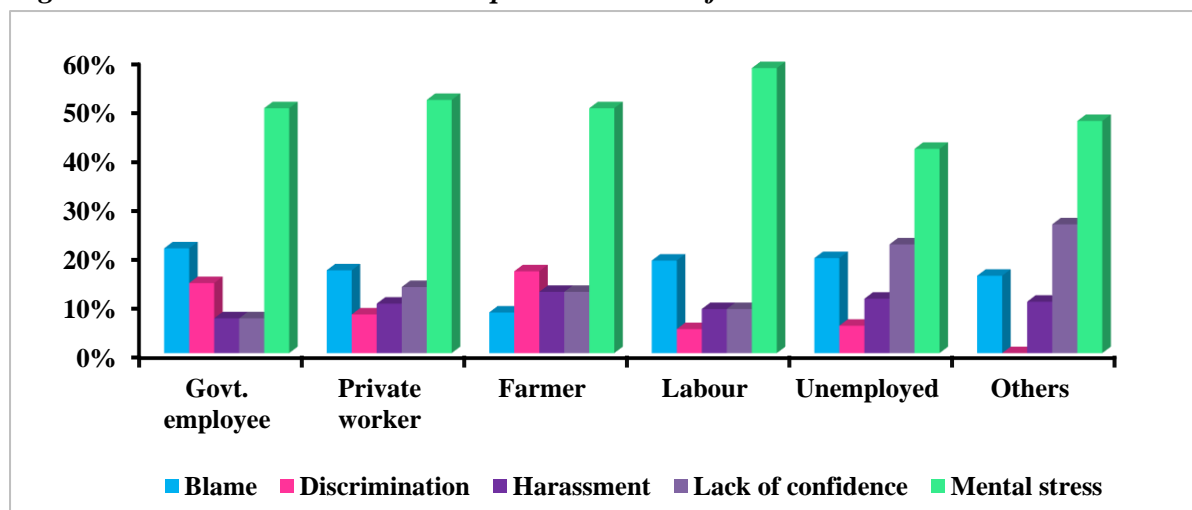


Figure (1) shows the age distributions of the victim and accused. According to the data given in the figure, a maximum of 20.7 percent of the victims were found to be under the age of 18 to 23 years, while a minimum of 0.7 percent of the victims were found to be the age of 60 and above at the time of lodging the FIR. While the accused age shows, the highest of 24 percent of the accused were found to be similarly 24 to 29 years and 30 to 35 years of the age group; however, the lowest of 0.7 percent of the accused were found to be similarly less than 18 years and 54 to 59 years of an age group during the commission of a

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crime. The analysis of the data shows that 1/5th of the victims were found to be in the late adolescent stage, while nearly half of the accused were found to be in the adult groups. Related to this, a study were also suggested that older criminals generally victimize younger victims because of their easy accessibility and susceptibility during the commission of a crime (Rawat, 2017; as cited in Choubey & Patel, 2022).

Figure 2: The worst ordeal and occupational status of the victims



The victims of exploitation, especially among marginalized communities, often endure the worst ordeals, facing not only physical and emotional trauma but also severe economic hardship. Their occupational status tends to be precarious, marked by unstable, low-paying jobs that exacerbate their vulnerability and hinder their ability to recover from such experiences. Figure (2) shows the relation between the worst ordeal faced by the victims and their occupational status. Out of the total respondents, a maximum of 52.6 percent of the victims have faced mental stress after the commission of a crime. Among them, 58.2 percent of the victims were to be labourers. However, a minimum of 6.9 percent of the victims have faced discrimination after the commission of a crime. Among them, 16.7 percent of the victims were found to be farmers. The findings of the data describe that most of the victims who have faced the worst ordeal after the commission of crime were found to be labourers.

Table 2: Chi-square test between the worst ordeal and occupational status of the victims

Items	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	17.053 ^a	20	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	16.860	20	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.119	1	0.730
N of Valid Cases	304		

a. 15 cells (50.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.97.

Table (2) explains that there is a significant association between the worst ordeal faced by the victims and their occupational status during the commission of crime. While, Pearson's Chi-Square value was found to be 17.053^a and $p < 0.05$. The analysis of data reveals that most of the victims faced mental stress problems after the commission of a crime, which can be enhanced by self-employment because the highest no. of the victims were found to be labourers, and they are mostly dependent on others for employment.

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Table 3: Kind of impacts and types of crime

Types of crime	Kind of impacts					Total cases
	Financial	Psychological	Physical	Social	All impacts	
Murder [Sec-201, 300, 302]	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 100.0%	1 100.0%
Attempt to murder [Sec-307, 458]	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 12.5%	7 87.5%	8 100.0%
Kidnapping [Sec-363, 365, 366, 366(A)]	0 0.0%	2 40.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	3 60.0%	5 100.0%
Rape [Sec-375, 376, 450]	2 10.5%	9 47.4%	2 10.5%	0 0.0%	6 31.6%	19 100.0%
Arson [Sec-435, 436, 440]	1 20.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	3 60.0%	1 20.0%	5 100.0%
Grievous hurt [Sec-320, 322]	0 0.0%	1 100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 100.0%
Simple hurt [Sec-294, 323, 506]	3 1.5%	96 49.5%	11 5.7%	5 2.6%	79 40.7%	194 100.0%
Damage of property [Sec-426, 427]	0 0.0%	3 60.0%	0 0.0%	2 40.0%	0 0.0%	5 100.0%
Sexual assault [Sec-354, 354(A), 354(B)]	1 3.0%	25 75.8%	4 12.1%	0 0.0%	3 9.1%	33 100.0%
Riots [Sec-146, 147, 148]	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	7 100.0%	7 100.0%
Cheating [Sec-415, 417, 420]	1 33.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 66.7%	0 0.0%	3 100.0%
Others (IPC) [Sec-305, 306, 341, 377, 498(A)]	0 0.0%	6 26.1%	0 0.0%	1 4.3%	16 69.6%	23 100.0%
Total	8 2.6%	142 46.7%	17 5.6%	14 4.6%	123 40.5%	304 100.0%

Table (3) shows the relation between the kind of impact faced by the victims and the types of crime. According to the data given in the table, a maximum of 46.7 percent of the victims have been impacted by psychological harm; among those, most of the victims were affected by serious crimes such as grievous hurts and sexual assaults. In comparison, 40.5 percent of the victims have been impacted by all kinds of losses, which similarly includes financial, psychological, physical, and social harms after the commission of a crime. Among those, most of the victims were affected by the murder and riots. However, a minimum of 2.6 percent of the victims have been impacted by financial losses after the commission of a crime. Among those, nearly 1/3rd of the total victims were affected by cheating. Regarding other types of crime, it accounts for 7.5 percent of victimization, which covers abuse, land disputes, money disputes, suicides, and fraud-related cases. The analysis of the data explains that most of the victims who were criminalized by serious crime have been more impacted by psychological harm. Related to this, the study also suggested that those victims who were impacted by the psychological harms would need emotional support and counselling to help with recovering from the victimization experiences (Jamuna et al., 2023).

Table 4: Chi-square test between the kind of impacts and types of crime

Items	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	157.298 ^a	44	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	115.190	44	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.000	1	0.993
N of Valid Cases	304		

a. 49 cells (81.7%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.03.

Table (4) describes that there is a highly significant association between the kind of impacts faced by the victims and the types of crime. While, Pearson's Chi-Square value was found to be 157.298^a and $p < 0.05$. The analysis of data shows that the highest no. of the victims who were victimized have faced psychological impacts and were mostly affected by serious and heinous crimes. It can be enhanced by awareness of local people, providing systematic education to marginalized groups, and minimizing the level of crimes against the victims of Scheduled Tribes. These preventive strategies can help to mitigate the risks and protect vulnerable communities from further victimization.

DISCUSSION

This work shows that most of the victims belonged to the Hindu religion. The complete population of the study has belonged to the Scheduled Tribes category. Most of the victims were married, from rural backgrounds, and belonged to a nuclear family. Regarding the age of the victim and accused, most of the victims were found to be in the late adolescent stage, while most of the accused were found to be in adult groups. Education plays an important role in understanding any wrongdoings in a person's daily life, which can be a form of criminal incident (Upadhyay & Patel, 2023). According to the data, a maximum of 48.4 percent of the victims were found to be illiterate. Because of that, they are unable to understand criminal incidents and mostly face victimization. Out of the total victims, a maximum of 52.6 percent of the victims have faced mental stress ordeal after the commission of a crime. While 46.7 percent of the victims have been impacted by psychological harm, which always generates trauma, depression, anxiety, irritation, aggression, and suicidal tendencies in the victim's life after the commission of a crime. The highest number of victims who were criminalized by serious crimes have been impacted more with psychological harm because the injury caused by the crime develops emotional and mental problems in the victims; meanwhile, injuries can be recovered within a short span of time, but its psychological impact exists on the victim's life for a long duration, which later generates difficult situations to heal that victimization.

CONCLUSION

The study found that most of the victims who were impacted by serious crimes were affected more by psychological harm. In this research work, the researcher has used the Chi-square test, and it found that there is a highly significant association between the kind of impacts faced by the victims and the types of crime. Although, Pearson's Chi-Square value was found to be 157.298^a and $p < 0.05$. It was analyzed that when a crime occurs, it ultimately impacts the victims by some means, but this study observed that psychological harm was the major problem with most of the victims. Additionally, the researcher has analyzed the worst ordeal and found that the occupational status of the victims plays an important role in relation to victimization. It also tested and analyzed that most of the victims who faced the worst ordeal after the crime were found to be labourers; this can be enhanced by the victim's self-employment. The study concluded that most of the victims

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were found to be illiterate, usually doing labour work, and they were always dependent on others for employment, which led to more victimization against these vulnerable communities. From this, it was observed that there should be more need to provide systematic education and create awareness of the major impacts of crime among the victims of Scheduled Tribes, which can bring them towards criminality.

The findings of the study reveal that psychological impacts are a serious mental health condition that often affects the victims of a crime, particularly those exposed to serious or heinous crimes. It manifests various symptoms like depression, aggression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, and avoidance behaviors, as well as physical issues such as sleep disturbances, increased risk of heart disease, food disorders, and self-harming factors, which can also lead to the victim's personal life. Criminologically, psychological impacts can make the victims more vulnerable to further harm and hinder their ability to participate in legal proceedings. Effective interventions, including cognitive therapy and strong social support, are crucial for helping the victims to recover from psychological harm. Legal protections during court processes are also essential to safeguard the victim's rights and well-being. The study emphasized that the victims from marginalized communities, especially Scheduled Tribes, face a higher risk of severe psychological harm due to their socio-economic backwardness. Factors such as social isolation, dependency on limited employment opportunities, and lack of adequate education mainly create significant challenges in addressing victimization. Enhancing remedies and providing comprehensive care to the victims of Scheduled Tribes would help to improve the quality of life after the commission of a crime.

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Conflict of Interest

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