

Chapter 13

Comparative Analysis of Various Factors of Honor Killing in India and European Countries

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ABSTRACT

“Honor killings are the darkest manifestation of a society’s fear of change and the loss of patriarchal control.” Indeed, such killings are not crimes of honor, rather crime of horror. Protecting honor can never be the justification of murdering someone. Its supporters try to justify as are the sole method to restore honor & reputation of the family. This argument is contradictory in itself as how could honor be restored when there will be stain of being murderer on the family following such killing? In fact, the hidden motive behind these killing is nothing but to establish dominance and suppressing the voice of anyone who tries to free oneself from such shackles of patriarchy and orthodox practices. There are various factors behind such killings which vary from region to region. These factors include social, educational, economic, cultural, regional, religious believes, patriarchal norms etc. In this chapter, factors behind honor killings in India vis-à-vis European countries, i.e., France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia and Sweden have been examined carefully.

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INTRODUCTION

Honor killing is a sensitive & debatable topic throughout the world. Many societies and nations try to avoid the discussion on this heated issue as it is somehow connected with cultural, traditional & customary values. However, an examination of honor killings reveals that they are driven more by the irrational and self-proclaimed aspirations of individuals and groups than by custom, practices, or sharia rules. The practice stems from and is fueled by the influence of rumors, defamation, and public perception. Whether the act of assault is committed in a public or private setting, it is classified by international law as gender-based killings, or the deliberate killing of women for no other reason than that they are women. The Special Rapporteur's report on violence against women states that the number of women killed for gender-related reasons has risen dramatically throughout the world. These killings were described as a severe instance of violence against females, frequently the result of ongoing, overlooked incident of domestic abuse. According to UNFPA, as much as 5000 women and girls are subjected to honor killing yearly on global level, and almost one-third of those are from Pakistan and India. According to NCRB's report(2020), the no. of honor killings reported in India was 25 each in 2019 and 2020, and 33 in 2021. According to statistical data, there are no. of cases in Europe like 5 in Belgium, 12 in Germany, 10-12 in Great Britain and 11-14 in Netherlands in the recent dozen years.(Sadowa, K., 2015) The goal of this kind of violence is to create and maintain gender-based tiered social relationships. It exacerbates the disparity experienced by socially vulnerable groups—in this example, bias based on gender. (Antonova, 2018) Additionally, another main reason for such honor-based crimes is that the sexuality of women is considered to be the honor of the household, hence, males of the family should protect it. This thinking existed even before Judaism, Islam or Christianity came into existence. (Firat et al., 2016) So, it can be inferred that religion is not the sole reason behind such thinking but it still contributes to such honor-based killings. There are several factors behind honor killings which vary from country to country. It includes patriarchal norms, cultural & religious believes, mindsets of people in a particular region etc.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The aim of this chapter is to gain an understanding of various factors of honor killing in India and European countries and also to find out the difference between the same. For the research purpose, qualitative method of research has been adopted. International journals, research articles, reports from government ministries, research paper & reports from international organizations, surveys, interviews etc.

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