

# HIGHEST NUMBER OF HONOUR KILLINGS IN UTTAR PRADESH – A CRITICAL REVIEW

ANAND SAGAR

Research Scholar, Department of Management, Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University,  
Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India

E-mail: anandsagar1973@gmail.com

**Abstract-** Uttar Pradesh has earned the dubious distinction of reporting the highest number of honour killings and love-affair-related murder cases. As per NCRB data, Uttar Pradesh has reported highest number of murders 4732, followed by Bihar 3178, Maharashtra 2509 and West Bengal 2096. There may be nothing honourable about honour killings but the shocking increase in such incidents in UP has left the police and social activists wondering about the reasons for the shocking increase in such incidents. It is a social crime and stringent police action in such cases would act as a deterrent in curbing it to some extent. But largely, it is about creating awareness among the people that such killings are not a solution to the complexities of the social surroundings. Increasing use of social media has helped in bringing such incidents to the fore. The NCRB report also showed an increase in murders resulting from love affairs and illicit relationships.

**Keywords-** Honor killings, love-affair-related-murders, Social media, stringent police action, illicit relationships.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Uttar Pradesh has earned the dubious distinction of reporting the highest number of honour killings and love-affair-related murder cases. Apart from honour killing, love affair was another major motive of murder in UP. As per NCRB data, Uttar Pradesh has reported highest number of murders 4732, followed by Bihar 3178, Maharashtra 2509 and West Bengal 2096. There may be nothing honourable about honour killings but the shocking increase in such incidents in UP has left the police and social activists wondering about the reasons for the shocking increase in such incidents. It is a social crime and stringent police action in such cases would act as a deterrent in curbing it to some extent. But largely, it is about creating awareness among the people that such killings are not a solution to the complexities of the social surroundings," he says. Increasing use of social media has helped in bringing such incidents to the fore. Society as a whole has to understand that killing of the innocent cannot be the means to address social conflicts. The NCRB report also showed an increase in murders resulting from love affairs and illicit relationships.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Arvind Chauhan (2016):** Uttar Pradesh has earned the dubious distinction of reporting the highest number of honour killings and love-affair-related murder cases in 2015. A total of 192 cases of honour killing were reported in the country, and out that 131 were alone committed in UP. Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh reported 21 cases and 14 cases respectively. It was in 2014 that the first time the NCRB recorded murders under the category of 'honour killing'. In 2014, Madhya Pradesh had seen the most numbers of honour killings (seven), followed by Punjab and Maharashtra (five each). Three cases were reported

from Jammu and Kashmir. In 2014, UP had reported just one case. Apart from honour killing, love affair was another major motive of murder in UP. The state reported 383 cases where love affair became the motive for the violent crime. UP is followed by Tamil Nadu(175), Bihar (140) and Gujarat (122). Even as 190 people were killed in UP for illicit affairs. However, it was Maharashtra which stood first in this category with 214 cases, followed by Andhra Pradesh (198) and Bihar (125). As per NCRB data, Uttar Pradesh has reported highest number of murders 4732, followed by Bihar 3178, Maharashtra 2509 and West Bengal 2096. In UP, Lucknow reported 115 cases of murder followed by Meerut 82, Agra 71, Ghaziabad 59, Kanpur 50, Allahabad 40 and Varanasi 19.

**Pervez Iqbal Siddiqui(2016):** There may be nothing honourable about honour killings but the shocking increase in such incidents in UP has left the police and social activists wondering about the reasons for the shocking increase in such incidents. Of the total of 192 honour killings reported from the country in 2015, 60% of the reported cases came from the state. In sharp contrast to just one honour killing case reported in UP in 2014, the number shot up to 131 in 2015.

Though the state police chief Javeed Ahmed says honour killing is a social crime, he believes stringent police action in such cases would act as a deterrent in curbing it to some extent. "But largely, it is about creating awareness among the people that such killings are not a solution to the complexities of the social surroundings,"

Social activists and senior police officers admit that increasing use of social media has helped in bringing such incidents to the fore. Former Lucknow University vice-chancellor and social activist Roop Rekha Verma says statistics suggest that reporting of

such cases has increased manifold. "I refuse to believe that only one honour killing took place in UP in 2014. "The figures of 2015 don't surprise me but I believe the real picture might be scarier," she says, adding the sharp rise in such cases suggests that people have started reporting them. "But a lot more has to be done to counter the menace at the grass root level. Society as a whole has to understand that killing of the innocent cannot be the means to address social conflicts," she says.

"The main reason for such a steep jump in statistics is that people have started reporting such crimes now. Earlier it was usually brushed aside as just another murder," says Madhu Garg, the state general secretary of All India Democratic Women's Association. "It is about the growing social awareness. For instance, the NCRB had no separate head for listing honour killings but today it does," she says, adding that like cases of incest are being reported, the society and the government have accepted that the menace of honour killing exists. "This is perhaps the first step towards dealing with the problem that people have started to accept that it is a problem in the first place," Garg says.

**Dipak K Dash & Pervez Iqbal Siddiqui (2016):**

Uttar Pradesh had 68% share of the total number of honour killings reported last year, the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) says. The abnormal increase in the number of such cases from one in 2014 to 131 last year has stumped many. The NCRB report released on Tuesday reported a seven-fold rise in honour killing cases last year, Uttar Pradesh registering the largest number. Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh followed. Honour killing as a separate segment was introduced in the NCRB report in 2014. Similarly, UP registered steep rise in political murders —from two in 2014 to 28 last year. Jharkhand, Kerala and MP came second, third and fourth in political killings in 2015. Last year 96 political killings were registered across the country against 64 the previous year. On the stunning rise in honour killings, an NCRB source said:

"Whenever we notice an abnormal spike in cases, we get them verified with the state crime records bureau before publishing them. This procedure was followed even in the case of Uttar Pradesh." Senior state police officers told TOI that the sharp rise in honour killings could be because of better public awareness. Registration of such cases may rise even further because social media use is becoming popular even in the hinterland. "People have now started reporting such crimes. Earlier these were lumped with just other murders," said Madhu Garg, state general secretary of All India Democratic Women's Association. The NCRB report also showed an increase in murders resulting from love affairs and illicit relationships.

## FINDINGS

- Uttar Pradesh has earned the dubious distinction of reporting the highest number of honour killings and love-affair-related murder cases in 2015. A total of 192 cases of honour killing were reported in the country, and out that 131 were alone committed in UP.
- In 2014, UP had reported just one case. Apart from honour killing, love affair was another major motive of murder in UP. The state reported 383 cases where love affair became the motive for the violent crime.
- Uttar Pradesh has reported highest number of murders 4732, followed by Bihar 3178, Maharashtra 2509 and West Bengal 2096. In UP, Lucknow reported 115 cases of murder followed by Meerut 82, Agra 71, Ghaziabad 59, Kanpur 50, Allahabad 40 and Varanasi 19.
- Of the total of 192 honour killings reported from the country in 2015, 60% of the reported cases came from the state. In sharp contrast to just one honour killing case reported in UP in 2014, the number shot up to 131 in 2015. But largely, it is about creating awareness among the people that such killings are not a solution to the complexities of the social surroundings. Increasing use of social media has helped in bringing such incidents to the fore.
- It is hard to believe that only one honour killing took place in UP in 2014. The sharp rise in such cases suggests that people have started reporting them. But a lot more has to be done to counter the menace at the grass root level. Society as a whole has to understand that killing of the innocent cannot be the means to address social conflicts.
- The main reason for such a steep jump in statistics is that people have started reporting such crimes now. Earlier it was usually brushed aside as just another murder.
- The abnormal increase in the number of such cases from one in 2014 to 131 last year has stumped many. The NCRB report released on Tuesday reported a seven-fold rise in honour killing cases last year, Uttar Pradesh registering the largest number.
- Similarly, UP registered steep rise in political murders —from two in 2014 to 28 last year. Jharkhand, Kerala and MP came second, third and fourth in political killings in 2015. Last year 96 political killings were registered across the country against 64 the previous year.
- Registration of such cases may rise even further because social media use is becoming popular even in the hinterland. People have now started reporting such crimes. Earlier these were lumped with just other murders. The NCRB report also showed an increase in murders resulting from love affairs and illicit relationships.

## CONCLUSION

A total of 192 cases of honour killing were reported in the country, and out that 131 were alone committed in UP. Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh reported 21 cases and 14 cases respectively.

Moreover, Uttar Pradesh has reported highest number of murders 4732, followed by Bihar 3178, Maharashtra 2509 and West Bengal 2096. In UP, Lucknow reported 115 cases of murder followed by Meerut 82, Agra 71, Ghaziabad 59, Kanpur 50, Allahabad 40 and Varanasi 19.

Of the total of 192 honour killings reported from the country in 2015, 60% of the reported cases came from the state. In sharp contrast to just one honour killing case reported in UP in 2014, the number shot up to 131 in 2015.

Though the honour killing is a social crime, stringent police action in such cases would act as a deterrent in curbing it to some extent. "But largely, it is about creating awareness among the people that such killings are not a solution to the complexities of the social surroundings.

Statistics suggest that reporting of such cases has increased manifold. "I refuse to believe that only one honour killing took place in UP in 2014. The sharp rise in such cases suggests that people have started reporting them. "But a lot more has to be done to counter the menace at the grass root level. Society as a whole has to understand that killing of the innocent

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