

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q7(b)

To what extent have the legal provisions been effective in curbing violence against women in India? Give your argument

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Challenges of Social Transformation

Challenges of Social Transformation: Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability; Poverty, deprivation and inequalities; Violence against women; Caste conflicts; Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism; Illiteracy and disparities in education.

Core demand of the question

- Name the main legal provisions on violence against women
- **Argue effectiveness as mixed:** naming, some deterrence, weak investigation, low conviction, social backlash
- Use 498A, rape law after Nirbhaya, **DV Act 2005**, POSH, PCPNDT, and implementation evidence
- Give a reasoned extent, not a yes/no

Revision summary

India's VAW law includes 498A, the DV Act, post-Nirbhaya rape reform and POSH.

Law has changed norms and created institutions.

Conviction, investigation and informal-sector reach remain weak.

Caste, honour and digital abuse show competing patriarchal jurisdictions.

- **Effectiveness is partial:** stronger as recognition than as daily protection.

Introduction

- **India has a thick file of laws against violence that women face:** cruelty in marriage (498A), dowry death provisions, the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**, reformed rape law after **Nirbhaya (2012-13)**, **POSH (2013)**, PCPNDT, and the Trafficking and POCSO statutes where girls are concerned. Effectiveness is **partial**. Law has named the violence and opened institutions. It has not brought the social rate of violence under control, because patriarchy, police practice and delayed courts still organise the field.

Body

What law has achieved

Law created a public language. Dowry death and domestic violence are not only 'family matters' in statute. Vishaka to POSH made the workplace a site of state duty. Fast-track rhetoric and the 2013 criminal amendments widened the definition of sexual assault. Protection officers and shelter homes exist on paper and, in some districts, in fact. Panchayat women members and movements (after Mathura, after Nirbhaya, after Hathras) use these texts. That is effectiveness as **norm change and institutional presence**.

Some deterrence is real for visible public employees and for families that fear a 498A FIR. POSH committees in universities and firms, where they function, alter everyday behaviour.

Where law is thin

NCRB numbers are not a simple map of violence; they mix reporting and incidence. Conviction rates for rape and domestic cruelty remain low. Investigation is hostile; two-finger myths died slowly. Informal 'compromise' and village panchayats send women home. **498A** is contested as misuse; the contest itself can chill genuine complaints. The **DV Act** is civil-protection oriented and under-resourced. POSH barely reaches informal labour, which is where most women work. Caste atrocity against Dalit women is sexual violence plus untouchability; PoA and rape law both apply and both fail in many trials.

Honour killings, khap orders, and communal targeting of women show extra-legal patriarchal law competing with the Constitution. Digital violence outruns IT and criminal provisions. During COVID, domestic violence rose while movement to a thana fell.

- **Extent: moderately effective as recognition, weakly effective as everyday protection, least effective for informal, rural, Dalit, Adivasi and disabled women.** Legal provisions are a necessary condition of curb, not a sufficient one. Police reform, forensic capacity, shelters, and a change in household power (property, wages, education) are the missing half.

Informal workplaces remain the largest hole. A domestic worker, farm labourer or vendor faces violence with almost no POSH committee and with a police station that may send her back to the employer or husband. Legal provisions written for offices and for 'cruelty in marriage' do not automatically travel there. Effectiveness must therefore be measured **by class of work**, not only by the elegance of the statute.

- **A sociological argument therefore refuses two slogans:** that law is useless, and that law has solved VAW. **Ambedkar's** insight that rights need social conscience still holds. **Uma Chakravarti's** Brahmanical patriarchy explains why the same family that uses a smartphone still polices a daughter.

Flow diagram

498A DV POSH rape reform -> Public naming
 498A DV POSH rape reform -> Committees shelters FIRs
 Patriarchy police delay -> Weak everyday curb
 Public naming -> Partial effectiveness
 Committees shelters FIRs -> Partial effectiveness
 Weak everyday curb -> Partial effectiveness

Conclusion

Legal provisions have partly curbed violence against women by naming it, creating POSH and DV machinery, and widening sexual-assault law. They have been limited by police-court practice, informal work, caste, and household patriarchy. The extent of effectiveness is real at the level of norms and uneven at the level of safety.

Facts & figures

DV Act 2005

Civil protection orders, residence rights and protection officers for domestic violence.

Criminal Law Amendment 2013

Expanded sexual offence definitions after the Delhi gang rape case.

POSH Act 2013

Workplace internal complaints committees; weak coverage of informal employment.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-2/2024/to-what-extent-have-the-legal-provisions-been-effective-in-curbing-violence-against-women-in-india-give-your-argument/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com