

ABSTRACT

**THE LEGAL VALIDITY OF CONSENT IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO MENTALLY DISABLED WOMEN**

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This paper is an attempt to outline some of the challenges that mentally retarded women have confronted. As per research, the women with disabilities are more prone to experience domestic violence, emotional abuse, and sexual assault than women without any physical and mental infirmity. In most of the cases they are unable to report about the abuse they experienced, because they may be dependent to them. This problem become more bitter in the case when the victim is mentally retarded. Sexual violence against those women is a silent act in our society because in majority cases women fail to realize they are victims or fail to communicate the act of violence. Even if it is communicated, seldom does it inspire belief. In most of the cases it is found that the perpetrators are not brought to book. There is also fear that reporting the abuse could snaps bonds with the caretakers. Like many women who are abused, women with disabilities are usually abused by someone they know, such as a partner or family member. Rape survivors with mental disability may see the world as a more frightening place to live in, for which they will put limits on their lives, interrupting their normal activity. The rape of someone with an intellectual disability remains one of the hardest crimes for police to investigate and one of the hardest for prosecutors to win in court. A victim with an intellectual disability may have trouble to express, or may not have words at all. This paper focuses all socio legal aspect of mentally retarded women by enumerating different international, national frame works, role of NGOs to protect those women from sexual violence. The paper also highlighted some of the current incidents of such violence throughout the world. Lastly, the author have suggested some necessary amendments in existing laws and other measures to combat with this grave problem.

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