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Witch-Hunting in India

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People in the modern world are trapped in their own state of consciousness and have seen what it should look like with the naked eye. They will always neglect to review the theory, what culture they had and what the sermons are. This indifference, distance, and belief in the absence of an obscure charm have perpetuated, that these days when a decent part of the population is harmed by it, there are no established fixed rules that maintain these practices. India, a nation of culture and religion, wherein “lies dark wizardry; yet paying little regard to this a great deal of metropolitan masses doesn't have confidence in its existence. In India, from old history, a couple of loathsome practices have been followed, which fuse the settlement system, sati pratha, etc.” The conviction course of action of our overall population has with the improvement of financial similarly as guidance had the choice to destroy a significant part of such awful practices. Nonetheless, “the demonstration of witch-hunting is at this point overwhelming in many bits of our country inferable from the strange feelings of people. Most likely the cruelest sort of orientation-based violence in India is the demonstration of Witch-Hunting. This preparation needs to incite harsh torture and murder of assumed witches virtually all through the country.”¹² Here, we discussed the ancient roots of witch-hunting around the world, how it started in India, and also highlighted who all are the victims of these witch-hunts, why centralized legislation to keep an eye on witch-hunting across India.

Keywords: *hunting, malpractices, witch hunting.*

¹ Eshaan Datt, ‘Need For Statutory Restrictions On Witchcraft’ (Legal Service India, 2020)

<<https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-4273-need-for-statutory-restrictions-on-witchcraft.html> >

accessed 15 January 2022

² Shubhangi Singh Rajora, ‘Witch-Hunting in India’ (Indian Legal Solutions, 6 June 2021)

<https://indianlegalsolution.com/witch-hunting-in-india/#_ftnref2 > accessed 15 January 2022

INTRODUCTION

There are many malpractices that have been carried out in India since ancient times; such as Sati pratha and share framework. However, with the passage of time and the improvement of the community, financially and in an educational manner, we have the choice to break down many of these barriers. However, the practice of witch hunts is still widespread in many parts of India, especially in ancestral lands, where it is impossible to avoid the superstitious beliefs of the people. Many people in the past have been tortured and killed, as they believed they were associated with magic. Indeed, even Joan of the incomparable Arc, who led France to conquer Britain, was called a witch by the priests and burned alive at the age of 19. According to the reports of the National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) in 2015: 2290 women, who were branded as a witch, were hunted down between 2001-2014.³ Witch crafting and witch-hunting are superstitious practices & beliefs. Where a person is said to have acquired magical abilities. It dates back to ancient times & practiced by those individuals who believe in supernatural powers. This evil practice was started due to the customs and superstitions; in order to eliminate these so-called witches, who were residing in the society. Witch-hunting resembles an irresistible illness and is gradually spreading to fresher regions and arrangements should be found to annihilate this shrewd practice.⁴ The act of witch-hunting/killings is available in various states in the nation, and these are for the most part the locales situated in focal and eastern India. For it, by and large, occurs where there is basically no financial turn of events, with next to zero admittance to essential schooling and medical services. In this sort of an environment, individuals will generally foster exceptionally solid odd convictions and whatever awful that could happen to these residents like terrible harvest, infections, the unexpected and unexplained demise of somebody in the family, or drying of well will more

³ 'Crime in India 2012 Statistics' (*National Crime Bureau*, 14 August 2020) < <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india-year-2012> > accessed 14 January 2022

⁴ Gary Foxcroft, 'Witchcraft Accusations: A Protection Concern for UNHCR and the Wider Humanitarian Community' (*Experts*, 2009) < <https://www.experts.com/articles/witchcraft-accusations-protection-concern-for-unhcr-and-wider-humanitarian-community-by-gary-foxcroft> > accessed 14 January 2022

often than not be viewed as crafted by some underhanded 'witch'. In this manner starts a witch chase to find the individual mindful.⁵⁶

MEANING

In the review space, “words like *dayan*, *tohni*, *chudail*, etc., are used to refer to a woman as a witch. The word *tohna* is used by so-called witches. The proliferation of terminology used by women is one indication that this is a sexual practice. No matter what the different customs and understandings of the word 'witch' may be, it involves one common denominator - the expression of some 'glorious' power in the individual.” The fact that a person is a witch is weeping, bad, and always sad. Yet such an explanation leads to what might be considered a strange fantasy, it does not actually come from a strange imagination. Often, social animosity, rivalry, and strife can be the catalyst for a person's reputation as a witch. When a person is named, whether such a sting is dangerous or not, it is called a miraculous arrangement of reaction and fear, which makes it very difficult for women (sometimes men) who are classified as witches to examine themselves. The pursuit of witches (not all) can be linked to a lack of compassion and senseless violence that includes forced undressing, undisclosed walking, handling or shaving hair, blurring of the face, runny nose, nosebleeds. teeth 'immersion', eye-gouging, beating, assault, the seduction of human waste, cow dung or other harmful substances, assault, and death by hanging, hacking, stabbing, or covering alive. Following in the footsteps and walking of real hostility may be other vicious conflicts, public disgrace, psychological abuse, public outrage and finances, job losses, and cruelty to witch conquerors hunting. “This sort of cultural distance and brutality can be for a brief timeframe or continue for quite a long time and now and then can endure forever. To give a more nuanced comprehension of the causes and results of witch hunting, the review on which we are announcing here accordingly tried to efficiently gather information about explicit cases in

⁵ Dr. Rakesh K Singh, 'Witch Hunting: Alive and Kicking' (*Scribd*, 18 January 2011)

<<https://www.scribd.com/document/47055924/Witch-Hunting-Alive-and-Kicking>> accessed 14 January 2022

⁶ Evans & Pritchard, *Witchcraft Oracles and Magic among the Azande* (Oxford University Press 1976)

which, ladies (and men) in the three states under the review, have been named and deceived as a witch.”⁷

“Etymologically the term 'witchcraft' is a compound of two words 'wicce' and 'cræft' wherein the word 'wicce' gets its starting point from the early English word 'wicca' which alludes to 'witch' and 'cræft' signifies 'expertise or capacity. Described to be otherworldly, divinatory, and spiritualist in nature; witchcraft construes the act of, and confidence in, enchanted abilities and capacities which are accepted to impact the psyche, body, or property - of others in a malevolent way.”⁸ Being meant just as contextualized contrarily, it is all the more noticeably apparent in social orders whose religion-social structure consolidates respect towards secretive super-regular domains. Affirmed to be the inciting instrument for illnesses, actual deformations, starvation, terrible harvests, passing, and other non-ideal positions; witchcraft is suspected to be viewed as the intercession of negative extraordinary powers. It has been very much portrayed, archived, and accepted that witchcraft has primarily been polished generally by females. Females rehearsing this specialty are frequently depicted and ascribed as inauspicious looking startling females, shaking a broomstick, and finishing errands that were viewed as fiendish and vindictive. Asserted of causing negative impacts, such ladies are tested, marked as witches, and from that point nagged, ousted, flagellated, assaulted, consumed alive, and in the vast majority of the cases, mercilessly killed. These preliminaries and hunting have existed as socially adequate devices for getting rid of the counter-friendly, mala fide expectation-driven witches from the general public.⁹

ORIGIN

“The traditional time of witch-hunts in Early Modern Europe and Colonial America occurred in the Early Modern time frame or around 1450 to 1750, coming about in an expected 40,000 to

⁷ 'Annual Report: Contemporary Practices of Witch Hunting: A Report on Social trends and the interface with law' (*Partners for Law in Development*) < <https://pldindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/annual-report-2013-2014-pld-india.pdf> > accessed 14 January 2022

⁸ 'Etymologically definition' (*Cambridge University*)

<<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/etymological>> accessed 14 January 2022

⁹ Shamsher Alam & Aditya Raj, 'The Academic Journey of Witch-craft Studies in India' (*SSRN*, September 2017) <https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3108724> accessed 14 January 2022

50,000 executions.”¹⁰The monstrous pattern of witch-hunting was a lot of normal in Germany and Europe in the thirteenth century (1587) while in America in the early pilgrim time frame that is from 1450 to 1750. Thus, the witch trial known as Salem, which occurred in the Salem town of Massachusetts in 1690 denoted the embarkment of the appalling act of witch-hunting in America. In England, three significant demonstrations were articulated to rebuff witches under the rule of Queen Elizabeth. Indeed, King James, I of England was an ally of the witch hunt which eventually prompted the trial of the Pendle witches in the mid-1600s. “Agnes Waterhouse was the principal lady to be executed for witchcraft in England in the well-known trial of "The Chelmsford Witches". In Europe, the "Trier witch trials" was the milestone trials in European history where around 368 individuals were executed which included regarded residents, judges, and teachers between the years 1581 and 1593.”¹¹¹²¹³

Witch-hunting can be traced back to antiquity. “In ancient times the clergy and local authorities were the ones who tried to record and investigate cases related to witch hunts. The exhibition was organized with the aim of controlling and interacting with the underprivileged people in the pioneer Indian region of India.” Using optional data sources, including old evidence-based arrangements, notes made by pioneer directors, local newspapers, letters to kings, official announcements, legends, books, and the construction of various historical studies, declares the sepoy and non-military revolts. The workers' strike in 1857 had a few clear connections and connections with the troubling British way. Meanwhile, the British are similarly trying to separate the customs and traditions of the nations. Instead, the Gentiles trusted black magic as a nuisance never seen in their area. Hunting witches for the purpose of warding off evil influences is a vicious practice that is widely spread and deeply rooted in tribal culture. In the post seventeenth century, the briefly slackening hold of the East India Company's organization imploded the lawfulness in the locale.¹⁴However, English judges are

¹⁰ Richard M. Golden, ‘Changing Identities in Early Modern France’ *Satan in Europe: The Geography of Witch Hunts* (Duke University Press 1997) 234

¹¹ Gary Foxcroft (n 6)

¹² Annual Report: Contemporary Practices of Witch Hunting: A Report on Social trends and the interface with law (n 9)

¹³ Nidhi Bajaj, ‘Atrocious Witch Hunting Attacks in India: Need for Central Legislation’ (*Ipleaders*, 29 January 2020) <<https://blog.ipleaders.in/witch-hunting-attacks-in-india/>> accessed 14 January 2022

¹⁴ Michael Wolfe (n 12)

reluctant to make credible and reliable evidence such as black magic and supernatural powers. Therefore, the choice was directed to people related to magic and suspected witches. The tribes took action to cleanse the witches and pharmacists who had gathered under the influence of the British organization. After the eighteenth century, the founder of the witch-hunter tried to promote that 'individual opposition' and 'the growing popularity of materialism', which was a major factor in the great repetition of witch hunts. In the past, the practice of witch-hunting was widespread in some European countries. In the early modern era, the situation was dispersed due to the simplicity of the witch as a tradition. Witch preliminaries stayed alive as the training where individuals were scorched alive assuming that they were blamed for witchcraft.¹⁵No evidence has been presented of the witch hunt in India before 1792. In the Singhbhum area of the Chhotanagpur district in India under the control of the Company, it was not only those who were accused of being witches but also those who were related to being scolded to ensure victory. do not retaliate bypassing. The Chhotanagpur region was actually inhabited by an adventurous people called the Santhals. The presence of witches was an important cause for the Sandals. Witches were feared and had to be very busy and unfriendly. Similarly, it was expected that they could kill people for profit by their internal organs, and cause fever on steers among various disasters. In this way, as indicated by the Adivasi populace the fix to their infection and affliction was the end of these witches who were viewed as the reason.¹⁶The act of witch-hunt among Santhals was more severe than that in Europe. In contrast to Europe, where witches were strangulated prior to being scorched, the Santhals constrained them "...to eat human excreta and drink blood prior to tossing them into the flares."¹⁷¹⁸¹⁹

In the current occasions also, certain individuals in India, generally in towns, have the conviction that witchcraft and dark sorcery are viable. On one hand, individuals might look

¹⁵ Shamsheer Alam & Aditya Raj (n 11)

¹⁶ Shashank Sinha, 'Witch hunts, Adivasis, and the Uprising in Chhotanagpur' (2007) 42 (19) EPW <<https://www.epw.in/journal/2007/19/commentary/1857-witch-hunts-adivasis-and-uprising-chhotanagpur.html>> accessed 14 January 2022

¹⁷ William Crooke, *Popular Religion and Folklore of Northern India* (Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers 1996)

¹⁸ Daya Verma, 'Witch-Hunt among Santhals Economic & Political' (2007) 42 (23) EPW

<<https://www.epw.in/journal/2007/23/letters/witch-hunt-among-santhals.html>> accessed 14 January 2022

¹⁹ Shashank Sinha (n 18)

for guidance from witch-specialists for wellbeing, monetary or conjugal issues.²⁰ Then again, people, particularly women, are blamed for witchcraft and assaulted, incidentally killed.^{21,22} It has been accounted for that for the most part widows or divorced people are focused on denying them of their property.²³ “Apparently, venerated town witch-specialists are paid to mark explicit people as witches, so they can be killed without repercussions. The current laws have been viewed as incapable of checking the homicides.”²⁴ In June 2013, National Commission for Women (NCW) detailed that as per National Crime Records Bureau insights, 768 ladies had been killed for purportedly rehearsing witchcraft beginning around 2008 and reported designs for newer laws.²⁵

Present-day witch-hunts are for the most part limited to the monetarily frail and the minimized segment of the general public. “It was likewise seen that there is an inclusion of own relatives who enjoyed these practices for the sake of social purifying. Witchcraft has underscored its nearby connections to ethics and was additionally connected with neo-agnosticism, shamanism, and the deeds of conventional healers. As per the NCRB study, three Indian states, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Odisha are among the most exceedingly terrible hit, each representing around 400 passing in the beyond 15 years. In the beyond three centuries, Sub-Saharan Africa has seen kids as a casualty of these malicious practices. It was seen in different investigations that witch-make-related episodes are more normal in those areas which have bigger ancestral populaces when contrasted with different populaces.” This wrongdoing is generally predominant in immaterial financially evolved nations or states with almost no admittance to fundamental schooling and medical services offices. As indicated by

²⁰ Tanushree Sharma Sandhu, 'Black Magic practices in India' (*DW: Made for Minds*, 23 May 2012) <<http://www.dw.de/black-magic-practices-in-india/a-15969540>> accessed 04 January 2022

²¹ Salman Ravi, 'Village 'witches' beaten in India' (*BBC News*, 20 December 2009) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8315980.stm?ls> accessed 04 January 2022

²² Subir Bhaumik, 'Witch' family killed in India' (*BBC News*, 12 June 2008) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7449825.stm> accessed 04 January 2022

²³ Jill Schnoebelen, 'Witchcraft allegations, refugee protection and human rights: a review of the evidence' (*UNHRC*, January 2009) <<https://www.unhcr.org/research/working/4981ca712/witchcraft-allegations-refugee-protection-human-rights-review-evidence.html>> accessed 04 January 2022

²⁴ Bindu Shajan Perappadan, 'NCW demands stringent law against witch-hunts' (*The Hindu*, 4 June 2013) <<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/ncw-demands-stringent-law-against-witchhunts/article4779831.ece>> accessed 04 January 2022

²⁵ Crime in India 2012 Statistics (n 5)

the insights given by the National Crimes Record Bureau, wrongdoings concerning witch-hunting there have been 2391 killings or blamable manslaughters somewhere in the range of 1999 and 2013 in India.²⁶²⁷

CAUSES

Assuming we dissect the instances of witch-hunting across the globe, then, at that point, we will track down different reasons because of which these occurrences are as yet predominant. The main explanation and apparently the most compelling motivation of witch-hunting is the existing male-centric society in the social orders. The individuals from the privileged of the social order, for instance, upper-rank individuals in Indian culture essentially, frequently utilize different strategies to hold the general public under their influence in country regions and one of their techniques is witch-hunting which threatens ladies and set the precedent of witch-hunting.²⁸ A Witch-hunting occurrence was found in the town of Jharkhand state where four Dalit ladies were severely threatened and were made to confront public embarrassments and bars were punctured in their bodies thus, they passed on because of their marking "witches". These communitarian strict worries, individual hostility, a customary attitude of man-centric society make ladies pass on till death. However, the Dalit ladies have observed a passage in administrative organizations, instructive establishments, government occupations yet lack alleviation against orientation viciousness acts, for example, witch-hunting. Likewise, individuals have convictions and odd notions that witches have supernatural abilities which they use to assault people, obliterate yields, make hurt creatures, impact the body and brain of others, and acquire what is past the clinical calling.²⁹

Significantly the casualties of witch-hunting are women who are either widows, helpless ladies or childless ladies with next to no monetary aid and these ladies have property privileges that will be passed to her closest male relative in the afterlife. Thus, to acquire land quickly ladies

²⁶ Shamsheer Alam & Aditya Raj (n 11)

²⁷ Nidhi Bajaj (n 15)

²⁸ Ed Whelan, 'Ancient Superstitions Pervade India as Modern 'Witch Hunt' Leaves Mother and Children Dead' (*Ancient Origins*, 31 January 2019) <<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-general/witch-hunt-india-0011413>> accessed 12 January 2022

²⁹ Shubhangi Singh Rajora (n 4)

are blamed as witches.³⁰ Women are threatened as witches via land mafias to have an offer in her territory as in August 2017 in Rajasthan Ajmer 40 years of age Dalit lady was marked as a witch, whipped severely, and made to eat human excreta in Rajasthan's Ajmer district. Individuals in country regions with no schooling offices or least instruction office's fault people for every one of the terrible happenings when they can't give substantial reasons because of their customary man-centric outlook Refusal to have sex by the ladies, neediness, and absence of assets, the male-centric mentality of individuals, moderate society, absence of clinical offices, social struggles, envy are a portion of the legitimate causes which cause witch-hunting. Individuals in remote regions with least or no instructive offices or the old illiterate individuals of towns fault people for the terrible happenings when they neglect to clarify the purpose for them.³¹

VICTIMS

Witchcraft is a practice of hating women in our society as a whole. Endlessly, it is women, especially Dalits or adivas, who are classified as dayans or witches. By expelling people who are considered disgusting and cruel, the oppressors probably need to send a really subtle message to women: risk-free and everyday life is improved, and anything else is suspected. The accused women were subjected to shocking physical and mental abuse. In extreme cases, women need to be patient as the majority may not be able to get together for help, due to a lack of education and depression. The result is that they need to flee the city leaving their home and land, or they may be humiliated, tortured, and killed because of the local people. Weak 'witches' are hunted down and driven away, roamed the cities, have their hair cut or shaved their heads, their faces covered, their noses cut off, their teeth pulled out (almost contaminated) they will never be blamed, beaten, tested, once in a while, forced to eat human waste, they are killed (losses are hanged, cut, broken, killed or assembled alive). Surprisingly, such abnormal, tummy tuckedness does not occur in dirty, shady places, but rather a large part of large, open urban areas where a gathering of joy can fill a low-lying field. Where these

³⁰ Dr. Rakesh K Singh (n 7)

³¹ 'Witchcraft in India: An Alarming Reality (2018) 4 (2) RLR <<https://journal.rostrumlegal.com/witchcraft-in-india-an-alarming-reality/>> accessed 12 January 2022

ladies are left to reside, they are thought of as foreboding and malicious, socially excluded and compelled to forego their work. Where they don't wind up losing their life, they are made to lose their psychological equilibrium.³² The individuals from the privileged of the social order, for instance, upper-rank individuals in Indian culture essentially, frequently utilize different strategies to hold the general public under their influence in country regions and one of their techniques is witch-hunting which threatens ladies and set the precedent of witch-hunting.³³ A Witch-hunting occurrence was found in the town of Jharkhand state where four Dalit ladies were severely threatened and were made to confront public embarrassments and bars were punctured in their bodies thus, they passed on because of their marking "witches". These communitarian strict worries, individual hostility, a customary attitude of man-centric society make ladies pass on till death. However, the Dalit ladies have observed a passage in administrative organizations, instructive establishments, government occupations yet lack alleviation against orientation viciousness acts, for example, witch-hunting. Likewise, individuals have convictions and odd notions that witches have supernatural abilities which they use to assault people, obliterate yields, make hurt creatures, impact the body and brain of others, and acquire what is past the clinical calling.³⁴

Significantly the casualties of witch-hunting are women who are either widows, helpless ladies or childless ladies with next to no monetary aid and these ladies have property privileges that will be passed to her closest male relative in the afterlife. Thus, to acquire land quickly ladies are blamed as witches.³⁵ Women are threatened as witches via land mafias to have an offer in her territory as in August 2017 in Rajasthan Ajmer 40 years of age Dalit lady was marked as a witch, whipped severely, and made to eat human excreta in Rajasthan's Ajmer district. Individuals in country regions with no schooling offices or least instruction office's fault people for every one of the terrible happenings when they can't give substantial reasons because of their customary man-centric outlook Refusal to have sex by the ladies, neediness, and absence of assets, the male-centric mentality of individuals, moderate society, absence of

³² Dr. Rakesh K Singh (n 7)

³³ Ed Whelan (n 30)

³⁴ Shubhangi Singh Rajora (n 4)

³⁵ Dr. Rakesh K Singh (n 7)

clinical offices, social struggles, envy are a portion of the legitimate causes which cause witch-hunting. Individuals in remote regions with least or no instructive offices or the old illiterate individuals of towns fault people for the terrible happenings when they neglect to clarify the purpose for them.

WHY IS WITCH-HUNTING BARBARIC?

According to irrefutable experiments and authentic experiments, the symbol of black magic from time immemorial, directing it for warfare led to the naming of ladies as witches and 'directors of abominations'. In particular, in the natural regions, women are exposed to this vicious habit and are abused by family members just as much as society. It is a time when any young woman who has been called a witch finds it difficult to live long in that community. Women are attacked, abused, covered up, and brutally murdered because of the strange feelings in society. More often than not, the more capable women and widows are classified as witches and appear to be a threat to society. Furthermore, acts of witchcraft appear to be wreaking havoc on humanity, causing pollution, and the 'passing away of the stench. Because of these restrictions on revenge, witches are considered a threat to society. Witchcraft is an uncouth and outlandish practice through which individuals do illicit and coldhearted demonstrations for the sake of expulsion of evil from society.³⁶³⁷³⁸

LEGAL APPROACH

There are various laws governing the world, at the community level and in different regions that provide consistent discipline for those convicted of witch-hunting and related trials. At the international level, laws such as the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, etc. women's

³⁶ Evans & Pritchard (n 8)

³⁷ Soma Chaudhari, 'Global Criminology: Crime and Victimization in a Globalized Era (1st Edn.) , *A Theoretical Model to Explain the Victimization Process during an Indian Witch Hunt* (Routledge 2013)

³⁸ Riya Ranjan, 'Witchcraft in India : A barbaric practice and a monstrous reality' (*Ipleaders*, 19 March 2021) <<https://blog.ipleaders.in/witchcraft-india-barbaric-practice-monstrous-reality/>> accessed 15 January 2022

insurance in segregation due to guidance and similarly provided significant freedom and security and the Indian government is committed to these guidelines. In India, a British organization attempted to shut down this provision in the then-existing area of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhota Nagpur in the 1840-1850s." Several official developments have taken by the British, however, took place in defiance of their points as there was an increase in cases of witch hunts. After Independence, there were no exceptional laws relating to witch-hunting rehearses, the explanation referred to for this is that the Indian Penal Code³⁹ accommodates the discipline of such offenses submitted during the time spent witch-hunting. Because of the expanding chart of violations against ladies, a few states approached to plan essential laws against witch-hunting. Bihar was the first state in the present time to elapse a law against Witch-Hunting in the year 1999, and was named the "Prevention of Witch (Dayan) Practices Act". "An individual who recognizes a person as a witch can be detained for a long time and/or fined Rs. 1,000, and an individual who causes a lady physical or mental torment by naming her a witch can be detained for a long time and/or fined Rs.2,000. The act likewise disallows any damage to a lady trying to "fix" her; the punishment for such an act is 1 year in jail and/or a fine of Rs. 2,000." After Bihar, Jharkhand additionally following the Bihar Model set up the "Counter Witchcraft Act" in the year 2001, to shield Women from brutal treatment also to give casualties legal response to manhandle. In this Act, in fact, the discussions of Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 regarding disciplinary action are permitted if anyone offends a person by practicing witchcraft, attempting to correct a witch, and in addition, any damage done to him or her. Section 7 of the Act examines the implementation process. The Chhattisgarh government has established the "Chhattisgarh Tonahi Pratadna Nivaran Act, 2005", to protect people from Witch-Hunt diseases. The said Act provides for a term of three years' imprisonment for one woman 'Tonahi' or 'Dayan' and 'five years' imprisonment for any person who commits such material acts. The Odisha government approved the Odisha Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2013, which came into effect in February 2014. be at the level of reversing wild practice. Rajasthan Government. order the "Rajasthan Prohibition of Witch Hunts Act, 2015". The Act mandates adequate measures to deal with the danger of witch-hunts and in the

³⁹ Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 322

same way to prevent the practice of magic in the country. A person who engages in witch-hunts (a very serious act) will be liable to imprisonment for a long time which will not be embarrassing that one year can still be a five-year term or a lesser penalty. as Rs. 50,000 or both. The Assam area, frankly, contains the testimony of the President of the Assam Witch Hunts Bill (Prevention, Prevention, and Protection), 2015. The Act, 2015 includes training as a non-bailable, non-discriminatory, and non-transferable form. charge while serving seven years imprisonment and a fine of up to 5 lakhs for identifying any person as a witch. So far there are no specific laws enacted in Maharashtra against witch-hunts and its only explanation is to oppose a few strong circles that acknowledge that authorized law may complete their old services Now after the witch hunt episodes are over. to increase the government of the country is required to pass a bill to eradicate social ills and human reform. Among the regions where witch-hunt is unavoidable, a number of West Bengal areas such as Purulia, Bankura, and Birbhum fall under those provinces. However, the national government has failed to establish another regulation to deal with it. As such, there is a need for public administration that will influence all provinces to deny it. In addition to these government laws, there are various structures established to prevent witch-hunts and protect the safety of women, and ensure that those rights are essential to the continued existence of peace and contentment. Legal Assistance to Development (PLD) 1998, which is a merger of the legal framework for social justice and women's rights in India. It considers women's liberty as an integral part of society as a whole and protects women's rights from domestic violence, because of gender, culture, status, etc. Apart from this many NGOs work to prevent and protect women in the community. the evils of witch-hunting. hunting witches. With the exception of these non-governmental organizations and a few neighboring organizations that ban witch-hunts, the "Avoidance, and Prohibition of Witch-Hunting" bill was drafted by the people of Human Rights Defense International, which is now in the pipeline. It targets building up national legislation connecting with witch-hunting.⁴⁰⁴¹

⁴⁰ Dr. Rakesh K Singh (n 7)

⁴¹ Suvarna Dubey, 'Witch-Hunting: A Barbaric Practice that Threatens Women Even Today' (*Legal Service India*, 2019) <<https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-3700-witch-hunting-a-barbaric-practice-that-threatens-women-even-today.html>> accessed 15 January 2022

The rise in promiscuity by women suspected of practicing witchcraft has compelled a few Indian states to take decisive action against this phenomenon. Bihar, in spite of all its backwardness, became a major region at one time to break the law against witch-hunting. The “Bihar government passed a law in 1999 called the Prevention of Witch (Dayan) Practices Act, 1999. Jharkhand followed through the Anti-Witchcraft Act of 2001. The Chhattisgarh Tonhi Pratadna 2005 (Chhattisgarh Prevention of Atrocities on Women for Tonhi) Bill was released in 2005. Rajasthan pursued the case in 2006.” An important part of the black magic rules was: ‘immorality will be considered as committed where any person or a neighbor or unexpectedly supports, consents, assists and activates the ID of a woman as a witch who promotes her psychological and physical suffering and shame’. Discipline and sentencing were not a barrier as immoral criminals (who are actually men, Hindus generally love politics) understand that they will not be booked for what will be seen as a party event. anger. it does not include murderous activity. Yet, it is a result of the absence of laws or rather innocuous laws and their frail execution that explicitly focuses on this training.⁴²

NEED FOR CENTRAL LEGISLATION

In any case, the states have passed laws to control witch-hunting, there is at this point a need for a central regulation for witch-hunting in India, as these state instruments have as a general rule forgotten to get ladies. For instance, “In January 2019, Mangri Munda, a genealogical woman alongside her two children and two young ladies were killed and their bodies were dumped in a well close to their home in Odisha. People confided in her to be a witch fit for doing dim witchcraft.” The essential charge for the circumstance was Budhram Munda who was the witch specialist. People felt that she was answerable for a long-running affliction in the charged family. “The case of Mangri Munda is just one model among the various where exemplary ladies are faulted for being witches and are considered liable for the death of youths, infection spreading in the town, and different mishappenings. This episode shows that

⁴² Dr. Rakesh K Singh (n 7)

the state regulations are not adequately capable of actually taking a look at such events.”⁴³ In the “Tula Devi and Ors vs State of Jharkhand case⁴⁴, where around 10 individuals equipped with sticks went into the place of the complainant and manhandled and attacked her. They used to call her and address her as Dayan for the most recent 2 years and forced her to leave the spot. Her husband attempted to save her however he was additionally attacked. This caused the women mental agony. Some partition suit was likewise continuing and the lady was blamed for being a witch to come down on them. Notwithstanding, the case was excused on the ground of the absence of an observer, the court held that the weight of proof was on the casualty who was needed to show that she was being blamed for being a witch. Before the enactment of the state-level legislation on the prevention of witch-hunting, there were no severe laws regarding the matter, and the charges were attempted under Indian Penal Code Section 323, 354, 509”⁴⁵⁴⁶⁴⁷ and the merciless acts of stoning, tonsuring were treated as straightforward hurt. “In 2015, a film 'Kala Sacch' was delivered in view of a genuine occurrence in Jharkhand wherein one Seeta Devi was blamed for being a witch and as a punishment, her body was punctured with needles, her husband was made handi-covered however the denounced were not convicted. The film was a drive to demand the Central Government to enact focal legislation regarding the matter. In addition, existing laws are in short supply as they are based on moral tools but do not respond to the need to eradicate strange and irrational feelings. Procedures for prosecution are equally tied and the new needs of the victims and survivors are ignored. All the things that are considered insults (usually the strong people of the city) are punished when considering the way the attack is presented as the end result of the group’s anger. References or others often do not want to deal with the report this is a direct result of their fears or confirmation of training. The absence of evidence prompted the suspects to appear. The practice of witch hunts undermines the social equality provided by international programs and the Constitution, including the right to security, right

⁴³ ‘Condemned, Discriminated, violated: Horrific Tales Of Witch-Hunting In Odisha’ (*Outlook*, 19 August 2021) <<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story//opinion-condemned-discriminated-violated-horrific-tales-of-witch-hunting-in-odisha/376620>> accessed 14 January 2022

⁴⁴ *Tula Devi & Ors. v The State of Jharkhand and Anr.* [2006] (3) JCR 222 [Jhr]

⁴⁵ Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 323

⁴⁶ Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 354

⁴⁷ Indian Penal Code, 1860, s 509

to everyday routine right against discrimination and right to experience a nice life and other major rights."⁴⁸ The Prevention of Witch-Hunting Bill was presented in Lok Sabha in 2016 by Shri Raghav Lakhanpal⁴⁹ but was rarely passed. Present laws don't give a powerful system to assist the casualties with recuperating from the consequences of witch-hunting including forced removal, expulsion from the town, social and economic blacklist, and so forth. Thus there is a desperate requirement for national-level legislation to destroy this malicious altogether.

"If there should arise an occurrence of *Madhu Munda v the State of Bihar*"⁵⁰, criminals always leave because of the doubts of onlookers to confirm against them. In this case, the mother is evicted from her home by certain individuals. He is said to be missing. FIRE has been reported. 8 days later my mother was found and the men threw her on the channel and she fell unconscious. When he recovered, he went to his brother's house. In the current situation, the suspect was not convicted on the grounds that it was a sensitive announcement from the viewer. Likewise, "the Calcutta High Court on account of *State of West Bengal v Kali Singh and others*"⁵¹, saw that legal execution in the instances of witch-hunting doesn't help in killing this evil since it has its root in the mind of men. "The Court while driving to life capital punishment of 7 men at fault for killing 3 women trusting them to be witches held the state irresponsible in releasing its obligation of giving education in each alcove and corner of the country."⁵²

CONCLUSION

"India has no national-level law to forestall witch-hunting, in spite of the fact that states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand have administered on the issue, and there is a draft bill put together by the Rajasthan State Commission for Women that is under the thought of the state government. Notwithstanding, the sentences endorsed and the pitiful measure of fine

⁴⁸ Constitution of India, 1949, art 21

⁴⁹ Prevention of Witch Hunting Bill, 2016

⁵⁰ *Madhu Munda And Ors. v State of Bihar* [2003] (3) JCR 156 [Jhr]

⁵¹ *State of West Bengal v Kali Singh & Others* [2016]

⁵² *Ibid*

suggested in the law (any place authorized) have ended up being insufficient in managing this social hazard. Such restrictions and doctrines are needed to be managed immovably by making the correctional arrangements more rigid. Until and except if there are severe laws formulated that point straightforwardly at the wrongdoing of witch-hunting, circumstance would continue as before.” In like manner, hostile to witchcraft laws ought to be revised to improve the time of sentence to at least three years. No expectant bail ought to be given under law to the denounced. The best answer for the issue is to instruct individuals and furthermore to casing and execute powerful laws for the security of ladies and individuals having a place with the 'lower' classes of the general public who likewise comprise another objective gathering of such witch chases. Laws should be joined by productive social government assistance conveyance components also. As we know, witch-hunting cases are on the rise as a result of a mix of variables, including chronic frailty conveyance and tutoring, absence of drinking water, disinfection, and transport offices, just as an overall absence of data in far off regions. Consequently, the technique to battle this social evil must be multi-pronged. In actuality, all that system that the Government can embrace is:

- Severe requirement of the Anti-witchcraft law for powerful counteraction of witch-hunting rehearses and to wipe out the ladies' torment, embarrassment, and killing by the general public for some other concerning the matter.
- “Refinement of police and Welfare Department Personal, and NGOs working for anticipation of witch-related monstrosities to divert individuals' consideration from such detestable practices and apply their energy for more useful purposes.”
- Sending off of missions against the odd notion and witch-hunting rehearses and coordinating padayatras and public mindfulness gatherings against through joined endeavors of government, organization, wilful associations, schools, and so on, particularly in areas where the danger is generally wild, would surely have a constructive outcome in containing the witch-chase.
- Getting sorted out Women's gatherings at the town level and drawing up inventive plans in meeting with such gatherings to improve the fearlessness and monetary freedom of weak ladies in such regions.

- Setting up a unique cell at state and area levels for follow-up of mindfulness age with respect to lawful freedoms of ladies and observing of witch confirmations/cases held up in regards to witch-related savagery.
- Distinguishing proof of survivors through different state and area-level projects in every one of the impacted states and restoration of victims of savagery particularly the people who have no family/local area support
- Present the subject of witchcraft in school course books. The thought is to bring issues to light in school children about the crude act of witch-hunting in view of offbeat convictions, so it can ultimately be defamed and annihilated.