# Portrayal of Women in Indian Crime Web Series: A Narrative Analysis and Survey

Ms. CP Rashmi[1], Dr. Ritu S Sood[2]

[1]Assistant Professor / Research Scholar, School of Media, Film and Entertainment, Sharda University, Greater Noida, cprashmi1@gmail.com
[2]Dean, Sharda University, School of Media, Films and Entertainment, Greater Noida, ritu.sood@sharda.ac.in,

**Abstract**

Portrayal of women in the webseries differs according to the genera like, crime, comedy, thriller, drama etc. A new order of communication started after covid-19 lockdown where online viewership has increased tremendously on OTT platform especially when it comes to crime webseries in India. India is male dominated society and many issues related to women like, empowerment, education, suppression, harassment etc are still a matter of high concern. These Crime series are high on content like abusive language, explicit sex content, violence etc. and research finding shows that these series are liked to watch more by men in comparison to women. When it comes to the content as these webseries unlike films doesn't have any censor board to control the content and this freedom is seen in the creation and presentation of these series. Aim of the following study is to do a narrative analysis to understand the cultural influence and to have a deeper understanding about the way the women is portrayed in these crime webseries of India. Media have always stereotyped women and created an ideal image of women through its content. The study does an analysis how the women characters are portrayed and whether any ideal women image is portrayed. The study also collected opinion about portal of women in these series where (N=323) and interesting findings were presented both in qualitative and quantitative form.

**Keywords :** Crime Web Series, OTT Platforms, Trailers, Focus Group, Marketing Strategy, content analysis .
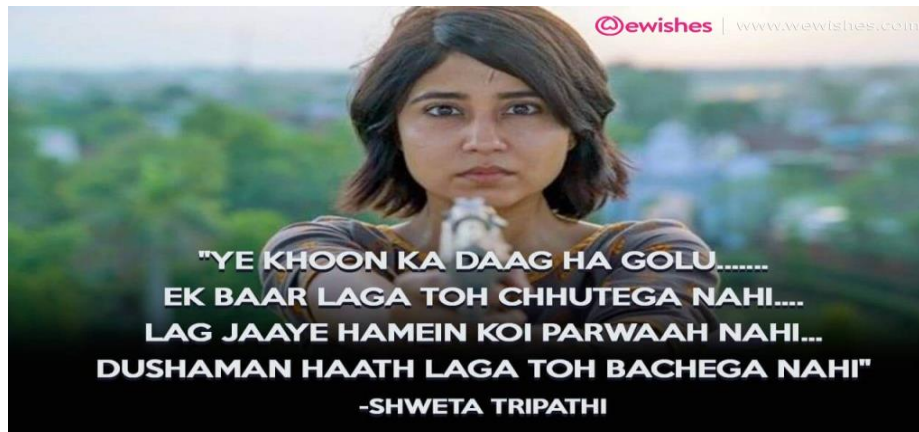
**Introduction**



**Figure 1 Dialogue from Mirzapur (crime webseries) Hindi (Translation: "This is stain of blood Golu….once applied it's hard to erase…. I don't care about the stain…if the enemy if caught I will not spare")**

Majority of the India is a patriarchal society, where male domination exists and even in this 21st century females are controlled by males as majority of their own life's decisions are not taken by women (singh, 2011).

Ms. CP Rashmi[1], Dr. Ritu S Sood[2]

Cinema has various roles to play in a person's life it entertains masses becoming a window to escape from mundane routine, stress and worries. One the major role cinema also plays is in shaping opinions through its content, creating an image on various issues with the help of enactment of the content and last but not the least it also reinforce the popular and dominant cultural values/beliefs (Sibal, 2018). Looking into the 2020 statistics about the male and female ratio in India 108.18 males are there in comparison to 100 females (Knoema) , with such huge statistics issues related women empowerment becomes very important and cinema has a huge role to play in this context.

Indian cinema and entertainment Industry have gone through many changes when it comes to the representation of women and their roles in presentation of the content. Right from just an object to attract audience by just being a mumbo, the role of women has changes drastically by being the main character or the protagonist of the entire film or for say any television program or story. Though many film makers and films including webseries, television programmes have come forward where they have broken the stereotype characters created by Indian cinema yet when it comes to popularity of majority of storyline or popular cinema men have been portrayed with certain stereotypical characters and role that is accepted as the masculinity by the society. Females are still in majority shown as the week and ideal women type characterized by these misogynistic types (Deshmukh, 2020). Gender stereotyping is a major debatable issue which continues even after post feminism where the main area of concern still remain the same the quilt of media content where male and female are represented as equals. The following becomes more difficult looking into the genres like crime, action and violence where women are either misrepresented or under-represented.

Webseries is the part of new popular culture especially after the Covid-19 lockdown when the online media and its usage have accelerated. 70% of the Indian population is counted amongst the young generation and along with these the others also joined online media one of the reasons resulting in the oozing popularity of these webseries. These webseries have brought a content which is very different from the "saas-bahu (mother-in-law and daughter in-law)" soap operas making a shift towards a entertainment industry showing with a realism approach which showcases not just content with specialized regional approach but also caters to the middle class and lower middle class masses of India (Maheshkumar, 2020) .

These webseries are also divided based on various genres like comedy, exclusive women centric series, drama, crime, suspense, horror etc. Though the first webseries of India was Permanent Roommates in 2014 and the following series was watched around 50 million times (Mitul, 2015) but the first Indian series that became famous worldwide and changed the whole game of webseries and its popularity was 'Scared Games' a crime series based on a novel which was showcased on the OTT platform Neflix (Shah, 2020). Every genre has its way of representation of women though with no censorship on OTT platform many clichés are broken. The following research is an attempt to study the representation of women in these crime webseries.

**Women and crime webseries**

The webseries had brought with it a new wave where post feministic hints can be seen .Women are now seen playing the roles of bold, realistic, empowered women who are not just restricted to kitchen and playing in-house politics of sacrificing and suppressed women, they are seen with various roles which is liked by the audience on these OTT Platforms (MoneyControlNews, 2019).  With the help of these webseries new wave of cultural representation of women has come forwards where realistic approach is being adopted by the content developers and film makers, majority of the webseries that stand in the list of popular stand in the genre of crime webseries to name a few like Delhi Crime, Sacred Games, Mrizapur etc where few of the female characters are appreciated and liked by the audiences. But the point here is whether the characters played by women in the crime series are balanced, in accordance to the concept of masculinity and men stereotyping.

Even talking about the attitude of women has changed watching the content related to the crime in television and other Medias. In a study conducted rural women of Tehri Garhwal in 2017 regarding their television viewing habits it was found that crime related serials are also impacting in both positive as well as negative ways these women where the only source of entertainment was television at that time (Bhatt & Singh, 2017).

Research conducted on women and webseries narrates that people believe that as there is no censorship applied n these OTT platforms many taboo and untouched topic related to women and empowerment are explored and shown especially the representation of women which was not done in case of television and mainstream cinema (Wardhan, 2020).  Looking into western crime webseries one can find post and researchers being conducted in the arena of women based crime webseries; whereas talking about Indian webseries it is still unseen. Though women are seen playing various characters but crime as a genre is still male dominant.

Many researchers are conducted when it comes to crime series and reality shows on television but yet the Research regarding crime based webseries are very few.

**Theories related**

According to Social Cognitive Theory (SCT) media plays a crucial role when it comes to building the perception and Individual action in society based on a person's individual experience. With the help of social cognitive theory media can instill expectations and this is done through strong characters' and developing content which is shown through the protagonist or what we call hero. Media is used for development and its is very effective it could be used for self-efficacy, to develop behavioral capabilities, expectations, expectancies, self-control, observational learning and reinforcement (Bandura A. , 2004). So people learn from the content and its presentation , the crime based web series is full in showing crime which could lead to development of knowledge toward not only awareness but also how to commit one. Women in these series are objectified and keeping in mind that crime as a genre is male dominated they are objectified a lot. When it comes to films for education if it is designed keeping in mind the social cognition theory which directly/ indirectly whether in form of audio, video etc can influences the audience (Rasit, et al., 2015).

Another theory dominant for the study is the Cultivation theory, people who are into watching these web series are also into binge watching according to cultivation theory people who uses media for longer period of time ,who are exposed to media content for longer period of time tend to perceive the social reality that is presented in the content they are exposed. In longer rum the attitudes and behavior of these audiences tend to affect because of the content they are exposed to (Nabi & Riddle, 2008). The following study also tried to find out the postulated related to Post Feminism Theory. Post feminism started in 80's and referred as a waved that happed after the feminism wave. According to this theory especially in content of media women is projected as celebrating their sexuality. Women are shown bolder in terms of content, more explicit, liberated, having their own though process and making their own decisions.

**Objective**

The Major objective of the study is to analysis the women characters' being portrayed in the crime based Indian webseries of India.

**Specific Objectives of the study**

To test the following hypothesis based on the opinion survey conducted

H1: Crime based web series are liked and watched by Men more in comparison to women

H2: The crime web series promote women characters' in sexually explicit roles.

H3: The post feminist content present women in a realistic manner through the content of these crime based series

Apart from testing the above stated hypothesis the study aims to find out

- The kind of roles that is played by women in these selected webseries.
- The opinion that respondents have about women empowerment and the way they see women content to portray women in these crime webseries in terms of Indian culture and society.

**Methodology**

A narrative analysis of top 5 crime webseries is done to understand the representation of women in the crime webseries. The narrative analysis helped in deducing the qualitative aspect of the research.

An online survey was conducted on (N=323) Indian audiences where both the genders were asked open ended question regarding the representation of women in the crime webseries and their opinions are presented both in qualitative as well as quantitative form. Data was collected via Google forms. A non-probability sampling method that is the Snowball sampling technique (Goodman, 1961) was used to collect data as around 50 questionnaire links were shared to the known samples who watch webseries and they were asked to further circulate the questionnaire further to the people they know who watch crime webseries. The data was collected in a week's time and the result was analysis with the help of SPSS software.

**Table 1 IMDb Rating**

| web-series | IMDb Rating | OTT Platform |
|---|---|---|
| Sacred Games | 8.6 | Netflix |
| Mirzapur | 8.4 | Amazone Prime |
| Delhi Crime | 8.5 | Netflix |
| Asur | 8.5 | Voot |
| Criminal Justice | 8.1 | Hotstar |

Six questions were asked to the responded to collect the opinion regarding portal of women in these web series. Question number one to three collected response based on yes, no, can't say and sometimes. Question number four had eight subsections and lastly question number six and seven was open ended that collected qualitative inputs and opinions. In total there were 13 questions asked in total in the survey questionnaire.

**Findings**
**Narrative analysis**

*Delhi Crime:* The following web series was entirely based on issue related to women i.e. based on real life incident of 'Nirbhaya Rape case'. The series showcased very strong women characters including police officer, doctors etc. DCP Chhaya Sharma Played by Vartika Chaturvedi was a very strong character which showcased women with power with responsibility the case which she solves within the system , in proper channel and breaks the stereotype that working women or women in general in society has. DCP Chhaya could be noticed even using abusive language and behaving in a manner in certain shots which has broken many women ideal stereotype image and yet she emerged as the hero of the entire series.

Even the Victim was shown as a woman with utmost courage. The feminist approach of the characters was maintained by portraying the sensitivity in the emotions displayed yet courage, power and conviction was also blended at the same time. The series showcased women characters with different power, social strata and economic background. Other women characters played were by Rashika Dugal as IPS Trainee Neeti Singh, Yashaswini Dayama Daughter of DCP Chayya as Chandni 'Chandu', Swati Bhatia Judge as Ira, Abhilasha Singh as the victim, Jaya Bhattacharya as a very strong women character as Sub-Inspector & Juvenile Welfare Officer named Vimla Bhardwaj. All these characters' showcased strong women characters in different circumstance.

*Sacred Games:* The following crime series has broken the entire stereotype created by Indian entertainment industry regarding ideal women. The series have two seasons and both showcased many women characters the term used on social media platform for these women was "Bindas" i.e. carefree or in-depended minded women (Talwar, 2019). Amruta Subhash as 'Kusum Devi Yadav' has portrayed the role of a FBI, RAW agent, a character very strong, intelligent not at all into plastic beauty, loyal towards country at the same time she was married, a mother and a great lover. The role she played showcased women with power, responsible a role of a kind rare to be seen in Indian entertainment Industry following the post feminist theory of modernity and realism. Kalki Koechlin as 'Batya Abelman' played a grey women character a role which is very out of the league of usual women roles we see then and now. The following character was strong, bold and women involved in criminal activities of baba (fake monks) business. Women were shown naked, having sex, using abusive language triggering many debated and censorship issues. Yet the following series portrayed the women as it is in the world of crime and brought a revolution on the OTT platform regarding women and it role change in portraying women characters for platform like mobiles apps. Surveen Chawla as 'Jojo Mascarenas' played a character of a pimp and a prostitute who was the muse in disguise of the main character 'Gaitonde', the character portrayed here was very strong and various venerable as well as transformational stages in terms of character is shown. Shalini Vatsa as 'Kanta Bai' was a strong women character which shows the criminal side of women who taught the protagonist the business of mafia and crime. The series in season one portrayed another strong character called Coco played by Kubra saith, who was the muse of the protagonist and later disclosed as transgender, she was a bold, outrageous, independent who lived on her own terms , the following character was a bar dancer and also into prostitution. Raw agent played by Radhikha Apte as was also a strong women character who was ambitious, loyal for country and shown fighting for equal power in the system facing women discrimination at work. And lastly another women character played by Subhadra ,Rajshri Deshpande she was the wife of the protagonist ,she was a also a character who voiced her opinion as on when required in the series.

*Mirzapur:* the first season though had few women characters but none was prominent and all was based on the stereotypical women characters which portrayed women of northern India. The second season proved showing much evolved women characters as their were three main women character dominated the whole story line along with male. The women characters played shows how they evolve in a criminal environment driven with power. Women were shown in role like timid weak, as game planners, manipulators, as revenge seekers, the one who are political and grab power. But Most of the women characters though are shown playing negative role but are shown strong in character. Whether it was Shweta Tripathi who played the role of Golu the revenge seeker, or be it Isha Talwar as Madhuri (the daughter in law turning a the political leader) or be it Rasika Dugal as Beena(the wife) all these women all showed independent progressive approach towards fulfillment of sexual desires. The characters played in this episode are shown making their own decisions and the one who are suppressed did manipulation to achieve what they desired.

*Asur:* The Following series had all major role revolving around men though it had women character played by Anupriya Goenka as Naina the wife of Professor and FBI officer, ex-girlfriend Nusrat played by Ridhi Dogra

and, wife of Chief CBI officer who was killed Sandhya by Taranjit Kaur, All these roles non out shines in front of the characters of men in the series. It was clearly a series which was dominated by men characters, even the role Nusrat who was part of CBI Officer also not that strong. It was the usual role that was seen in many films or crime related entertainment shows stereotypical women officer character.

*Criminal Justice:* The series tough was a man dominated yet it portrayed strong women characters. These characters were realistic in nature and showed women not out of the way showcasing them as men. These characters' were equivalent to men but in there feminine way, such character does not pressurize or guide women to become or imbibe the characters of males to be empowered. Nikhat Hussain played by Anupriya Goenka as junior lawyer and Mita Vashist as Mandira Mathur was a very strong women character playing senior lawyer a women character in terms of power more powerful then men in the series. Even the Sandya Nath played by Madhurima Roy was a character could be seen using bad words, consuming drug with explicit role in terms of sexual content yet the following character was also progressive breaking the stereotype of women characters created by the soap operas created by Indian entertainment Industry. The character of protagonist big sister Avini Sharma played by Rucha Inamdar was a middle class woman who stood by his brother mentally and financially. She was a character, who during her pregnancy stood by her brother, retaliated to the abuse of her husband and took a divorce. Her dialogue "I don't need anyone to take care of me, I will take care of my own self" portrait an empowered and educated women.

**Survey findings**

The demographic show that *Figure 2* that majority of he responded participated in the survey was males in comparison to female's i.e. 218 (67.8%) males in comparison to the 103(32.1%) females. Though the survey was open to all but most of the men participated making it very clear that crime based web series are liked more by men in comparison to the females. Even looking into the chi-square values gender share a high level of significance i.e.( p=0.000).

Looking further into demographic as per Age *Figure 3* as a variable majority of the people participated were young 225(70.1%)
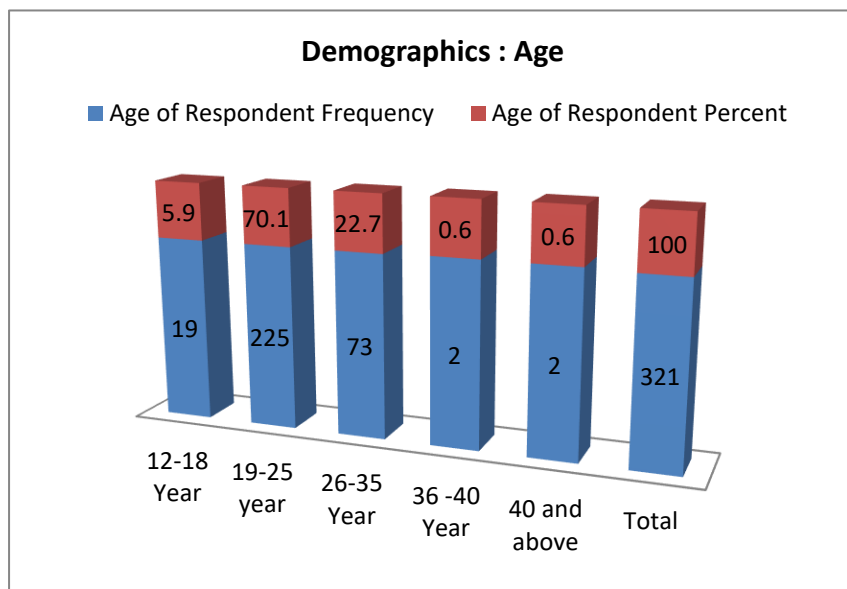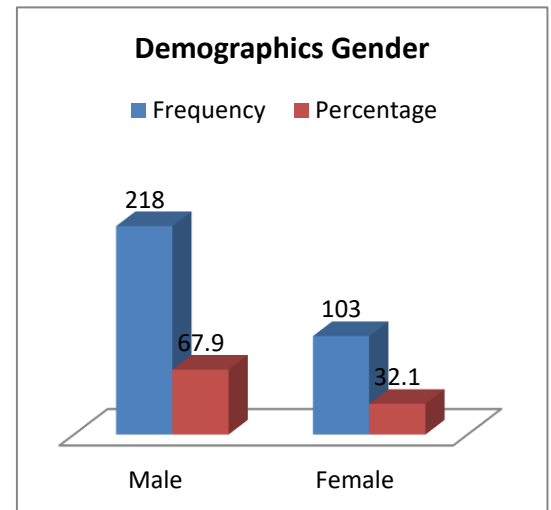


**Figure 2   Demographics Gender**



**Figure 3 Demographics Age**

responded were from 19-25 , 73(22.7%) were from age group 26-35%) the rest age of people participated were 19(5.9%) 12-18 age group, 2(0.6%) 36-40, 2(0.6%) from 40 and above. Looking into the statistics regarding the employment status majority of these respondents were students i.e. 212(66%) , 91(28.3%) were working, 10(3.1%) were into business, 3(0.9%) were house wife and 5(1.5%) were in other category both of the data related to

age and employment status let the researcher conclude that these crime related web series are watched and liked more by young people who are student as these students have time or they are spending time in binge watching these crime series. And looking into the employment status of these respondents we can find out that majority of them are graduated 145(45.2%) and then post graduates 100(31.2%), in higher secondary 48(15%), 12 (3.7%) PhD, 9(2.8%) High School and lastly 7(2.2%) below 10th. The following data makes it clear that these series are though watched by young but majority of them are graduates and post graduates i.e. adult audience.

Ms. CP Rashmi[1], Dr. Ritu S Sood[2]

Seven questions were asked to take the opinion of the respondent regarding the portal of women in these web series and the perception formed. *Figure 4* When asked about their opinion do they think that crime web series do nude/indecent portal of women, majority of the responded answered yes i.e. 132(40.9%), 63(19.5%) responded No, where as 82(25.4%) responded sometimes and 46(14.2%) were in dilemma and responded can't say. The statistics clearly shows that women characters shown in these web series are not greatly perceived.

**Opinion : crime web series do nude/ indecent portrayal of women?**

■ Yes  ■ No  ■ Can't Say  ■ Some Time

25.4%  40.9%  14.2%  19.5%
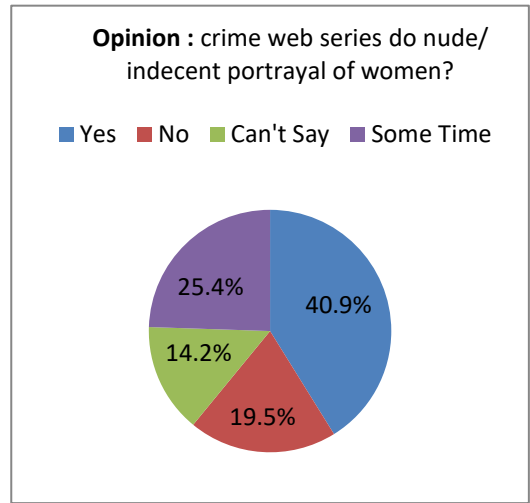
**Figure 4 Opinion 1**

Looking into *figure 5* one can find out that 134(4.5

**Opinion 2 :** in these web series women are considered as object to promote the series

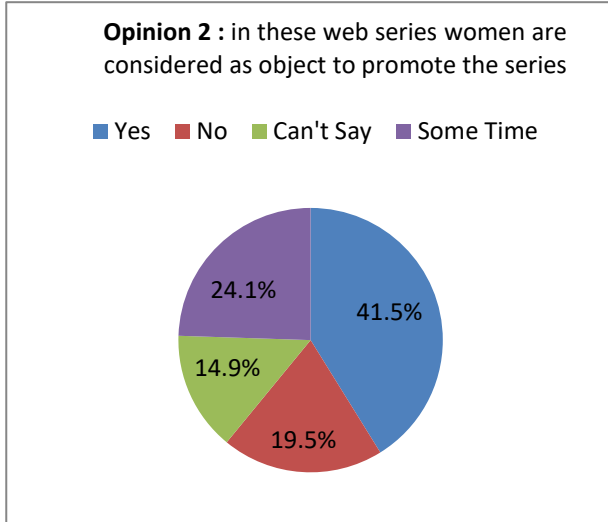■ Yes  ■ No  ■ Can't Say  ■ Some Time

24.1%  41.5%  14.9%  19.5%

**Figure 5 Opinion 2**

%) majority of the respondents believed that women are used as objects by making them sexualy explicit to promote these web series. 63(19.5%) said no that they don't beileve so, 48(14.95) said can't say and 78(21.1%) beilved sometime women are used a objec to promote these crime series. *Figurre 6*: When asked do they thin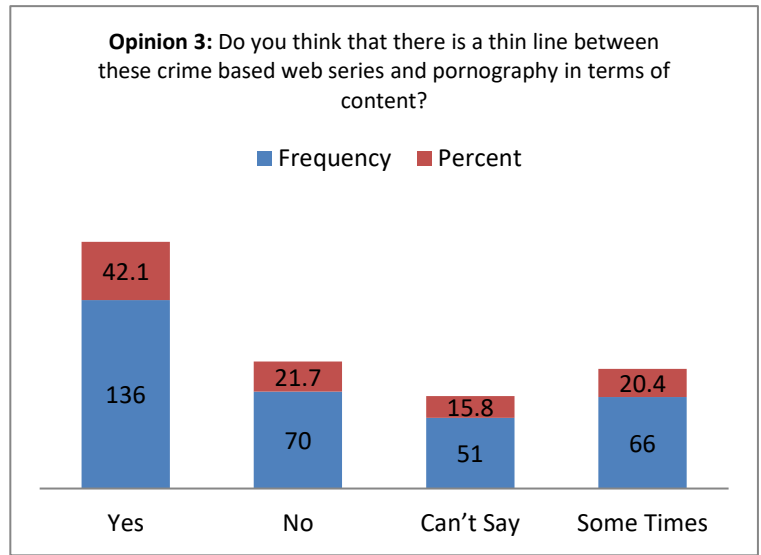k that there exist a thin line between these crime based web series and pornography in term of content and its presentaion 136(42.1%) i.e. majority responded yes, 70(21.7%) responded no, 51(15.8%) Responded can't say

**Opinion 3:** Do you think that there is a thin line between these crime based web series and pornography in terms of content?

■ Frequency  ■ Percent

42.1  136  21.7  70  15.8  51  20.4  66

Yes  No  Can't Say  Some Times

**Figure 6 Opinion 3**

and 66(20.4%) responded sometimes. *Table 2* shows the frequency regarding the different opinion about the characters of these series have formed on people, when asked do they feel erotic after watching women in these series 100(31%) said yes and 68(28.1%) said sometimes i.e. around 59.1% of the total respondents feels that the women characters are erotic in nature. When asked do they feel women characters are modern a very large number i.e. 205(63.5%) said yes and 45(13.9%) feel sometime again leads to interpret that the women characters of these webseries are modern and women with independent though process also supported by the narrative analysis.

When asked do they find women with strong characters 171(52.9%) said yes and 64(19.8%) which again shows majority of the character if there were strong in nature. When asked that whether they find them Independent 199(61.6%) said yes and 54(16.7%) opted sometimes. The responded believed that the women characters in these web series are progressive as majority said 176(54.4%) opted yes, 56(17.3%) opted sometimes. When they asked whether these roles associated to women are realistic 143(44.3%) opted yes and 59(18.3%) opted sometimes. When responded were asked their opinion related to whether these women character roles played in these series are taboo breakers128(39.6%) opted yes and 52(16.1%) opted sometimes. Lastly when asked whether these roles were avoiding stereotype 133(41.2%) image opted yes and 49(15.2%) opted sometimes.

**Table 2 Opinion 4**

| After watching women in these crime web series playing various roles do you feel ? |
| --- |

| | Erotic | Modern | Strong | Independent | Progressive | Realistic | Taboo Breakers | Avoiding stereotype image |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percent | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 31 | 63.5 | 52.9 | 61.6 | 54.5 | 44.3 | 39.6 | 41.2 |
| No | 24.8 | 13.6 | 16.1 | 12.7 | 14.6 | 20.7 | 18.9 | 19.8 |
| Can't Say | 23.2 | 9 | 11.1 | 9 | 13.6 | 16.7 | 25.4 | 23.8 |
| Some Times | 21.1 | 13.9 | 19.8 | 16.7 | 17.3 | 18.3 | 16.1 | 15.2 |

The last two questions even collected the opinion regarding what they think. *Figure 7* shows that data related to when asked the opinion whether responded felt empowered towards women after watching these crime based web series majority said yes i.e. 174(53.87%) , 85(26.32%) said no, 36(11.15%) said sometimes and 29(8.98%) said can't say. When asked the reason behind their answers few samples are understated

- Though these women character motivated me but it don't change too much of part of my personality.
- It motivates and gives power to do something constructive in life
- These roles influence women for social change bringing it by own.
- In today's time women are making a great change in the society. They are making a superior place for themselves empowering towards the male dominant characters.
- As a strong woman becomes examples for people so it can be said that people inspire from a strong Role.
- Theses webseries gives us more realistic views of world than movies and these webseries broke all the stereotypical and nonsensical views of some orthodox people
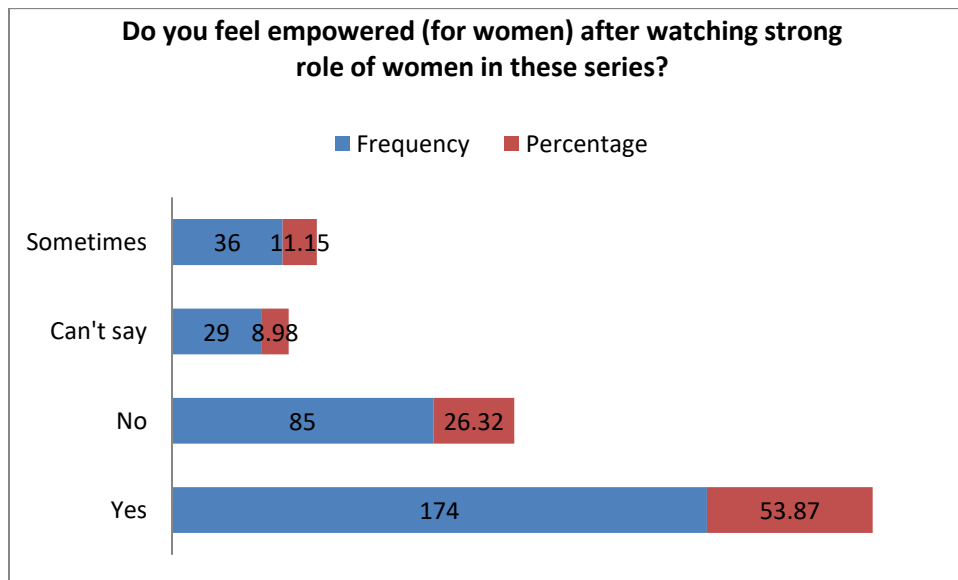


**Figure 5 Opinion 5 open ended**

*Figure 8* Shows that data of the respondents when asked do they feel ashamed after watching women in indecent way. 135(41.80%) said yes, 118(36.53%) said no, 42(13%) said sometimes and 26(8.67%) said opted can't say. Majority believed yes as they referred it against the Indian Culture the way women are represented in these crime based series. Few of the opinion collected are mentioned below:

- It's disappointing to see such content even after so many desperate attempts for women empowerment.
- Yes, it portrays a bad image of a women in-front of society.
- Yes, because disrespecting females or use of abusive words can't be accepted well in the matured gentle human society.
- Yeah women are pictured in indecent manner. And the bad part is they are willingly doing it. This makes people think women as an object.

Ms. CP Rashmi[1], Dr. Ritu S Sood[2]

- No because I have watched enough content to accept it as normal.
- No, I don't feel ashamed; I guess this is what their role requires.
- Yes, as a female I always feel ashamed. I never show this much of boldness in real life. So never connect that portrait.
- Yes, feels like they are used as an object or a marketing tactic.
- Yes, because what we need in the society is women empowerment not women nudity... and presently, in reality, women are exploited in many ways... so showing women naked is one of them.
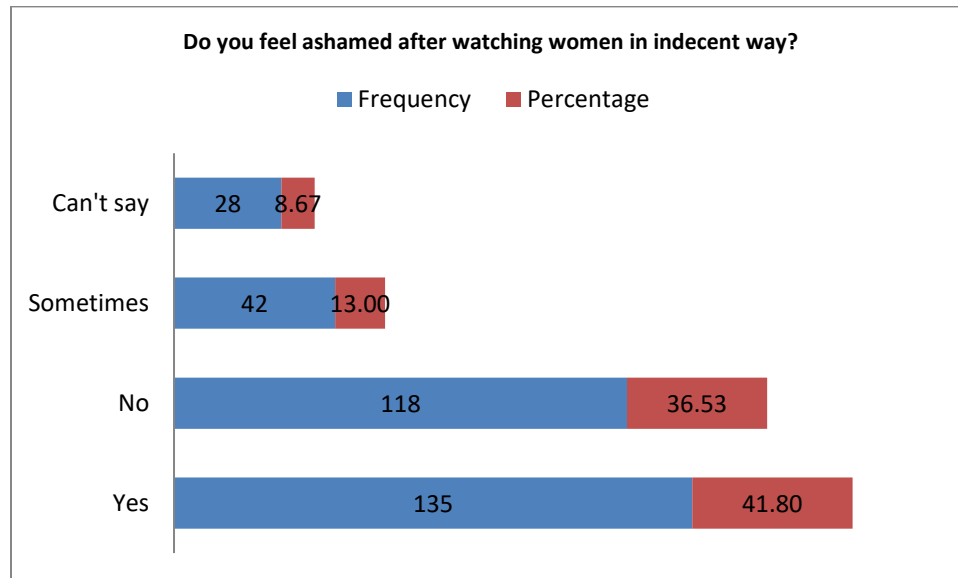


**Figure 6 Opinion 8 open ended**

## Discussion and Conclusion

Looking into the statistic stated in the finding one can conclude that the first hypothesis H1 stand true as the survey is calculated with both men and women but majority of the responded who responded to the survey and participated is men 218(67.9%) in comparison to the women103(32.1%). This is one of the reason why the content designed of these crime based web series is male oriented and majority are not women centric. Only if the issue is women centric then only content emphasized on women the following became clear in the narrative analysis conducted.

Looking into the chi-square value with regard to gender based data it was found that when asked after watching intimate scene or women in provocative roles do the respondents feel erotic and the following was highly significant in terms of gender demographics (p=0.000). As the data is male dominant the following makes it very clear the reason of the high level of content in terms of sexually explicit scenes and presenting women much bolder. Making the H2 true i.e. crime web series promote women character in sexually explicit roles.

Checking H3 that states that the post feminist content present women in a realistic manner though its media content in these crime based series it was found it has significance with gender i.e.(p=0.05). The following also shared high level of significance in terms of education as an indicator i.e. (p=0.006).

Crime based webseries on OTT Platform are more popular amongst men therefore its content is more men dominant. Though portrayal of women in these series follow post feminist approach where most of them are bolder, even shows women independent in their decision making , yet women are used as an object to promote these series which as a pattern is studied where women are shown with explicit sexual content. Women characters' shown are also developed keeping realism in mind according to the society and culture we live in.  In comparison to developed countries the portal of women at par to men where no visible stereotypes are shown has yet to be evolved in term of Indian Crime Webseries.

## Limitations and Future scope

One of the limitations that these web series was as women don't prefer to watch these series more less number of women participated in the survey. On contrary as these series are watched more by men, perception of men could be changed regarding various isssues like women empowerment, equality, and taboo breaker etc strategizing the content accordingly. Issues related to censorships and its opinion was not collected which could be

done in future research. Similar study could also be conducted for other genres of web series like comedy, exclusive series for women etc. OTT is evolving and studies related to its psychological impacts will be beneficial.

## Works Cited

Ahuja, R. (2020, Sep 09). A Study of effects of web series & streaming content on indian youth. *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT)* .

Ahuja, R. (2020). A STUDY OF EFFECTS OF WEB SERIES & STREAMING CONTENT ON INDIAN YOUTH. *Internation journal of of creative Research thoughts* , 1042-1055.

Ahuja, R. (2020). A Study of effects of web series & streaming contnet on indian youth . *Internation journal of of creative Research thoughts* , 1042-1055.

Bandura, A. (2004). Health Promotion by Social Cognitive Means. *Health Education & Behavior* , 143-164.

Bandura, A. (2008). Social Cognitoive Theory of Mass Communication. *In J. Bryant & M. B. Oliver (Eds.), Media Effects: Advances in Theory and Research* , 94-124.

Bandura, A. (1986). Social foundations of thought and action: A social cognitive theory.

Bhatt, A., & Singh, G. (2017). A Study of Television Viewing Habits among Rural Women of Tehri Garhwal District. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)* , *22* (7), 44-56.

binge-watching. (2018). *binge-watching*. Retrieved 04 12, 2021, from www.macmillandictionary: https://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/binge-watching

Chattopadhyay, A. (2020). Web Series and Web Movies and their psycho- sociological impact on netizens. *The Asian Thinker* , 46-57.

Chattopadhyay, A. (2020). Web Series and Web Movies and their psycho- sociological impact on netizens in India. *The Asian Thinker* , 7.

Chattopadhyay, A. (2020). web series and web movies and their psycho-sociological impact on netizens in india. *The Asian Thinker* , 46-57.

DelhiNews. (2021, Feb 20). *A woman is raped every 5 hours, 10 mins in Delhi*. Retrieved Apr 08, 2021, from https://www.hindustantimes.com/: https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/a-woman-is-raped-every-5-hours-10-mins-in-delhi-101613769257083.html

Deshmukh, S. (2020, Jan 20). *Women and Indian Cinema—A Tale of Representatio*. (MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY) Retrieved July 25, 2021, from https://themitpost.com/women-indian-cinema-tale-representation/

Drillinger, M. (2021, Mar 15). *Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Teens' Mental Health*. Retrieved Apr 08, 2021, from www.healthline.com: https://www.healthline.com/health-news/impact-of-covid-19-lockdown-on-teens-mental-health

Gerbner, G., Gross, L., Morgan, M., & Signorielli, N. (1980, Sep). The "Mainstreaming" of America: Violence Profile No. 11. *Journal of Communication* , 10–29.

Goodman, L. A. (1961). Snowball Sampling. *Ann. Math. Statist* , 148-170.

Honmode, S. (2019). Undertsanding The Indian Web Series an Analysis of Sacred Games. *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR)* , 258-256.

Kakkar, A., & Nayak, K. (2019). Analysis of product placment in Web series and its Influence on Consumer Buying Behavior . *Global Journal of Managment and bussiness research: E marketing* , 21-27.

Knoema. (n.d.). *Knoema*. Retrieved July 25, 2021, from Knoema: https://knoema.com/atlas/India/topics/Demographics/Population/Male-to-female-ratio#:~:text=India%20%2D%20Male%20to%20female%20ratio%20of%20the%20total%20population&text=In%202020%2C%20male%20to%20female,average%20annual%20rate%20of%200.19%25.

Kumar, M., & Mondal, A. (2018). A study on Internet addiction and its relation to psychopathology and self-esteem among college students. *Ind Psychiatry J.* , 61–66.

Maheshkumar, R. D. (2020). A Study on Impact & Popularity of Web Series on Youth. *International journal of creative reserach thoughts* , 1085-1093.

Matrix, S. (2014, Jan ). The Netflix Effect: Teens, Binge Watching, and On-Demand Digital Media Trends. *Jeunesse Young People Texts Cultures* , 119-138.

Michael, M. (2010, Feb 10). *The Mean World Syndrome - Desensitization & Acceleration (Extra Feature)*. Retrieved July 27, 2021, from YouTube : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msfu8YCCc8Q

Mitul, M. (2015, Sep 02). *TVF 'Pitchers' review: Just like beer, this intelligent web series flows freely*. Retrieved July 25, 2021, from Firstpost : https://web.archive.org/web/20180220195817/http://www.firstpost.com/entertainment/tvf-pitchers-review-just-like-beer-this-intelligent-web-show-flows-freely-2416458.html#

Ms. CP Rashmi[1], Dr. Ritu S Sood[2]

MoneyControlNews. (2019, April 19). *Breaking stereotypes: Changing roles of women in Indian drama series*. Retrieved Juy 25, 2021, from https://www.moneycontrol.com/: https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/sports-trends/ipl-2021-mumbai-indians-to-face-chennai-super-kings-on-september-19-in-uae-7220821.html

Nabi, R. L., & Riddle, K. (2008, Aug 20). Personality Traits, Television Viewing, and the Cultivation Effect. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media* , 327-348.

Narahari, A. C., & Mukherji, S. (2018). Effects of Crime Reality Shows on Indian Viewers - A Study. *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT)* , 1681-1701.

Panda, S., & C.Pandey, S. (2017). Binge watch and college students : Motivations and outcomes . *Young Consumers* , 425-438.

Rasit, R. M., Hamjah, S. H., Tibek, S. R., Sham, F. M., Ashaari, M. F., Samsudin, M. A., et al. (2015). Educating film audience through social cognitive theory reciprocal model. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences* , 1234 – 1241 .

Salovaara, S. (2017, Sep 29). *5 Crucial Lessons for Making Your First Web Series*. Retrieved Apr 13, 2021, from nofilmschool.com: https://nofilmschool.com/2017/09/5-things-know-making-your-first-web-series

Samota, V. (2021, May 10). *Should OTT Be Censored Or Regulated In India?* Retrieved Jun 18, 2021, from businessworld: http://www.businessworld.in/article/Should-OTT-Be-Censored-Or-Regulated-In-India-/10-05-2021-389160/

Sarda, K. (2020, Oct 03). *Under 30 per cent conviction rate in rape cases in India, says NCRB data*. Retrieved Apr 08, 2021, from https://www.newindianexpress.com/: https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/oct/03/under-30-per-centconviction-rate-in-rape-cases-in-india-says-ncrb-data-2205090.html#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20On%20an%20average,is%20as%20low%20as%2027.8%25.&text=The%20NCRB%20data%20reveal%20the,2018%20t

Shah, V. (2020, Nov 12). *Top 10 most-loved Indian web series on Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ Hotstar, SonyLIV you can't miss*. Retrieved July 25, 2021, from www.gqindia.com: https://www.gqindia.com/binge-watch/collection/top-most-loved-indian-web-series-on-netflix-amazon-prime-video-disney-hotstar-sonyliv-tvfplay/

Sharma, M. K. (2019, Aug). Binge Watching: an emerging manifestation of technology use. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry* .

Sibal, V. (2018, March). Sterotyping Women In India Cinema. *Scholarly Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies* .

singh, S. (2011). Shobha De': Deconstructed for Maverick Feminism.

Srivastava, H. (2019, Sep 02). *Marketing Strategy for a Web Series*. Retrieved Apr 09, 2021, from https://medium.com: https://medium.com/@himani.sri/marketing-strategy-for-a-web-series-e6a7aed9a1a9

Suman, A. A. (2021, Jan 23). *Entertainment* . Retrieved Apr 08, 2021, from https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/ajayamitabhsumanspeaks/display-of-violence-sex-in-ott-content-29290/

Talwar, S. (2019, Sep 17). *Sacred Games 2: From Batya Abelman to Jojo – all the badass female characters from the Netflix series*. Retrieved Aug 11, 2021, from www.gqindia.com: https://www.gqindia.com/entertainment/content/sacred-games-2-from-batya-abelman-to-jojo-all-the-badass-female-characters-from-the-netflix-india-original-series

TOI-Online. (2019, 12 18). *Indiatimes*. Retrieved 04 22, 2021, from https://timesofindia.com: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/what-is-nirbhaya-case/articleshow/72868430.cms

Viswanathan, A., Bhatia, R., & Shah, A. (2020, Jan 21). *Crime, courtroom drama in Indian entertainment: How the genres sway popular opinion on law and judiciary.* Retrieved Jun 18, 2021, from www.firstpost.com: https://www.firstpost.com/india/crime-courtroom-drama-in-indian-entertainment-how-the-genre-sways-popular-opinion-on-law-and-judiciary-7905631.html

Wardhan, P. (2020). Female Representation in Indian Web Series – Myth or Reality. *Indian Association for women studies conference.*