
A STUDY ON CONSERVATIVENESS OF IDEOLOGY ENCOUNTERED BY WOMAN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Monica K, LL.M. (Environment Law), School of Excellence in Law, Chennai

Haribalakumar K, LL.M. (International Law), School of Excellence in Law, Chennai

ABSTRACT

Leisure times and refreshing hours are equally required as we give time for productive activities. As tourism can make one not only relax but also refresh their mental health. Mental health requires significance in this pressurizing world. In a competitive world where everyone runs for their survival, a change in place and meeting new people can help one refresh themselves. There's also a myth that travel and tourism is expensive. Actually, it can also be made as low as possible. In a developing country like India, tourism is not given as much of importance. Therefore, safety and security measures for travelers and tourists are not addressed. Even though this can be a general problem, there are safety issues encountered by travelers. Especially women who have a desire to travel on their own and explore the world. They are not only being affected by general crimes such as cheating, pit-pocketing, robbery but also are seen as a prey by sexual criminals. Every person has a basic expectation of protection, safety, and security when they venture outside of their comfort zone. But the enforcement of safety prescribed in the scriptures are questionable. Though there is a right to movement for every human, it is not easy for a woman to travel on her own. In a country like India for women who want to travel independently, there are many obstacles. In Spite of all crimes prevailing against women in this society, they also encounter societal pressure which is not being spoken about in a large-scale media. The functioning of domestic and international laws for such crimes in India. The hospitality provided for women foreign travelers and the accessibility of foreign embassy in India is to be discussed in this paper. Similarly, does men also experience these challenges is also about to be discussed.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has become one of the essential activities worldwide that promotes and associate national societies and links cultural boundaries. It has a great impact on the cultural, educational, social and economic sectors of the societies. The concept of tourism does not apply only to international tourism it also involves domestic tourism. Domestic tourism develops mutual understanding among the citizens and it creates an awareness of their own environment and about their national identity. There is a need for balance between work and life. This applies every individual. irrespective of gender. Travel and tourism concepts among individual travelers or women who desire to undergo solo travel is not widely discussed.

The major drawback of Indian tourism industry is that there is an increased rate of criminal acts and exploitation of tourists irrespective of their nationality (whether foreigners or Indian citizens). That too majority group which suffers from lack of safety and security around the tourist places is the women community. It is the duty of the public authorities to protect the tourist. There is consistent need for security, assistance, prevention, insurance against any attacks, assaults, Threats, kidnapping etc. These activities disrupt the reputation of the nation and creates a bad Influence in the minds of the visitors. Though various domestic laws are applied to handle these circumstances there are no explicit legal Acts or legislations dealing with independent individual tourists. There is a comparative increase in the trends of solo travel in the present Times. Just because women are easily prone to travelling risks, they cannot be indirectly deprived of the right to explore various places on their own. The research is conducted by doctrinal method and also covers the general characteristics of complications faced by women during travel and pointedly discusses the obstacles of women solo travelers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To understand the common hindrances faced by woman especially independent travelers during traveling from one place to another for tourism purpose.
- To discuss the existing laws in connection with woman travelers including both female foreign tourists and Indian tourists.

- To discuss the need for specific Act or legislation to deal with safety and awareness of woman tourists.
- To view the possible ways to escape the drawbacks of the environment's spiteful activities towards female tourists.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Does safety aspect play a vital role as a restricting factor for woman solo travelers to travel independently?
2. How obstacles faced by woman during travel and tourism affect the tourism industry of India?

CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF WOMAN TRAVEL

Travel means a movement away from one familiar location to another most probably an unfamiliar one or a new place that is different from native. Woman travelling alone were not encouraged widely. They began to travel as male counterparts or as observers. Invention of train and steamers made it uncomplicated for women to travel to different locations. The historical perspective of women and travel would be the interest upon Academics, leisure, studies, cultural, tourism, Geography, sociology, feminist, Business, Economics and as professional workers.

Most of the women gave socially acceptable reasons to convince the travel like missionary work or community service. While others were in search of freedom from their routine roles or duties and in the need of time and space. There were several reasons for women to travel Independently. The feel of pride and achievement of travelling alone has outgrown to present times as several women are proving that the gender disparity could no longer stop them from travelling alone and it is a well-known concept among the International and Domestic Travellers of India. Though the desire to travel independently is within majority of women, the impulse to travel stays within few. The reason of safety and hesitance to leave safe situation exists from the former period till the present day.

INDIAN LAWS ON TOURISM

The tourism sector is a booming sector in India and a large number of tourists are attracted towards our nation. By this tourism sector, our nation has been benefited to the greater extent and lots of people has got their employment. There is no particular legislation for the tourism sector, whereas several provisions of some legislations can be applied regardless to tourists, irrespective of their nationality.

Certain nuisances are usually created by the tourists like environmental pollution, scribbling on the walls of the monuments, damaging the public property and by their activities they bring a bad name to their native or their state. Under the judiciary and the legislation of our nation, the laws are not much different from the tourism law. The laws of tourism are eclectic and can broadly be classified into two parts;

- The first division covers the general laws that apply to the tourism sector often in unexpected ways because of peculiar characteristics.
- The second division covers the involvement of industrial laws of local, state, federal and international regulations with the sector of tourism.

In general, several provisions are there to ensure the safety of the women. Those laws are also applicable to the female tourist also. For instance, for the criminal acts, Indian Penal Code 1860, Criminal Procedure Code 1973, Evidence Act 1872, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 and Indian Tobacco Control Act of 2003. And there are several other legislations which are also relating to this aspect such as Foreigners Act of 1946, Passport Act of 1967, Foreign Exchange Regulation Acts 1973, Hotel Management Contract, etc.

CHAPTER III

SOLO TRAVEL

Solo travel refers to travel undertaken by a single individual to a planned or unplanned destination. It gives the ability to spend time with oneself for self-realization or for personal growth. In recent times it is viewed as a way of self-empowerment and as a challenge to successfully travel alone without the company of others.

RECENT TRAVELLING TRENDS OF WOMAN SOLO TRAVEL

As there has been an increasing desire for female to discover the world alone, the female travel market has increased in the last few years. Data reviews that women travelling alone has become more common and the upcoming statistics demonstrates the reason for women travelling alone as it gives them an opportunity to explore new places on their own schedule and of their specific interests. The number of female travelers has outnumbered the number of male travelers in current days.¹

PURPOSE OF SOLO TRAVEL OF WOMAN

In a survey conducted by a researcher with 346 female participants who had an experience of solo travelling, the following motives for travelling alone were listed and ranked.²

S.no	Motivation	No. of Responses	% Response	Rank
1	Freedom, Fun and enjoyment	221	63.87	3
2	Self-Actualization and fulfilment	108	31.21	5
3	Adventure and exploration	237	68.50	1
4	Enhanced experience and learning	236	68.21	2
5	Increased adaptability and exposure	98	28.32	6

¹ ADITI SHRIKANT, Women travel alone more than men. Here's why, Vox (January 18, 2019)

² SHWETA CHANDRA, Influence of gender on travel motivation, Global journal of enterprise information system, Vol. 10, issue no. 1 (January – march 2018)

6	Relaxing and refreshing	137	39.60	4
---	-------------------------	-----	-------	---

Women solo travel for several other reasons. It might be to understand herself, to connect with other cultures, to feel empowered, etc. Certain significant reasons are discussed further.

1. Self-empowerment

Many women have reported a sense of personal empowerment from independent travel. It was about making their own choices and controlling their own actions. Several women have reported a change in their personal lives and profession as a result of their travel experience. There is added respect gained from family, friends, colleagues by undertaking new challenges.

2. Leisure

In a survey conducted by Chain and Joga Ratnam in 2005 with 194 solo women travelers, it was established that the motivation to travel alone are relaxation, leisure, socialization, escape and self-esteem. Young women seek for adventures during travel and they travel alone to meet their distinct needs. The importance of these factors were specifically different based upon the characteristics of travelers. There is an increased rate for tourism in relation to leisure as there is social and economic change of women empowerment and their business workforce.

3. Search for self-identity

It is positively admitted that independent travel is enjoyed as much as outer journey as it was an inner one. One of the main desires for meaningful travel is that the recognition of self-identity to better themselves. Understanding and overcoming the fear of travel also results in increased confidence and self-growth. Solo travel gives women the self-priority time for their own needs and wants.

4. Global connectiveness

Women who travel around different places are able to build up personal connections and increase the number of friends. Work trips is also one among the reasons to build up network of likeminded people. Having to interact with new people builds up confidence among women.

By understanding the concept of global citizenship during travel and tourism the cultural and social boundaries are deconstructed and there will be universal communication of understanding the nature of human existence.

CHAPTER IV

CONSTRAINING FACTORS OF WOMAN SOLO TRAVEL

1. Impact of gender roles

Almost in all societies gender bias exists. Women were always treated with a secondary status to men and as a property of the household where she was confined within in the name of honor. There are differences in the roles of men and women in the tourism sector. Covid-19 pandemic has given a boost to solo travel as there was social distancing protocols.³ Men and women have different preferences while travelling alone. Women are prone to more risks and threats compared to men during these travel. Therefore several studies of solo travel involves gender inequalities. Women feel vulnerable while travelling alone and most of them avoid going out alone in the evening due to the concern for safety.⁴ This is because they don't want unwanted male attention and to avoid any kind of sexual harassment.⁵

These constraints are majorly not subjected to men. They are neither asked to modify their dressing way nor to have self-curfews while travelling alone. This is one more manifestation of male chauvinist society. Women are considered as sexually available individuals on the simple cause that she is alone. And on the other hand, most of the women are bound by their customs and religion.⁶ Especially Asian women are still struggling to break the influence of

³ HUILING HUANG, STEPHANIE Q. LIU and JAY KANDAMPULLY, Solo travelers, The encyclopedia of tourism management and marketing, Edward Elgar publishing, Journal article, pg. 190-193 (august 25, 2022)

⁴ LYNN C JONAS, Solo tourism: A great excuse to practice social distancing, African journal of hospitality, tourism and leisure. Vol. 11. Pg. 556 – 564 (April, 2022)

BENTE HEIMTUN, BIRGIT ABELSEN, Singles and solo travel: Gender and type of holiday, Tourism culture and communication, Vol. 13, issue no. 3 (January 2013)

⁵ TONEY. K. THOMAS, PAOLO MURA, The normality of unsafety – foreign solo female travellers in India, Tourism recreation research, vol. 44, issue 1, (July 10, 2018)

ELAINE CHIAO LING YANG, CATHERYN KHOO-LATTIMORE, CHARLES ARCODIA, Power and empowerment: How Asian solo female travellers perceive and negotiate risks, Tourism management, Vol. 68 (October 2018)

⁶ELAINE CHIAO LING YANG, CATHERYN KHOO-LATTIMORE, CHARLES ARCODIA, Constructing Space and Self through Risk Taking: A Case of Asian Solo Female Travelers, Journal of travel research, Vol. 57, issue no. 2 (February 12, 2017)

religion and customs in their decisions.⁷ Women travelling around their own country are often confused with sex workers. The difficulty of Iranian women and Muslim women to seek permission from their husbands or their fathers or to have a Mahram during travel does not apply to men of the respective religions. Unlike men women suffer from the difficulty of Double discrimination of their native region and for being women itself.

2. Crimes against women

Crimes against women means direct or indirect cruelty to women either physically or mentally. Women are subjected to several crimes in different forms like molestation, eve teasing, abduction, harassment, kidnapping, rape, abuse, etc. almost every Women must have encountered any one of these hardships and must have gained tolerance against mistreatment, discrimination, assaults, etc. Sexual violences affect almost all age groups of women. Though several offences are identified and punished under the law, the fear of facing one of these crimes prevails in the mind of every woman. Therefore, these crimes improvise a mindset among solo travelling aspires to leave behind the idea of travelling alone.

3. Reputation of the destination

This kind of restriction comes under spatial constraints. It includes restriction of women's freedom of movement within tourist places and destination. This in turn limits the choice of destination during solo travelling. Destination is classified into two,

- 1) Safe destination
- 2) Unsafe destination

4. Safe destination factors

- Low crime rate
- Good quality tap water
- Low risk of disease

⁷ SHANIEL BERNARD, IMRAN RAHMAN, NANCY GARD MCGEHEE, Breaking barriers for Bangladeshi female solo travellers, *Tourism management perspectives*, Vol. 41, (January 2022)

- Good public health system
- Reliable public transport
- Reliable justice system
- Low risk of disease
- Efficient emergency services
- Low or no corruption

5. Unsafe destination factors

- High crime rate poor water quality
- Poor transport
- Unreliable public health system
- High disease risk
- Unreliable public force
- Inefficient emergency services
- Reputation of corruption

Therefore, there is direct impact of the safety of destination to the willingness of the independent female travelers to travel to those areas.

6. Proper hygiene

Female Travelers have a special concern for hygiene and sanitary needs as it directly leads to several medical strains. Review of places regarding proper sanitation would be useful for the traveler to plan the destination and to avoid unclean sites. The demand for safe and secure place also includes the demand for hygiene safety. As a risk factor health affects the intentions and behaviors of Travelers. Hygiene safety perception is an important factor for travel decision. As

majority of places lack such care for sanitation and hygiene, women solo Travelers suffer in unknown places.⁸

7. Unwanted stranger interactions

When a man travels alone as a tourist the casual interactions which are voluntarily initiated by him, does not lead him to invest ideas on strangers to exploit him. But when a woman portrays herself as a solo traveler, she is viewed as a prey for strangers to indulge into mischievous acts against her. Once a solo travelling woman is identified without a company, strangers act over friendly and create a discomfort to the person. In order to avoid these circumstances women, prefer reducing such interactions like from asking basic directions or enquiring about the place of accommodation. Most of them prefer searching in the internet or enquiring through known sources.

8. Influence of dress code

A woman who explores several places around as a tourist or as an outsider of the venue is expected to dress appropriately in order to avoid stares and unwanted judgmental looks of the surrounding people. They do not want to unnecessarily trigger someone to begin an interaction or give a perception of an open conversation by the way they dress. That too, places like India are still backed by controlling moral standards of the society where a woman cannot dress however, she deems fit. For instance, in 2016 the tourism minister Mahesh Sharma issued a welcome kit to foreign tourists of Taj Mahal, Agra. In that kit certain safety advices were mentioned. In which he advised the female tourists, not to wear skirts for their own safety and to respect Indian dress code as it is very different from western culture. This statement was heavily criticized by the women community for blaming the way a woman dresses and relating it to the cause of happening of a crime while men are least bothered of how they dress in public places.⁹

9. Difficulties faced by Muslim women

According to the general text, some of the Muslim scholars have the opinion that the Muslim

⁸ SEHER KONAK, impact of tourist hygiene - safety perception on their intention to travel during the covid-19 pandemic in Turkey, journal of tourism theory and research, vol.8 (January 31, 2022)

⁹ MICHAEL SAFI, female tourists should not wear skirts in India, says to tourism Minister, the guardian (August 29, 2016)

women cannot travel on her own. Her guardian or mahram such as her husband or brother should be with her during the journey. They are meant for the protection of Muslim women from the dangers which may encounter at the time of travelling as their religion support and concentrate more on the dignity and honor of the women. But, Muslim woman, in present times may travel without a Mahram and on her own. It is solely her decision to choose whether to do so or not. While travelling wearing a hijab might be a strain in places with people who are Islamophobic. In such places they manage to wear hats or caps to avoid this stigma.¹⁰ This is an example where most of the women are limited by their rigid religions and are unable to make uninfluenced decisions during their travel.

CHAPTER V

SAFETY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SOLO TRAVEL

It is true that women are more likely to be the victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment compared to men. There are frequent unwanted misconceptions that the women are off-guard and at a vulnerable stage. Not only sexual harassments, women also face several other challenges like verbal harassment, groping, political violence, accident etc.

1. Sexual stereotype offences against women

Women might face sexual harassments while travelling alone by themselves. Therefore, in order to avoid the trouble, the choice of destination is altered accordingly. Sexual offences against women exists in every society despite of the level of the nation's development. These offences frighten the female Travelers and expects them to be cautious at every moment of their journey. Some of the offences against women travelers are,

- Assault to outrage her modesty
- Groping
- Pinching

¹⁰ FARISHA NISHA, CATHERINE CHEUNG, Locating Muslimah in the Travel and Tourism Research, Tourism management perspective, Vol.41 (January 2022)

- Masturbating Infront of her
- Verbal assault
- Kidnapping and abduction
- Attempt to rape
- Rape

2. Common crimes

Apart from sexual crimes women face other common crimes like theft of personal belongings, identity theft, mis leading information, exploitation due to unawareness of local laws and language, fraud etc.

3. Accidents

Traffic is a major drawback for visitors of India. There is a need to be extra cautious while travelling or walking by the roads of India, as even the sidewalks might not be safe due to improper conditions of roadways and negligence of people driving the vehicles. Accident occurs on a regular basis in every state of India.

4. Political violence and terrorism

Domestic Travelers might have an idea about the political situation of India but to a foreigner who is unaware about the domestic laws and political Trends might face life threatening political attacks at rare cases.

IS INDIA SAFE FOR FEMALE TRAVELERS?

A survey was conducted by Thompson Reuters foundation named India as the world's most dangerous country for women in 2018.¹¹ The survey was refuted as it was based on a perception. A female Traveler in India is expected to be stared by all locals. If it is a female foreign tourist, occasionally people ask to pose for pictures and at extreme cases groped. The

¹¹ BELINDA GOLDSMITH, MEKA BERESFORD, THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, India most dangerous country for women with sexual violence, rife - Global pole (June 26 2018)

safety provided for Solo Travelers in India is debateful as one cannot decide the safety and protection on the basis of one incident. India can be overwhelming at times but rarely it is threatening for many people.

A. Laws and rights of women travelers

General laws include the provisions of IPC especially section 375¹², 376 (2)¹³ and Indecent representation of women (prohibition) Act 1986. Other rights are covered under the constitution. Some of the rights of female travelers in India are,

- Prohibition of discrimination based on gender (Article 15)¹⁴
- Right to free Legal Aid (Article 21)¹⁵ and right to remain anonymous - right of female rape victims (Article 21 of Indian Constitution and section 228A of IPC)¹⁶
- Right not to be arrested after sunset and before Sunrise - certain exceptions cases are permitted [section 46(4) of CrPC]¹⁷
- Right to file complaint in any police station
- Right of private defence (under IPC)
- Right to freedom of movement. [Article 19(1)(d)]¹⁸

INDIAN SCHEMES APPLICABLE TO WOMEN TOURISTS

1. One stop centre scheme

It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Nirbhaya fund, established to provide 100% central assistance to protect women affected by violence in public and private spaces.

¹² Section 375, The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

¹³ Section 376 (2), The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

¹⁴ Article 15, The Constitution of India, 1950.

¹⁵ Article 21, The Constitution of India, 1950.

¹⁶ Article 21, The Constitution of India, 1950. Section 228 A, The Indian Penal Code, 1860.

¹⁷ Section 46 (4), The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

¹⁸ Article 19 (1)(d), The Constitution of India, 1950.

2. Women helpline scheme

This scheme intends to give 24 / 7 immediate emergency responses to women affected by violence. It is the universalization of a toll-free number 181 for immediate support to women, nationwide.

3. AAI scheme

In 2020 Maharashtra government discussed about launching 'AAI' scheme for women tourists. Tourist Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha pointed out the significance of the scheme as to facilitate women tourist by scouting out women friendly and safe locations along with discounts. He added that lately many women are travelling solo and even in groups, therefore inclusion of women guides, women restaurants, owners of hotels and resorts would be a game changer.¹⁹

Other measures taken by India to ensure safety for female travelers

- In 2018 the Union Minister of tourism set up helpline numbers for domestic tourists and international tourists in English and Hindi to ensure safety.
- The "code of conduct" was developed by the Indian tourist ministry which consists of certain guidelines insurance safety for women travels with respect to their right of freedom and dignity.
- Women only cab services are in increasing demand and it has already gained its momentum in States like Goa, Kerala, Karnataka, etc.
- Tourism ministry enters into an agreement with travel agents association of India and FICCI ladies organization to promote women in tourism. These organizations promote tourism workshops by training women about food safety, hygiene, security, sanitation, etc.²⁰

¹⁹ MRITYUNJAY BOSE, Government set to launch AAI for women tourists generate 1 lakh jobs per year, DHNS, Mumbai, (November 04 2022)

²⁰ SWATI MATHUR, tourism ministry enters agreement with FICCI ladies organization, TAAI to promote women in tourism, the Times of India, (August 21, 2020)

- CCTV surveillance has been increased in prime tourist places.
- State of Uttarakhand has initiated to train women belonging to rural areas to assist female travelers.
- Madhya Pradesh has planned to hire 5000 women as guides, hotel staff and cabbies.

IMPACT OF WOMAN TRAVELLERS' SAFETY IN TOURISM INDUSTRY OF INDIA

The recent increase in cases of violence against women have affected the country's image and strong steps is required to handle the problem. Tourism industry is facing immense negative publicity from media on recurring incidents of rape, molestation, harassment cases of foreign tourists. In order to handle the negative publicity, the tourism industry as well as the state governments have to take appropriate actions to enhance and ensure increased safety for female tourists. There is direct impact between negative publicity and growth of tourism in India. Unless or until there is ensured safety for travelers especially female tourists there will always be a hesitation for people to visit India and promote tourism.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING HARRASMENT OF TOURISTS

1. South Korean youtuber harassment case

Hyojeong Park a South Korean youtuber was harassed by few men in Mumbai. Where they attempted to kiss her and follow her to her hotel room while she was filming a video on the streets of Mumbai. Fortunately, two responsible citizens safeguarded her and a complaint was raised and the offenders were arrested.²¹

2. Belgian tourist harassment case

A Belgian female tourist returned back home within 24 hours into her trip to India as she was harassed by several people. She raised to complain to the Belgium Embassy and a case was registered in the ministry of external affairs.²²

²¹ NEETA LAL, South Korean youtuber's harassment in India highlights lack of safety for women in public, South China morning post, (December 18, 2022)

²² HEMANI BHANDARI, mercilessly harassed, Belgian tourist leave India in 24 hours, The Hindu, (February 09, 2019)

3. Thiruvananthapuram attempt to rape case

A 46-year-old traditional healer was arrested for attempting rape against a Belgium Tourist. The Victim had reached a reputed institute near Neyyar dam to learn yoga, where she was sexually harassed by a healer named Shaji Vaidyan. Shaji was arrested and was charged under 354²³, 376²⁴ and 511²⁵ sections of IPC.²⁶

CHAPTER VI

FINDINGS OF STUDY

➤ Does safety play a vital role as a factor restricting solo travel of women?

As discussed above women face several safety issues compared to men. The safety factor limits the solo travelling women to restrict unsafe Journeys in risky areas.

➤ How obstacles faced by women affect the field of tourism in India?

With increasing crime rate against women in India a negative image about the nation is infested in the minds of women travelers and tourists. This affects the flow of economy from source of female tourists to the Indian tourism industry. Bad reputation of the tourist spots of India in the media and online platforms reflect in the reduction of female tourists to such places.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Enactment of special legislations to ensure safety of women travelers.
2. Recognition of solo women travelers and provisions of guidelines to plan their trip efficiently.
3. Proper listings and reviews of tourist places, hotel accommodations and elimination of false information.

²³ Section 354, The Indian Penal Code, 1860.

²⁴ Section 376, The Indian Penal Code, 1860.

²⁵ Section 511, The Indian Penal Code, 1860.

²⁶ Express news service, Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram 'traditional healer' arrested for attempting to rape Belgian tourist, The new Indian express, (March 5, 2023)

4. Immediate action to be taken against people harassing women travelers, once the issue comes before appropriate authority.
5. Creation of awareness about nationwide helpline number (181), which can be contacted during troublesome situations.
6. Constant check on hygiene, safety, sanitation, accommodation etc. of tourist places.
7. Establishment of hostels for women in several tourist places so that it acts as a safe place to stay for female travelers.
8. Mandatory provision of sanitary pads and the maintenance of clean restrooms in tourist places.
9. To increase the number of CCTV surveillance in remote areas.
10. Regulation of transport services and collection of updated information about employees of various travel agencies.
11. Increase in the number of female employments in tourist spots to provide comforted surrounding for women solo travelers.
12. Creation of government authorized websites to provide guidelines, travel tips and proper *information to aid solo travelers*.

CONCLUSION

Increasing interests of individuals to travel alone and explore new places encourages the field of tourism to improvise its safety standards. Women are majorly confined and restricted within their household, families, friends, customs and traditions. This has increased the urge to test their boundaries and to be independent in unknown and unfamiliar places. This empowering idea should not be curbed on the basis of insufficiency of laws and safety for women travelers. There is an immediate need to end the increase in crime rate against women tourists. Even if it is not entirely eradicated it has to be controlled as much as possible. The search for self-identity through independent travelling should not end before it is begun.