



EVALUATING MISSION SHAKTI'S IMPACT ON WOMEN'S SAFETY AND SECURITY IN INDIA: A FORECAST-BASED ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on analysing trends related to crime, safety, and security of women in India within the context of Mission Shakti's 'Sambal' sub-scheme. Utilizing historical data from the World Bank and forecasting future trends using the Prophet model in R, we examine key indicators from 2025 to 2030, including intentional homicides, women's participation in household decisions, and societal attitudes toward domestic violence. The research aims to assess the effectiveness of Mission Shakti in enhancing women's safety and security and provides a SWOT and GAP analysis to identify areas requiring further attention. Our findings reveal a decrease in intentional homicides but highlight persistent challenges in societal acceptance of domestic violence.

KEYWORDS: Women's safety, Domestic violence, Prophet forecasting, SWOT analysis, Mission Shakti

1. INTRODUCTION

Women's safety and security are paramount for achieving equitable and sustainable development. In India, despite various policy interventions, women continue to face significant threats to their safety, both in public and private spheres. Mission Shakti, launched during the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26), is an integrated program by the Government of India aimed at addressing these issues. The program is divided into two sub-schemes:

- 'Sambal': Focuses on the safety and security of women.
- 'Samarthya': Focuses on the empowerment of women.

This study narrows its focus to the 'Sambal' sub-scheme and analyzes trends related to crime, safety, and security of women. By forecasting key indicators from 2025 to 2030, we aim to evaluate the potential impact of Mission Shakti's initiatives on improving women's safety in India.

2. METHODOLOGY

We utilized historical data from the World Bank up to 2024 for the following indicators:

- Intentional Homicides (per 100,000 people)
- Women Participating in Key Household Decisions (% of women ages 15-49)
- Women Who Believe Domestic Violence is Justified (%)

The Prophet model in R was employed to forecast these indicators for the period 2025 to 2030. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and GAP analysis was conducted to assess the effectiveness of Mission Shakti's 'Sambal' sub-scheme based on these forecasts.

3. FORECASTED TRENDS (2025-2030)

Table-1: Forecast of selected indicators from 2025 to 2030

Year	Intentional homicides (per 100,000 people)	Women Participating in Key Household Decisions (% of women ages 15-49)	Women Who Believe Domestic Violence is Justified (%)
2025	2.659795	81.54	44.24
2026	2.592086	83.6	44.2
2027	2.524377	85.66	44.16
2028	2.456667	87.72	44.12
2029	2.388958	89.78	44.08
2030	2.321249	91.84	44.04



Intentional Homicides

The decreasing trend in intentional homicides per 100,000 people from 2.66 in 2025 to 2.32 in 2030 suggests an improvement in public safety. This aligns with Mission Shakti's 'Sambal' objectives, which include:

- **Strengthening Legal Frameworks:** Enhancing laws related to women's safety.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Establishing One Stop Centres, Women Help Lines.
- **Capacity Building:** Training law enforcement agencies on gender-sensitive approaches.

Participation in Household Decisions

The increase in women's participation in key household decisions reflects growing empowerment and agency. While this indicator also relates to the 'Samarthya' sub-scheme, it has implications for safety and security, as empowered women are more likely to assert their rights and seek help when facing threats.

Societal Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence

The slight decrease in the percentage of women who believe domestic violence is justified—from 44.24% to 44.04%—indicates that societal attitudes remain largely unchanged. This persistence suggests that deeper cultural norms continue to condone domestic violence, posing a significant challenge to women's safety in private spheres.

4. SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in Public Crimes: The declining rate of intentional homicides suggests that measures under 'Sambal' are effective in enhancing public safety. • Increased Agency: The significant rise in women's participation in household decisions may contribute to better reporting and resistance against domestic abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent Acceptance of Domestic Violence: Minimal change in societal attitudes toward domestic violence indicates that 'Sambal' initiatives may not be effectively addressing cultural norms. • Focus on Public Over Private Safety: Programs may be more effective in addressing public safety issues than those occurring within the household.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Transformation Initiatives: There is an opportunity to intensify efforts to change societal attitudes through education and awareness campaigns. • Community Engagement: Engaging local communities and leaders can help in challenging and changing harmful norms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep-Rooted Cultural Norms: Long-standing beliefs that justify domestic violence pose a significant threat to women's safety and security. • Program Sustainability: The conclusion of Mission Shakti in 2025-26 may lead to a loss of momentum in addressing these issues.

5. GAP ANALYSIS

Gap	Recommendation
Addressing Domestic Violence Acceptance: There is a significant gap in changing societal attitudes toward domestic violence, as evidenced by the minimal decrease in acceptance rates.	Implement comprehensive, long-term educational programs targeting both men and women to challenge and change cultural norms that justify domestic violence.
Enhancing Private Sphere Safety: While public safety appears to be improving, private sphere safety, particularly within households, remains a concern.	Strengthen interventions that address domestic violence directly, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding reach of One Stop Centres. • Providing legal aid and counselling services. • Encouraging reporting through confidential and accessible channels.
Sustaining Progress Post 2025-26: The potential discontinuation of 'Sambal' initiatives after 2025-26 could halt progress.	Institutionalize successful programs within permanent government structures and secure ongoing funding to ensure continuity.



7. DISCUSSION

The decreasing trend in intentional homicides suggests that 'Sambal' initiatives are effective in enhancing women's safety in public spaces. The establishment of dedicated infrastructure and legal reforms may be contributing factors. The negligible decrease in acceptance of domestic violence highlights the challenge of altering deep-seated cultural beliefs. This indicates that while legal and institutional frameworks are necessary, they are insufficient without accompanying cultural change. The increase in women's participation in household decisions underscores the interconnectedness of empowerment and safety. Empowered women are better positioned to advocate for themselves and seek protection.

8. CONCLUSION

Mission Shakti's 'Sambal' sub-scheme shows promise in improving women's safety and security in public domains, as indicated by the decrease in intentional homicides. However, persistent societal acceptance of domestic violence remains a significant barrier. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that combines legal measures with cultural transformation initiatives.

9. REFERENCES

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10. DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY

The R code, along with input and output files used in this research, are available in the following GitHub repository: <https://github.com/thomasalona3/p003>