



## EDITORIAL

# SASCV 2011: Special Conference Issue of the First International Conference of the South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology (SASCV)

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The South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology (SASCV) is an international association founded to nurture criminology and victimology in South Asian countries. Academics, researchers and practitioners worldwide have joined hands to establish SASCV and share of best practices in the context of South Asia. SASCV hosted its first international conference during January 15—17, 2011 at Hotel Jaipur Greens (5 Star), Jaipur, Rajasthan. The website of the Conference was <http://www.sascv.org/conf2011> and online submission of abstracts as well as registration was facilitated in the site. The conference theme was “*Crime and Victimization in the Globalized Era*”. The major sub themes are: Terrorism and Extremism, Cyber Crimes, Laws and Security, Crimes of Culture and Culture of Crimes, Marginality, Social Exclusion and Victimization, Criminal Victimization in South Asia and Victimization of South Asians in other countries. The first international congress showcased the academic thoughts of professors, practitioners of criminal justice system, professionals in related fields and students of national as well as the international origin from various backgrounds such as criminology, victimology, law, human rights, digital technology, socio-health sectors etc.

The Organizing Committee of SASCV 2011 was: General Chair - K. Jaishankar, Vice Chair - S. Samuel Asir Raj, Programme Chair - Natti Ronel, Administrator - Debarati Halder, Event Management Chair - R. Jayachandran, Treasurer - R. Sivakumar, and Associate- E. Enanalap Periyar. Apart from the organizing committee an international advisory committee comprising of members of the SASCV international advisory board was formed to assist the organizing committee. Rigorous peer review process is not the forte of social science conferences held in the South Asian region. SASCV 2011 is unique in this context. Overall, 291 papers were meticulously peer reviewed by the programme committee chaired by Natti Ronel, Bar Illan University, Israel. The rate of acceptance was 53.26% and the rate of rejection was 46.74%.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Mahindra Surana, IAS (Rtd.), the Editorial Advisor of Dainik Bhaskar and Professor Roy King, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, UK was the opening keynote speaker and he spoke on Terrorist Gangs and Prison Torture. The panel of the other keynote speakers included: Professor David Wall, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Durham University, who spoke about cyber

crime, Professor Mark Groenhujsen, President of World Society of Victimology, who presented on the UN draft bill on victim's rights and Dr. Gail Mason, Director of Sydney Institute of Criminology, who deliberated on the Victimization of Indian Students in Australia.

The Conference concluded with the Valedictory Address by Natti Ronel, Bar illan University, Israel and a keynote presentation by Professor Emilio C. Viano, Department of Justice Law and Society, American University, Washington D.C. More than 300 participants were present at the conference. 120 paper presenters were there. The conference was a great success.

After the Conference, an expert committee was constituted to select quality papers based on the extended abstracts and presentation of the authors at the conference and revised papers were invited from the selected authors. Papers were rated as A and B. A rated papers were selected to be published in a book: Jaishankar, K., and Ronel, N. (Forthcoming). (Eds.), *Global Criminology: Crime and Victimization in the Globalized Era*. Boca Raton, FL, USA: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, and the B rated papers are published in this special conference volume of IJCJS. After rigorous peer review, out of 120 papers presented at the SASCV 2011 conference, 19 A rated papers and 7 B rated papers were selected for publication.

### **The current issue of IJCJS**

The current issue contains seven articles and one book review.

Honour Killing is an issue which is not specific to Indian Society. It is a problem in all closed societies and in some open societies. In the first article, Kavita Kachhwaha has analysed the issue of honour killing with specific reference to Khap Panchayats in Northern India. Khap panchayats were self styled organizations which predominantly is caste based. These village based organizations were helping the society in providing assistance in various forms. However, this organizations approach and style is similar to Talibans especially in cases of marriages between persons of different castes or *godhras*. Kachhwaha has dealt on this subject in detail in a lucid style and explored various facets of this outmoded organization of the contemporary times.

In the second article, Sadiza et. al have dealt a unique subject, Compulsive Sexual Behavior (CSB) and its therapy, the Cognitive behavior therapy. Though compulsive sexual behavior was there in earlier times, it is now fuelled by the growth of pornography on the internet. Earlier the access to porn materials were limited, however, now due to the advent of the internet, the access to such materials have become very easy. This scenario has brought in many victims and offenders. Sadiza et. al have done a clinical study where they analysed 10 victims of compulsive sexual behavior and made them to participate in the cognitive behavior therapy program. They found that the therapy is highly helpful to the victims in getting relieved from this unique problem and also the therapy was helpful in developing life skills.

In article three, Shereen Sadiq has tried to analyse a small group of women undertrials in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. She has explored the travails of the Women undertrials empirically. She has emphasized on the plight of the children of women undertrials. Also she has found that the women undertrials are mostly poor people and they are taken on bail by their relatives on this ground. Shereen also adds that the male dominated society is one of the reasons for the plight of women under trials.

The fourth article by Kirti et. al is another article exploring honour killings. However, this article's focus is not only India, but global. As pointed earlier, honour killings are not only a local issue and it is a global issue. Wherever the society thinks that honour resides in the body of the Women, rights violations to the extent of killing will be there. The authors have dealt the issue of honour killing in a succinct manner and have provided some solutions to curtail this problem. Naxalism is an Indian specific problem and in the fifth article, Vora and Buxy have analysed the story of Naxalism in India. Naxalism in India is only specific to certain States and those States are rich in mineral and other natural resources. There is a fight between the natives and the exploiters of nature who come there either in the form of government officials or multinational firms. The situation is like that of the movie "Avatar". The Indian Government has tried to provide some solutions to the problem, but still the issue is not getting settled. Vora and Buxy have clearly analysed the solution and bring in the link between the actions of the Naxals and their fight with the governments and the violent response of the governments. The authors have also provided some solutions to mitigate this issue.

In the sixth article, Yadav and Quraishi lament the problems faced by innocent users of social networking sites on the Internet. The authors feel that the social networking sites which was originally developed to help the users to have good relationships with various people is now misused by many and it has become a space for privacy intrusion. The authors also have emphasized that it is both the good and bad elements watch the users of the social networking sites and also they blame the behavior of the potential victims. International jurisdictional issues and differential laws are one of the main problems associated with this situation. Even though writing defamatory contents is an offense in India, many a times this is not seen as an offence by the US laws. Hence the social networking sites which are predominantly housed in US do not take any action in removing defamatory contents. The social networking sites should try to come beyond their US clout and should protect their international users. They are not only serving US, but the whole world.

The last and final article by Jyothi Vishwanath and Srinivas Palakonda is yet another article on the issue of honour crimes. The authors explored the issue of honour killing from a historical perspective, chiding the patriarchal ideology, which they feel is the reason for this type of crimes in India. Though this problem is predominantly a North Indian problem, the authors feel that, this happens in all spaces of India. Many a times such crimes which occur in South India are put under the carpet and they are given different names and not honour killing. The reporting behaviour in cases of honour killings is the crux of the problem. If the killers emanate from the homes of the victims, how can one expect to get those crimes reported? The authors of this article also tried to provide some suggestions.

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