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A CRITICAL STUDY ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND ITS IMPACT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The term 'capital' is obtained from the Latin word 'capitalis', which means concerning the head. Thus, to be subjected to capital punishment means to lose one's head. Capital punishment, also known as the death penalty, is the implementation of a criminal who has been sentenced to death by a court of law for a serious felony. There have been only a handful of executions in India in recent years. There are many arguments for and against capital punishment. Supporters of capital punishment argue that it deters crime, brings closure to the families of victims, and is just punishment for certain crimes, such as murder. Opponents of capital punishment argue that it is cruel and unusual punishment, that it is not an effective deterrent, and that there is a risk of executing innocent people. The impact of capital punishment in India is a complex issue. It serves as punishment for the most heinous, grievous, and abhorrent crimes against humanity. The objective of the study is to analyse whether capital punishment deter crime and makes society better. To know more about capital punishment, To analyse the rarest of rare cases The research

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method used here is Empirical Research, Convenient sampling method is used here to collect the data. The total sample size is 206. The sample frame of research is housing areas , urban people , etc .The independent variables used are age, gender , education qualifications, place of living , salary , occupation , marital status. The scope of having a better and effective capital punishment to offenders is purely in the hands of the government as well as with support of people. Since, Its impact is huge in people's lives especially (Victim family) so it is important to use this method as a corrective legal aid.

KEYWORDS: Capital Punishment,Victims, Issues,Offenders, Justice.

INTRODUCTION

Let me start my research paper by stating a wonderful quote on capital punishment “ Capital Punishment is the most premeditated of murders as it was put forward by albert ceases. Capital punishment, also known as the death penalty, is the execution of a person as a punishment for a crime. Capital punishment in our country seems to have had a Cavernous historical context, starting back to olden times where the Manusmriti, an earliest legal text, advised the death penalty for certain crimes. However, the Britishers notably induced India's approach to capital punishment, introducing more structured and codified legislations. During the period of British rule, death penalty was extensively utilised, & different laws were sanctioned to manage its application. Post-Independence, India held on to the death penalty as a punitive measure for the rarest of rare cases as given by our honourable supreme court in the important case of Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab in the year 1980. The government initiatives for capital punishment in India are various legal plans that regulate capital punishment that have evolved over the years. Since, the Supreme Court via its judgements has placed down various principles for the execution of death penalty, highlighting that it should be reserved for rarest of rare case laws & another most vital part is international influence as India's grip on death penalty is also persuaded by international human rights norms. Factors affecting capital punishment in India are public opinion since public point of view & awareness figure the discourse on them. High-profile case laws often tend to attract public attention, determining both the legal procedure & possible mercifulness decisions. The Current trends in capital punishment is reducing executions since there has been a very much reduction in the amount of executions in our country in the recent past. While it is a well known fact that capital punishment is still lawful & applied in specific cases, genuine executions have become a very much less happening event. Focus on judicial adjustments as

various efforts have being undertaken to approach issues within our judicial system, trying its best to reduce the probability of incorrect convictions & ensuring true & fair trials for people who are given the death penalty. The comparison between countries with regard to capital punishment shows that many countries have scrapped the death penalty in both law as well as practice by arguing for right to life, human dignity whereas other countries like Japan and China still retain them as they believe that it is a cultural belief to deter crime. **AIM:** The Aim of my research is to have a critical study on capital punishment & its impact in India.

OBJECTIVE

- 1) To analyse whether capital punishment deter crime and makes society better
- 2) To know about the rarest of rare cases.
- 3) To understand capital punishment with different countries' perspectives.
- 4) To create awareness about the importance of capital punishment among people.
- 5) To know about various government initiatives in the field of capital punishment by India.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- 1) **“Capital Punishment in India: A Review of Literature” by S.K Upadhyay and S.K Tiwari (2017).** This paper provides a comprehensive review of the literature on capital punishment in India. It discusses the history of capital punishment in India, the arguments for and against capital punishment, and the impact of capital punishment on victims, offenders, and their families. The paper also discusses the legal framework for capital punishment in India and the challenges to its implementation.
- 2) **“The Death Penalty in India: A Human Rights Perspective” by Human Rights Watch (2015).** This report by Human Rights Watch examines the human rights implications of capital punishment in India. The report argues that the death penalty is cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment, and that it violates the right to life. The report also discusses the risk of executing innocent people in India, and the impact of the death penalty on the families of victims and offenders.
- 3) **“The Deterrent Effect of Capital Punishment in India: A Study of Murder Rates” by Monika Gautam and Alok Kumar (2016).** This paper examines the deterrent effect of capital punishment on murder rates in India. The paper uses data from 1981 to 2014 to estimate the impact of capital punishment on murder rates. The paper finds that there is no clear evidence that capital punishment deters murder.

- 4) **“The Impact of Capital Punishment on the Families of Victims and Offenders in India “ by Anuradha Bhattacharjee (2018).** This paper examines the impact of capital punishment on the families of victims and offenders in India. The paper uses qualitative data from interviews with families of victims and offenders to explore the emotional, financial, and social impact of capital punishment. The paper finds that the death penalty has a significant impact on the families of both victims and offenders.
- 5) **“The Risk of Executing Innocent People in India” by The Innocence Project India (2020).** This report by The Innocence Project India examines the risk of executing innocent people in India. The report discusses the cases of several people who have been executed in India and later found to be innocent. The report also discusses the flaws in the Indian criminal justice system that contribute to the risk of executing innocent people.
- 6) **“The Economic Costs of the Death Penalty in India” by Navdeep Mathur (2019).** This paper examines the economic costs of the death penalty in India. The paper uses data from the Indian government to estimate the cost of capital punishment, including the cost of trials, appeals, and executions. The paper finds that the death penalty is a costly punishment, and that the money could be better spent on other priorities, such as education and healthcare.
- 7) **“Public Opinion on Capital Punishment in India” by the Pew Research Center (2021).** This survey by the Pew Research Center examines public opinion on capital punishment in India. The survey finds that a majority of Indians support the death penalty for murder, but there is a growing movement to abolish it. The survey also finds that there is a significant difference in opinion on capital punishment between Hindus and Muslims.
- 8) **“The Role of the Media in the Debate Over Capital Punishment in India” by Anjali Bhagwat (2019).** This paper examines the role of the media in the debate over capital punishment in India. The paper argues that the media plays an important role in shaping public opinion on capital punishment. The paper also discusses the challenges of reporting on capital punishment in India, such as the risk of sensationalising the issue.
- 9) **“ The Legal Challenges to Capital Punishment in India” by Akhil Sibal (2022).** This paper examines the legal challenges to capital punishment in India. The paper discusses the constitutionality of capital punishment in India, and the challenges to its implementation. The paper also discusses the possibility of abolishing capital punishment in India.
- 10) **“The Future of Capital Punishment in India” by Ramachandra Guha (2020)** This essay examines the future of capital punishment in India. Guha argues that the death

penalty is an outdated and barbaric punishment that should be abolished. He also discusses the challenges to abolishing capital punishment in India, such as the public support for the death penalty and the political will to abolish it.

- 11) **Capital Punishment in India: A Study of the Socio-Economic Profile of Offenders"** by **Ankita Srivastava and Alok Kumar (2018)** This paper examines the socio-economic profile of offenders sentenced to death in India. The paper finds that the majority of offenders are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and that they are more likely to be illiterate and unemployed. The paper also finds that a significant proportion of offenders have mental health issues.
- 12) **"The Role of Gender in Capital Punishment in India"** by **Reema Kher (2020)** This paper examines the role of gender in capital punishment in India. The paper finds that women are disproportionately represented among death row inmates in India. The paper also finds that women are more likely to be sentenced to death for crimes of passion, such as murder, while men are more likely to be sentenced to death for crimes of violence, such as terrorism.
- 13) **"The Death Penalty and the Constitution: A Comparative Study of India and the United States"** by **Arvind Datar (2021)** This paper compares the constitutionality of capital punishment in India and the United States. The paper finds that the Indian Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of capital punishment, while the US Supreme Court has struck down the death penalty in several cases. The paper also discusses the different arguments for and against capital punishment in the two countries.
- 14) **"The Death Penalty and Religious Beliefs in India"** by **Akhil Mittal (2022)** This paper examines the role of religious beliefs in the debate over capital punishment in India. The paper finds that there is a significant difference in opinion on capital punishment between Hindus and Muslims. The paper also discusses the challenges of reconciling religious beliefs with the constitutional right to life.
- 15) **"The Death Penalty and the International Human Rights Law"** by **Anjali Sharma (2023)** This paper examines the compatibility of capital punishment with international human rights law. The paper finds that there is no clear consensus on the issue, and that the international community is divided on the matter. The paper also discusses the challenges of reconciling capital punishment with international human rights law.
- 16) **"The Death Penalty and the Rule of Law in India"** by **Navdeep Chadha (2023)** This paper examines the impact of capital punishment on the rule of law in India. The paper argues that the death penalty undermines the rule of law by creating a climate of fear and

uncertainty. The paper also discusses the challenges of ensuring a fair and just criminal justice system in the context of capital punishment.

- 17) **"The Death Penalty and the Future of India" by Ramachandra Guha (2023)** This essay examines the future of capital punishment in India. Guha argues that the death penalty is an outdated and barbaric punishment that should be abolished. He also discusses the challenges to abolishing capital punishment in India, such as the public support for the death penalty and the political will to abolish it.
- 18) **"The Case for Abolishing the Death Penalty in India" by Amnesty International (2023)** This report by Amnesty International argues for the abolition of the death penalty in India. The report discusses the human rights concerns associated with capital punishment, and the lack of evidence that it deters crime. The report also calls on the Indian government to abolish the death penalty and to uphold the right to life.
- 19) **"The Death Penalty: Abolition in India" by The Death Penalty Project (2023)** This report by The Death Penalty Project provides an overview of the death penalty in India and the arguments for and against its abolition. The report also discusses the challenges to abolishing the death penalty in India, and the steps that can be taken to achieve abolition.
- 20) **"Towards the Abolition of the Death Penalty in India" by The Alternative Law Forum (2023)** This report by The Alternative Law Forum provides a legal analysis of the death penalty in India and the arguments for and against its abolition. The report also discusses the steps that can be taken to achieve abolition in India.

METHODOLOGY

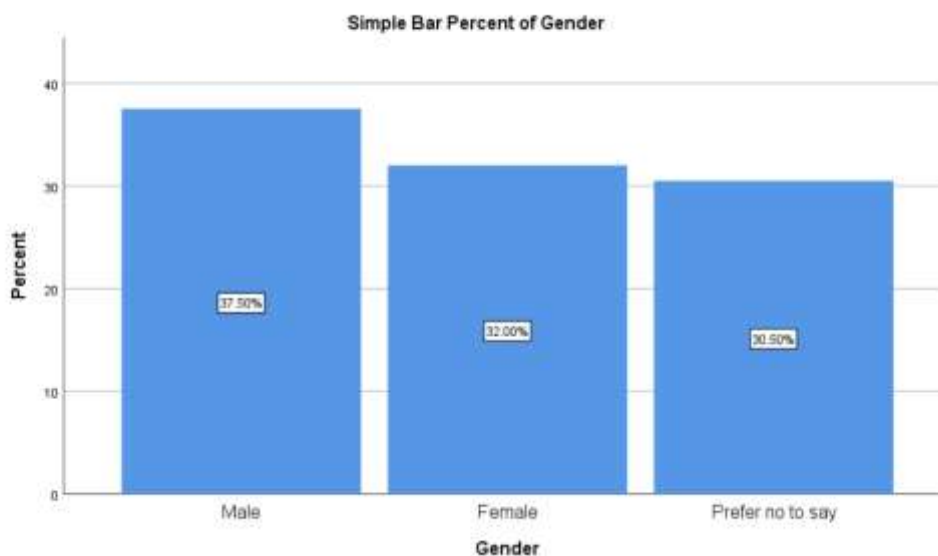
The Research Method used here is the Empirical Research Method. A total of 200 Responses are Collected. A Questionnaire was prepared in the Google Forms & it was Emailed to my friends, Relatives & Families. They are Requested by the researcher to forward the link to their closest ones. The responses were Collected from the people living inside Tamil Nadu as well as from various parts of India. The Questions are Capital Punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India. Capital punishment deter crimes and makes society feel better, Rattan Bai Jain who was the first woman to be executed in independent India, The reasons to abolish death penalty as a punishment in India as well as in other countries & Rate the Scale 1-10 "Awareness should be created among the people regarding the need and usefulness of capital punishment in a democratic country like India to secure justice and to uphold peaceful society". Their responses

are collected by the researcher by using the SPSS Software. The Independent variables are Age, Gender, Place of Residence, Educational Qualification, Occupation & Marital Status & Dependent variables are Capital Punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India. Capital punishment deter crimes and makes society feel better, Rattan Bai Jain who was the first woman to be executed in independent India, The reasons to abolish death penalty as a punishment in India as well as in other countries & Rate the Scale 1-10 “Awareness should be created among the people regarding the need and usefulness of capital punishment in a democratic country like India to secure justice and to uphold peaceful society”. The tools used in the research by the Researcher are Simple Bar Graph, Clustered Bar Graph, Independent Sample T-Test, One-way Anova.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

SIMPLE BAR GRAPH

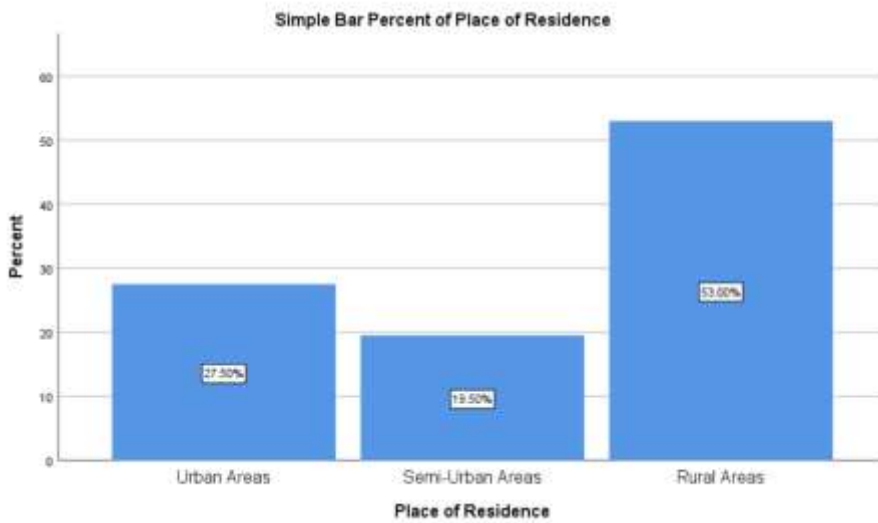
FIGURE:1



LEGEND: Fig 1 clearly shows about the % of people who have responded to the Questionnaire in relation to their respective Gender.

SIMPLE BAR GRAPH

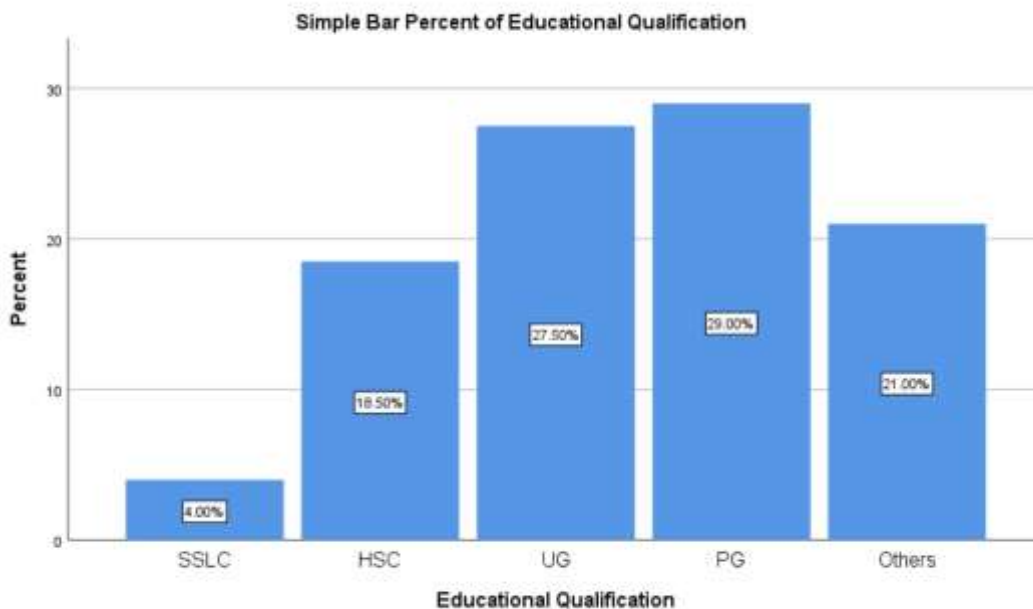
FIGURE:2



LEGEND: Fig 2 clearly shows about the % of the people who have Responded to the Questionnaire in relation to their Respective Place of Residence.

SIMPLE BAR GRAPH

FIGURE:3

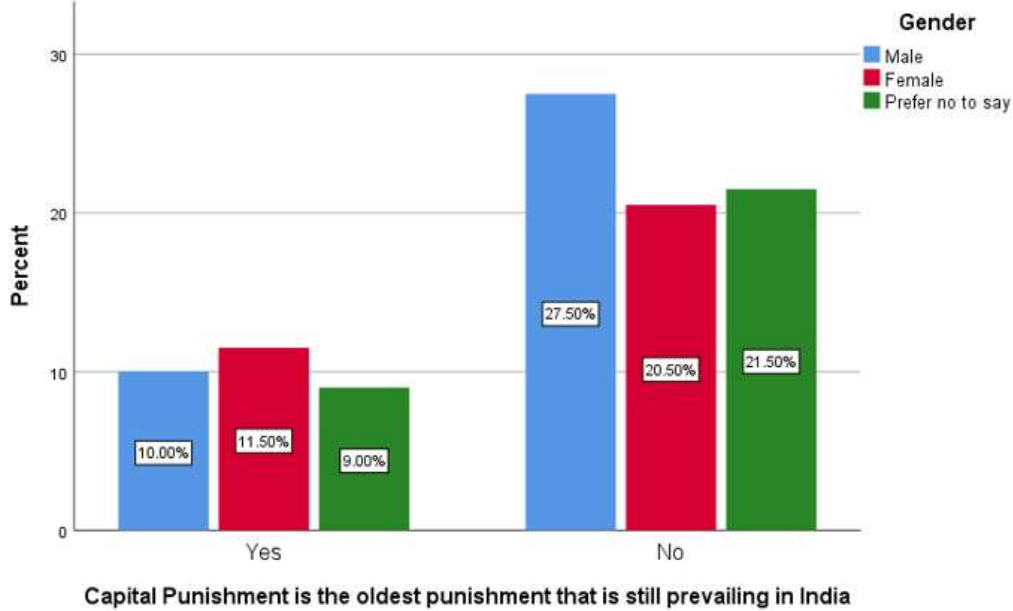


LEGEND: Fig 3 clearly shows about the % of people who have responded to the questionnaire in relation to their respective Educational Qualifications.

CLUSTERED BAR GRAPH

FIGURE:4

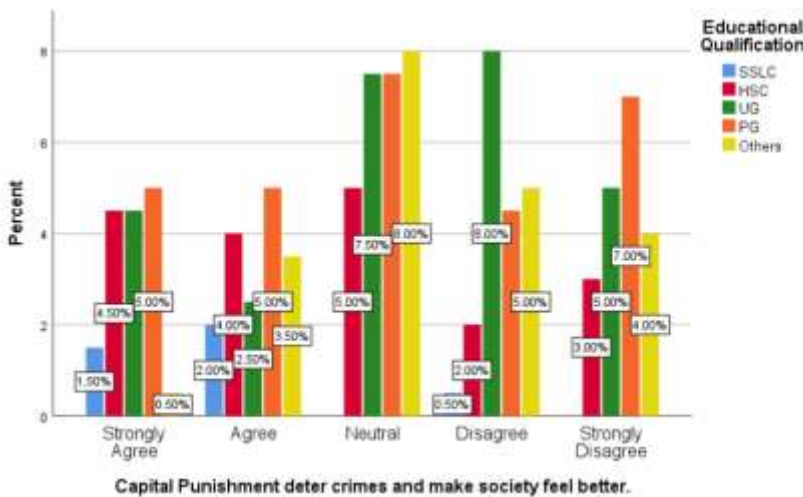
Clustered Bar Percent of Capital Punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India by Gender



LEGEND: Fig 4 clearly shows about the % of people who have responded to the question of Capital Punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India in relation to their Respective Gender Groups.

CLUSTERED BAR GRAPH

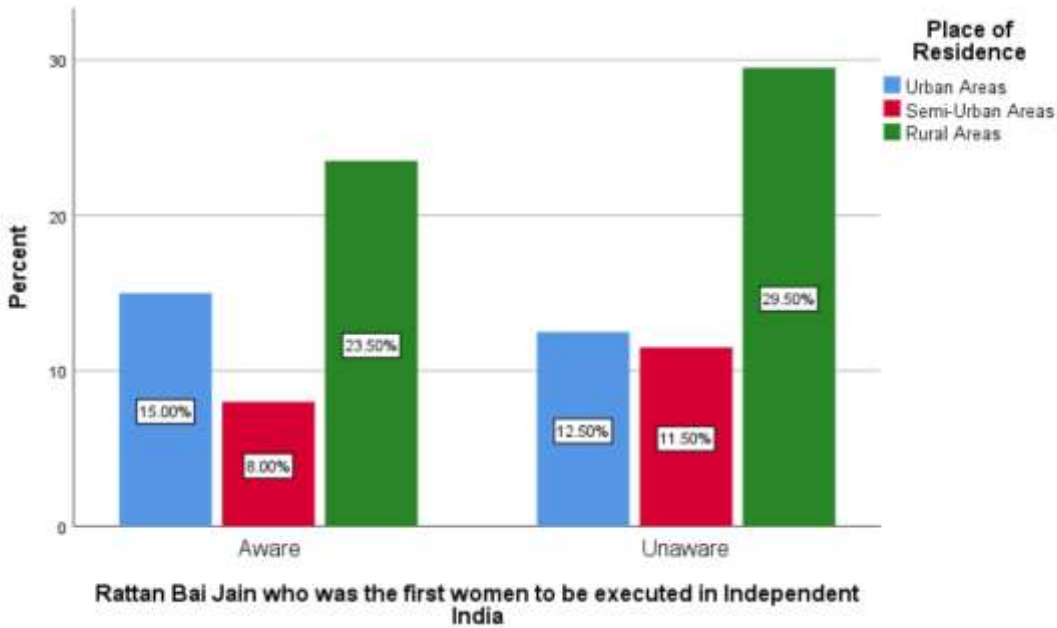
FIGURE:5



LEGEND: Fig 5 clearly shows about the % of people who have responded to the question of Capital Punishment deters crimes and make society feel better in relation to their Respective education qualification Groups.

CLUSTERED BAR GRAPH

FIGURE:6



LEGEND: Fig 6 clearly shows about the % of people who have responded to the question of Rattan Bai Jain who was the first women to be executed in independent India in relation to their Respective place of residence Groups.

INDEPENDENT SAMPLE T-TEST

FIGURE:7

Independent Samples Test										
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances				T-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Rattan Bai Jain who was the first women to be executed in independent India	Equal variances assumed	1.730	.190	2.096	123	.038	.195	.088	.010	.361
	Equal variances not assumed			2.097	122.920	.038	.195	.088	.010	.361

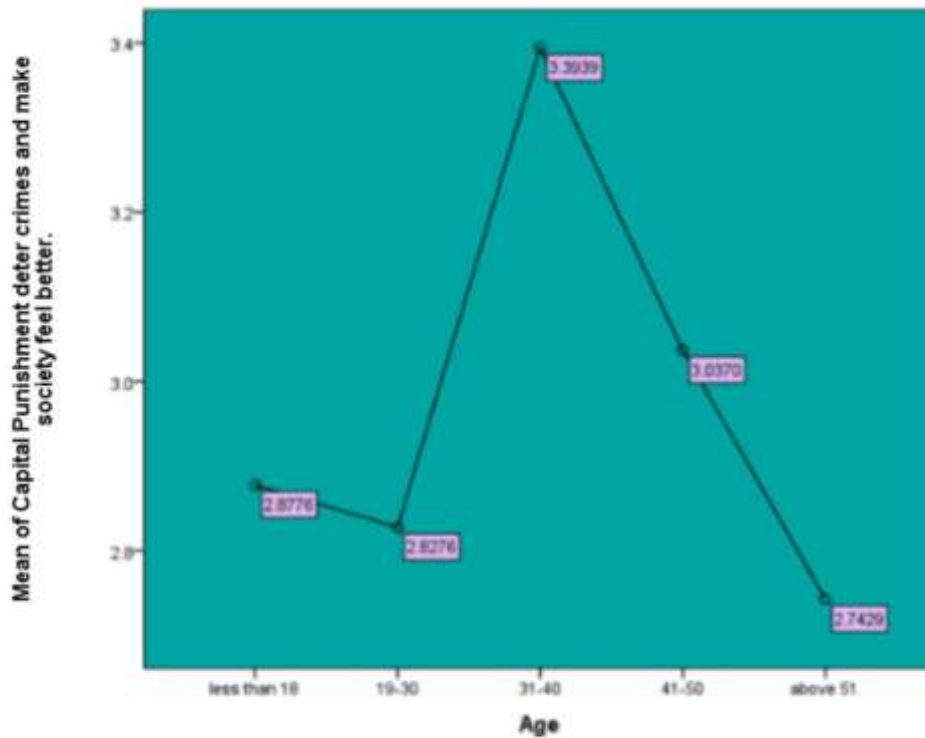
INFERENCES: The Null Hypothesis is Accepted. So, there is no difference between the question of Capital Punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India & Place of Residence. So, there is no significant relationship between the two variables.

ONE-WAY ANOVA

FIGURE:8

ANOVA					
Capital Punishment deter crimes and make society feel better.					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	15.883	4	3.971	2.301	.060
Within Groups	336.497	195	1.726		
Total	352.380	199			

MEANS PLOT



INFERENCES: The Null Hypothesis is Rejected. So, there is a difference between the question of capital punishment deter crimes & make society feel better & respective Age. So, there is a significant relationship between two variables.

RESULTS

In **Fig 1**, From the Above Simple Bar Graph, we can understand that male members have responded more to the questionnaire than female & prefer not to say gender. Since the % of male members are 37.50% whereas the % of women is 32.00% & Prefer not to say is 30.50% respectively. In **Fig 2**, From the Above Simple Bar Graph, we can understand that people in rural areas have responded to the questionnaire more than people in urban areas & semi-urban areas as the place of residence. Since the % of people residing in urban areas is 27.50% whereas % of people residing in semi-urban areas is 19.50% & % of people residing in rural areas is 53.00% respectively. In **Fig 3**, From the Above Simple Bar Graph, we can understand that people whose educational qualification is PG have responded more to the questionnaire than people whose educational qualification is SSLC, HSC, UG & Others. Since the % of people whose educational qualification is SSLC is 4.00%, % of people whose educational qualification is HSC is 18.50%, whereas the % of people whose educational qualification is UG is 27.50%, % of people whose educational qualification is PG is 29.00% & % of people whose educational qualification is others is 21.00% respectively. In **Fig 4**, From the Above Clustered Bar Graph, we can understand that many people have responded to the question of capital punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India by say no on the basis of their respective gender. The % of people who are male who responded to the question is 37.5% respectively. The % of people who are female who responded to the question is 32% respectively. The % of people who are prefer not to say who responded to the question is 30.5% respectively. In **Fig 5**, From the Above Clustered Bar Graph, we can understand that many people have responded to the question of capital punishment deter crimes & make society feel better by saying a neutral opinion on the basis of their respective educational qualifications. The % of people who said strongly agree to the question and whose educational qualification is SSLC is 1.50%, % of people who said strongly agree to the question & whose educational qualification is HSC is 4.50%, % of people who said strongly agree to the question & whose educational qualification is UG is 4.50%, % of people who said strongly agree to the question & whose educational qualification is PG is 5.00% & % of people who said strongly agree to the question & whose educational qualification is others is 0.50% respectively. The % people who said agree to the question & whose educational qualification is SSLC is 2.00%, % of people who said agree to the question & whose educational qualification is HSC is 4.00%, % of people who said agree to the question & whose educational qualification is UG is 2.50%, % of people who said agree to the question & whose educational qualification is 5.00% & % of people who said agree to the question & whose educational qualification is 3.50% The % of people who

said neutral to the question & whose educational qualification is SSLC is 0.00%, % of people who said neutral to the question & whose educational qualification is HSC is 5.00%, % of people who said neutral to the question & whose educational qualification is UG is 7.50%, % of people who said neutral to the question & whose educational qualification is PG is 7.50% & % of people who said neutral to the question & whose educational qualification is others is 8.00% respectively. The % of people who said disagree to the question & whose educational qualification is SSLC is 0.50%, % of people who said disagree to the question & whose educational qualification is HSC is 2.00%, % of people who said disagree to the question & whose educational qualification is UG is 8.00%, % of people who said disagree to the question & whose educational qualification is PG is 7.60% & % of people who said disagree to the question & whose educational qualification is others is 5.00% respectively. The % of people who said strongly disagree to the question & whose educational qualification is SSLC is 0.00%, % of people who said strongly disagree to the question & whose educational qualification is HSC is 3.00%, % of people who said strongly disagree & whose educational qualification is UG is 5.00%, % of people who said strongly disagree & whose educational qualification is PG is 7.00% & % of people who said strongly disagree & whose educational qualification is others is 4.00% respectively. In **Fig 6**, From the Above Clustered Bar Graph, we can understand that many people have responded to the question of Rattan Lal Jain who was the first woman to be executed in independent India by saying they were unaware to the question on the basis of their place of residence. The % of people who said that they are aware & residing in urban areas is 15.00%, % of people who said that they are aware & residing in semi-urban areas is 8.00% & % of people who said that they are aware & residing in rural areas is 23.50% & % of people who said that they are not aware & residing in urban areas is 12.50%, % of people who said that they are unaware & residing in semi-urban areas is 11.50% & % of people who said that they are not aware & residing in rural areas is 29.50% respectively. In **Fig 7**, The Null Hypothesis is accepted. So, there is no difference between the question of capital punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India & Place of Residence. So, there is no significant relationship between the two variables. In **Fig 8**, The Null Hypothesis is Rejected. So, there is a difference between the question of capital punishment deter crimes & make society feel better & respective Age. So, there is a significant relationship between two variables.

DISCUSSIONS

In **Figure 1**, The male members have Responded more to the Questionnaire as compared to other genders. Because the male Genders have more enthusiasm in knowing the laws & other current happenings around the world & the male members are having more freedom to learn everything as the male gender is said to be the lion of the family by their parents as compared to female & prefer not to say gender. Moreover, capital punishment & its knowledge is quite higher in males than other genders. This is the reason why male members have responded more to the Questionnaire whereas other two genders tend to have restricted knowledge about everything due to their own long standing constraints put on them by the society. In **Figure 2**, The People Residing in the Rural Areas have responded more to the Questionnaire than people living in other Areas. This is because the people in Rural areas are somewhat educated nowadays & have a rough knowledge regarding capital punishment & its impact in our country since It is a well known fact that the people in rural areas are coming to cities from villages to get justice for the crimes committed against them so this requires them to be well equipped with basic knowledge about everything including capital punishment & its impacts.. As compared to Urban & Semi-Urban Areas in the city people have no time to get some Extra knowledge due to workload & study in the city side. The people who are trying for government Jobs is only have knowledge regarding capital punishment in its simplest form but not in its depth. In **Figure 3** The Students who are pursuing PG degree have responded more to the questionnaire than the students pursuing the other Degrees & 10th as well as 12th Standard. The students doing their Post-Graduate degree have more opportunity to Explore the new things around them as it may be a part of their Course. They may get numerous amounts of Knowledge on Capital Punishment & its complete industry especially law students as compared to students pursuing other degrees. In **Figure 4** clearly shows about the % of people who have responded to the question of Capital Punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India in relation to their Respective Gender Groups. Since Many people said their response was no that capital punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevalent in India. So, this clearly indicate that men who are building block of family as well as country itself are not that much have knowledge about death penalty which is assumed as a important thing to be known by each & every citizen. So, there is a need to create awareness programmes to impart a deep & complete idea about capital punishment & its effects among the victim's family. Since the other two genders knowledge will not be noted to a great extent since these genders are having their own difficulties in their survival itself which is first to be addressed in the society even though the knowledge about it is vital to them as a citizen. In **Figure 5**, clearly

shows about the % of people who have responded to the question of Capital Punishment deter crimes and make society feel better in relation to their Respective education qualification Groups. Since people were having more of a neutral opinion regarding the question that death penalty deter crimes and make society feel in a better position as they think that even after keeping capital punishment the crimes & offenders keeps on increasing in the country as they are of a thought that this punishment is not being implemented effectively in our country due to various reasons that hinder justice to victim as well as improvement of society to next level which is important for the people to live safely. Some people say that capital punishment prevents crimes & society also progresses to some extent. In **Figure 6**, clearly shows about the % of people who have responded to the question of Rattan Bai Jain who was the first women to be executed in independent India in relation to their Respective place of residence Groups. Since, Many people are unaware about the question since it may seem to be very new to people as women being executed in India was not a common thing in our country as our judiciary has a soft corner for the women even though she is named as a criminal. So, it is necessary for people to have a base for understanding capital punishment which also includes women capital punishment to shine as an intelligent citizen & as a responsible citizen. But it is also good to see that they are aware of Rattan Bai Jain which proves that they are interested in knowing & learning things to help society in the future in its systematic building. In **Figure 7**, From the above Independent Sample T-Test the Null Hypothesis is Accepted. So, there is no difference between the question of Capital Punishment is the oldest punishment that is still prevailing in India & Place of Residence. So, there is no significant relationship between the two variables.

In **Figure 8**, The Null Hypothesis is Rejected. So, there is a difference between the question of capital punishment deter crimes & make society feel better & respective Age. So, there is a significant relationship between two variables.

LIMITATIONS

One Of the Limitations of this Survey is its size of 200 responses which is not enough to Draw Conclusions for the Entire population of 1,30 Crores in our country & since their total population count differs drastically. & in that survey 50% of the population are of young age & middle Aged people & Less old-age People which makes it even difficult for the researcher to Extrapolation.

CONCLUSIONS

As a conclusion, The survey was conducted to find out how many people are aware of capital punishment & its impacts in our country. Capital punishment as a punishment due to its ineffectiveness in achieving its goal has made it a less known punishment among the public. So, due to this, many people in our country are under a misconception that our judicial system is less responsive, less developed & structured. Capital punishment, also known as the death penalty, is the legal killing of a person as a punishment for a crime. It is a controversial issue, with strong arguments for and against it. In India, capital punishment is legal for certain crimes, including murder, treason, and waging war against the state. However, it is rarely used. In the past 10 years, only 3 people have been executed in India. There are a number of arguments in favour of capital punishment. Some people believe that it is a just punishment for certain crimes, and that it deters others from committing similar crimes. Others believe that it is necessary to protect society from dangerous criminals. However, there are also a number of arguments against capital punishment. Some people believe that it is cruel and unusual punishment, and that it violates the right to life. Others believe that it is not an effective deterrent, and that it is more expensive than life in prison. The impact of capital punishment in India is difficult to assess. There is no clear evidence that it deters crime or makes society safer. However, it does have a number of negative consequences, such as the risk of executing innocent people and the emotional toll it takes on families of the victims and the accused. Ultimately, the decision of whether or not to use capital punishment is a complex one with no easy answers. There are strong arguments on both sides of the issue, and it is up to each individual to decide where they stand.

SUGGESTIONS

There are no stringent laws made by our country to regulate as well as govern capital punishment in India. Since its usage as a remedy is very limited & moreover it is used in limited offences like rape & murder which is wrong since other offenders except these two are exempted from grievous punishments as death penalty is the highest punishment given by our constitution. So, its knowledge among the poor as well as uneducated people is also very much limited. So, there is a need to conduct awareness Programmes to help the People know about the misuse of capital punishment & the reasons behind its misuse. Importance of the death penalty in forming our society as a crimeless place. It is the need of the hour to communicate to people before its complete abolishment by our constitution due to pressure put by human rights associations. So, it may give them confidence that they live in a better & safer society from what they think about

it in the way forward.

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