

**Analysis of Crimes Against Women in Sonipat District: Identifying Zones  
of Vulnerability and Offender-Victim Relationships**

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**Abstract:**

The present study investigates the spatial and temporal patterns of crimes against women in Sonipat district, Haryana, with a focused objective to identify and delineate the zones where such crimes are most prevalent. The district's strategic location, bordering Delhi and major economic hubs, has led to rapid urbanization and industrial growth—factors that potentially influence crime dynamics. Using detailed block-level data from 2024, the study analyzes offenses under Special and Local Laws (SLL), such as domestic violence and human trafficking, as well as age-wise distribution and relational context in rape cases. Findings reveal that domestic violence is the most widespread SLL crime, with Kharkhoda, Sonipat and Rai emerging as high-incidence blocks. Rape cases total 486 across the district, with over 97% of victims being adults and 91% of offenders known to the victim—highlighting a pervasive pattern of trust-based violation. The spatial distribution maps and figures, generated using QGIS, illustrate the localized concentration of crimes and underscore the need for targeted interventions. The study emphasizes the urgency of strengthening community-based support systems, improving legal awareness and reinforcing law enforcement in identified hotspots to ensure the safety and dignity of women across both urban and rural areas of Sonipat.

**Keywords:** Crimes Against Women, Sonipat District, Vulnerability Zones, Women's Safety, Haryana, Community Intervention, Legal Framework, Urban-Rural Divide

**Introduction**

The safety and dignity of women remain central to the discourse on social justice and human rights in India. Despite legislative advancements and policy frameworks aimed at gender equality, crimes against women continue to pose significant challenges across both urban and rural landscapes. These crimes, ranging from domestic violence and sexual assault to trafficking and exploitation, reflect deep-rooted structural and cultural inequalities within society. In this context, it becomes imperative to analyze not only the frequency of such crimes but also their spatial patterns, victim demographics and offender relationships to design targeted and effective interventions. Sonipat District, located in the northern part of Haryana, presents a compelling case for such an inquiry. Its strategic location—nestled between the national capital Delhi and industrial centers like Panipat—has accelerated urbanization, industrial development and demographic changes over recent decades. While these

transformations have brought economic growth, they have also contributed to complex socio-economic dynamics that impact crime trends. The district comprises a mix of rural and urban blocks, each with varying levels of access to education, awareness, law enforcement and social support systems—all of which influence the reporting and prevalence of crimes against women. This study focuses on identifying and delineating the areas or zones within Sonipat District where crimes against women are most commonly reported, with a specific emphasis on offenses categorized under Special and Local Laws (SLL) such as the Dowry Prohibition Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Additionally, it examines the age-wise distribution of rape victims and explores the often-overlooked relational dynamics between the offender and the victim, which reveals that most perpetrators are known to the survivors. By using a spatial analytical approach with the aid of QGIS and drawing upon data from police records and background verification reports from 2024, the study seeks to uncover regional vulnerabilities and socio-legal patterns that may not be evident through generalized statistics alone. The findings aim to inform law enforcement agencies, policymakers and community organizations, urging them to develop place-specific and relationship-sensitive preventive and corrective strategies to ensure a safer environment for women across all sections of society in Sonipat.

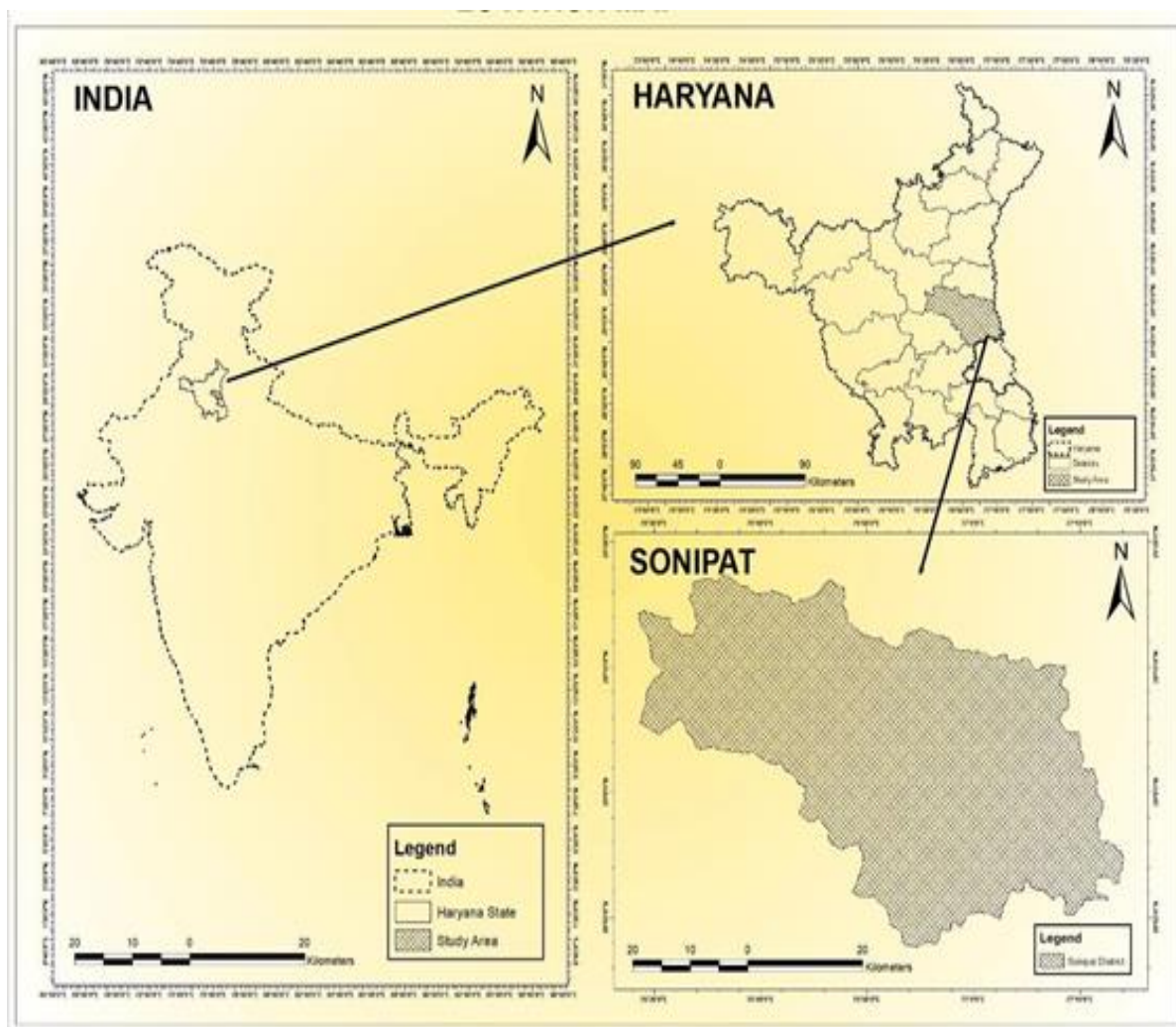
### **Objectives of Study**

- To identify and delineate the areas or zones where the crime against women is committed.

### **Study Area**

Sonipat District, situated in northern Haryana, enjoys a prime location due to its proximity to Delhi and surrounding economic hubs, fostering growth in trade, agriculture and industry. Nestled between 28.98°N to 29.49°N latitude and 76.28°E to 77.15°E longitude, it lies in the fertile Indo-Gangetic plains, ensuring rich agricultural output. The district is strategically positioned along NH-44, a critical highway connecting Delhi to Panipat, facilitating seamless transportation and commerce. To the north, Sonipat borders Panipat, a major industrial center for textiles and oil refining. Its southern edge meets Delhi, granting access to the capital's vast markets and infrastructure. The Yamuna River forms its eastern boundary with Uttar Pradesh, supplying essential water resources, while Rohtak and Jhajjar lie to the west, contributing to Haryana's industrial expansion. This advantageous positioning makes Sonipat a crucial link between Haryana, Delhi NCR and Uttar Pradesh, driving rapid urbanization and economic development.

### **Map 1: Location of Study Area**



Source: Prepared by Research Scholar with the help of QGIS

### Special and Local Laws (SLL) Crimes Against Women

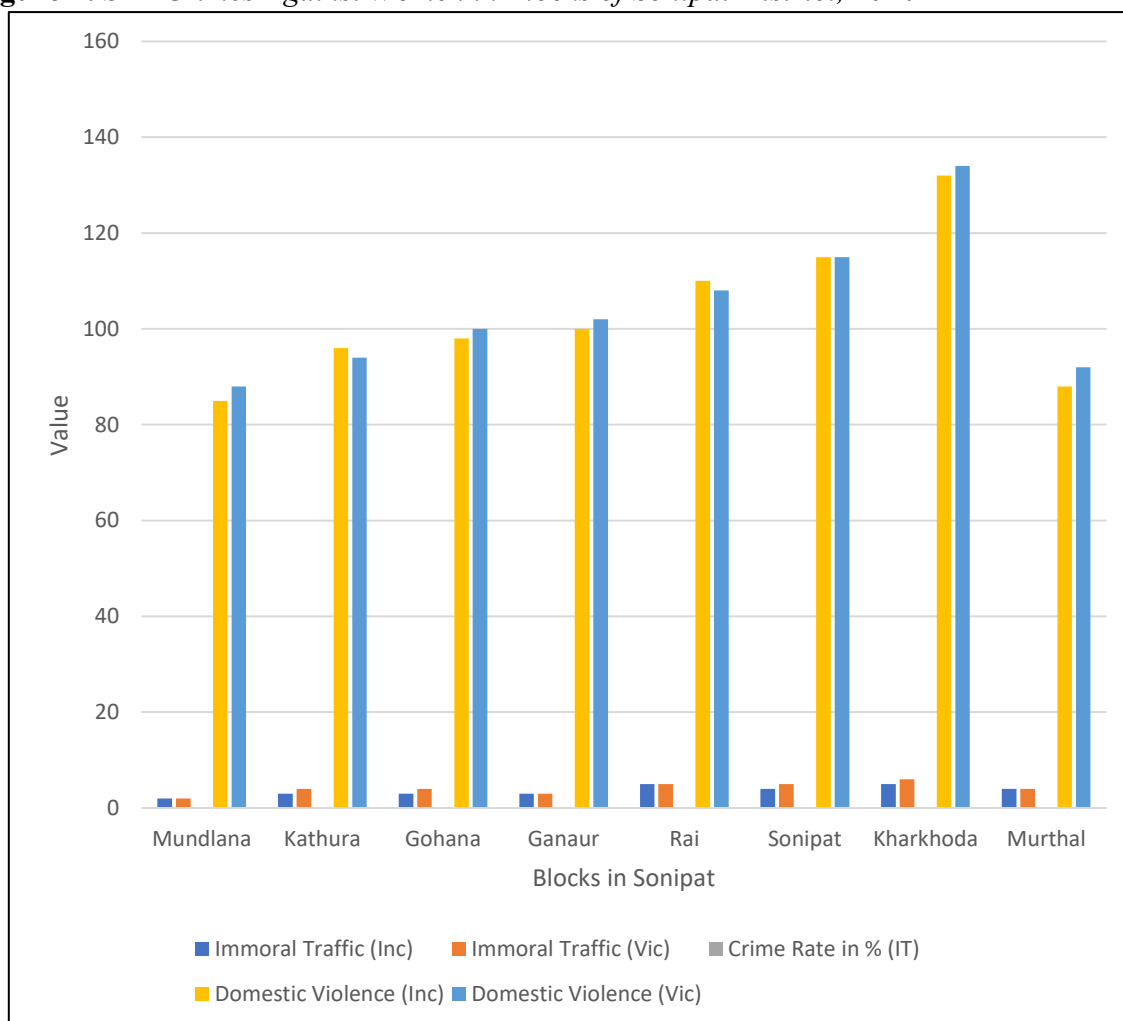
SLL (Special and Local Laws) crimes against women refer to offenses that are specifically addressed under various special and local legal provisions created to protect women's rights and ensure their safety. Unlike IPC (Indian Penal Code) crimes, which are general in nature, SLL crimes are covered under laws such as the Dowry Prohibition Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, among others. These laws are formulated to tackle specific issues faced by women in different social, cultural and economic contexts. SLL crimes include cases like dowry harassment, child marriage, trafficking for prostitution and portrayal of women in an indecent manner through advertisements or media. The enforcement of these laws is crucial for ensuring women's protection, yet many cases go unreported due to fear, lack of awareness, or societal pressure. Strengthening legal mechanisms, spreading awareness and ensuring timely justice are essential to reduce SLL crimes and promote a safer environment for women in all spheres of life.

**Table 1:** *SLL Crimes Against Women in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*

No.	Blocks in Sonipat	Immoral Traffic (Inc)	Immoral Traffic (Vic)	Crime Rate in % (IT)	Domestic Violence (Inc)	Domestic Violence (Vic)
1	Mundlana	2	2	0.01	85	88
2	Kathura	3	4	0.02	96	94
3	Gohana	3	4	0.02	98	100
4	Ganaur	3	3	0.02	100	102
5	Rai	5	5	0.03	110	108
6	Sonipat	4	5	0.03	115	115
7	Kharkhoda	5	6	0.04	132	134
8	Murthal	4	4	0.02	88	92
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>833</b>

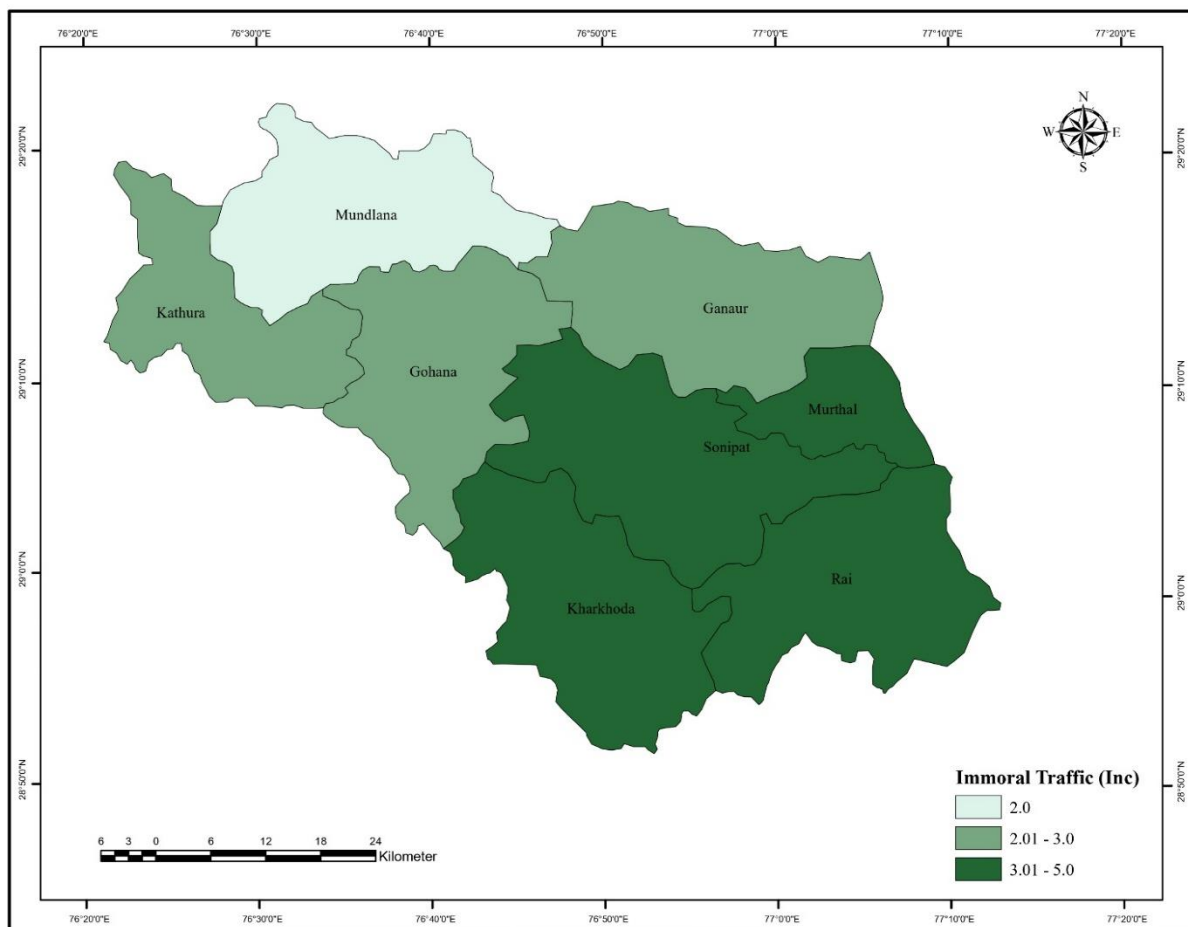
Source: Police Clearance Report and Background Verification

**Figure 1:** *SLL Crimes Against Women in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*



Source: Based on Table 1

**Map 2:** *SLL Crimes Against Women in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*



Source: Prepared by Research Scholar with the help of QGIS

Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes against women in Sonipat district accounted for a total of 29 cases of immoral trafficking, involving 33 victims and 824 incidents of domestic violence, affecting 833 women. Though the overall crime rate for immoral trafficking stood at a relatively low 0.19%, it reflects the presence of underground exploitation networks. Kharkhoda and Rai reported the highest number of trafficking-related incidents (5 each), with Kharkhoda also showing the highest crime rate at 0.04%, suggesting localized vulnerability in certain pockets of the district. Domestic violence remained the most reported SLL offence, with Sonipat (115 victims), Kharkhoda (134) and Rai (108) leading the numbers, indicating a persistent issue of violence within households. Even relatively smaller blocks like Murthal and Mundlana reported significant domestic violence cases, highlighting the widespread nature of the problem across both urban and rural areas. This data underlines the urgent need for strengthened enforcement of women-specific laws, supportive shelters, counseling services and community-based interventions to address the dual challenges of human trafficking and domestic abuse in Sonipat district.

### Victims of Rape

Victims of rape endure one of the most traumatic and devastating experiences, often leaving deep physical, emotional and psychological scars. Rape is not just an act of physical violence—it is a brutal violation of a person's dignity and autonomy. The victims, mostly women and



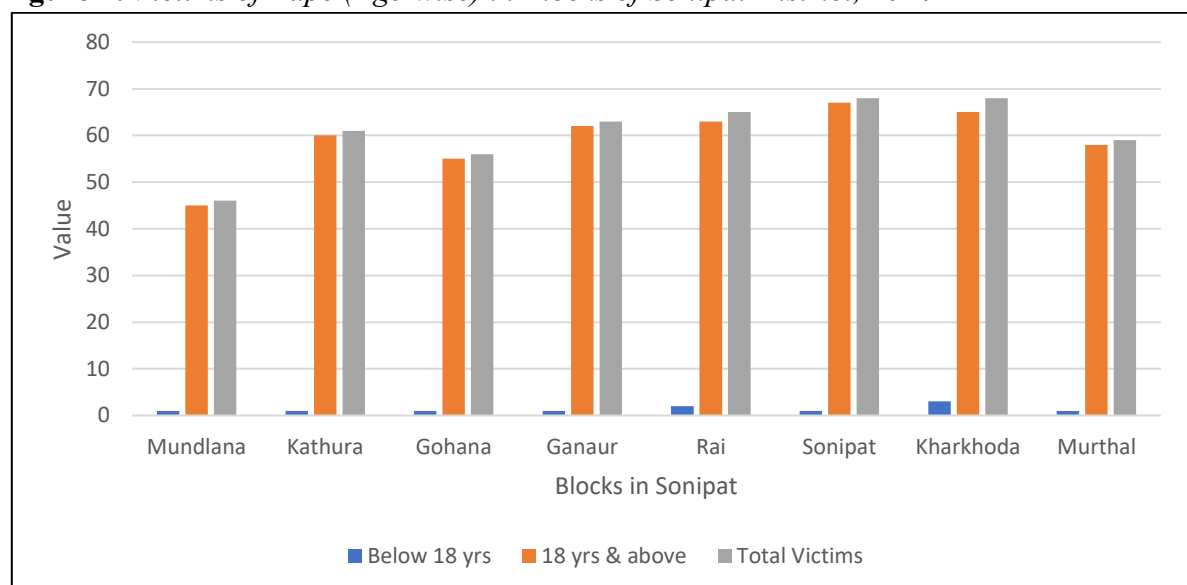
girls, often suffer from severe mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a long-lasting sense of fear and shame. In many societies, especially in conservative or patriarchal cultures, rape victims face additional trauma through social stigma, victim-blaming and isolation. Instead of receiving support, they are often shunned or pressured into silence. This discourages many victims from reporting the crime, allowing perpetrators to go unpunished. In some cases, victims are even forced to marry their rapists or withdraw complaints due to societal or familial pressure. Justice for rape victims should go beyond punishment for the offender—it must include emotional and psychological support, legal assistance and rehabilitation. Creating a supportive environment, ensuring swift legal action and changing societal attitudes toward victims are essential steps in helping them reclaim their lives and dignity.

**Table 2:** *Victims of Rape (Age-wise) in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*

Sr. No.	Blocks in Sonipat	Below 18 yrs	18 yrs & above	Total Victims
1	Mundlana	1	45	46
2	Kathura	1	60	61
3	Gohana	1	55	56
4	Ganaur	1	62	63
5	Rai	2	63	65
6	Sonipat	1	67	68
7	Kharkhoda	3	65	68
8	Murthal	1	58	59
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>486</b>

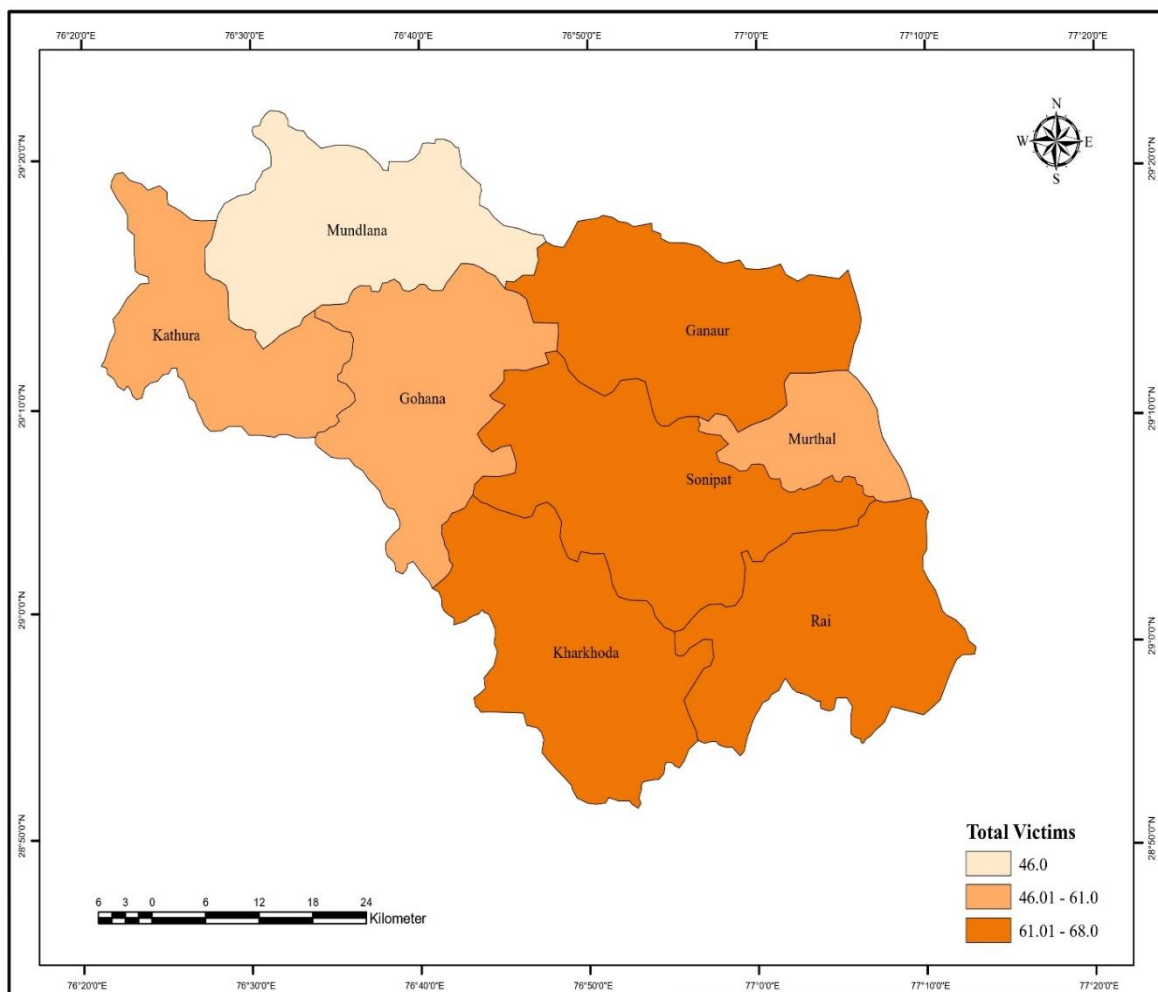
Source: Police Clearance Report and Background Verification

**Figure 2:** *Victims of Rape (Age-wise) in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*



Source: Based on Table 2

**Map 3:** *Victims of Rape (Age-wise) in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*



Source: Prepared by Research Scholar with the help of QGIS

Sonipat district recorded a total of 486 rape victims, with an age-wise breakdown revealing that 11 victims were below 18 years, while a significant majority of 475 victims were aged 18 years and above. This data underscores that adult women remain the most affected group, but the presence of minor victims, particularly in blocks like Kharkhoda (3 victims below 18) and Rai (2 victims below 18), points to the alarming vulnerability of young girls as well. Sonipat and Kharkhoda reported the highest total number of victims (68 each), followed by Rai (65) and Ganaur (63). Even smaller blocks such as Murthal (59) and Mundlana (46) contributed significantly to the district-wide figures. The data highlights the widespread nature of sexual violence across all blocks and age groups, emphasizing the urgent need for child protection mechanisms, community sensitization, survivor-centered support services and strict law enforcement to address and prevent rape in both rural and urban areas of Sonipat.

### **Relation of Offender to Victim in Rape Cases**

In many rape cases, the offender is not a stranger but someone known to the victim. Studies and crime records reveal that a significant number of rape incidents are committed by relatives, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, or even authority figures like teachers or employers. This close relationship often creates a situation of trust, which the offender exploits, making the crime even more traumatic for the victim. In cases involving minors, family members or known

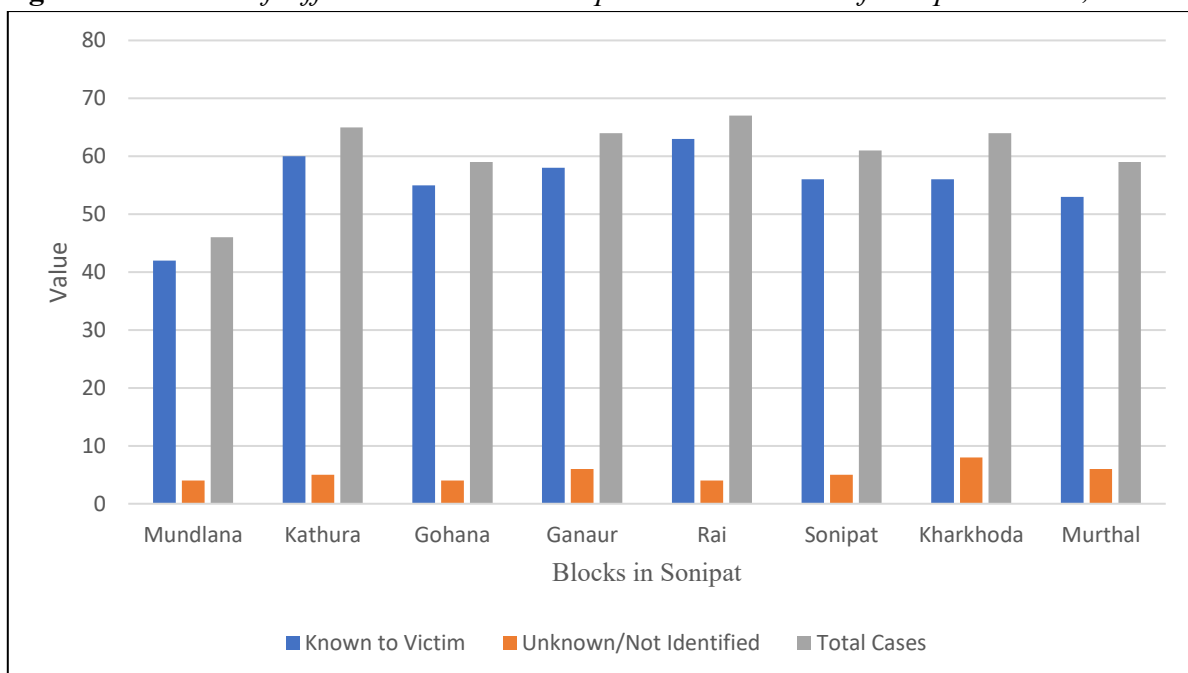
individuals are often the perpetrators, which adds a layer of betrayal and makes reporting the crime extremely difficult for the victim due to fear, emotional manipulation, or social pressure. The involvement of known persons also leads to underreporting, as victims fear dishonor, stigma, or backlash from their own family or community. This disturbing trend highlights the urgent need for awareness, education and sensitization within families and communities. Law enforcement agencies must also be trained to handle such cases with empathy and confidentiality, ensuring that victims feel safe to come forward. Addressing the issue of known offenders requires both legal action and societal change to protect victims and prevent such crimes.

**Table 3:** *Relation of Offender to Victim in Rape Cases in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*

Sr. No.	Blocks in Sonipat	Known to Victim	Unknown/Not Identified	Total Cases
1	Mundlana	42	4	46
2	Kathura	60	5	65
3	Gohana	55	4	59
4	Ganaur	58	6	64
5	Rai	63	4	67
6	Sonipat	56	5	61
7	Kharkhoda	56	8	64
8	Murthal	53	6	59
<b>Total</b>		<b>443</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>485</b>

Source: Police Clearance Report and Background Verification

**Figure 3:** *Relation of Offender to Victim in Rape Cases in Blocks of Sonipat District, 2024*



Source: Based on Table 3



An analysis of rape cases in Sonipat district revealed that in the vast majority of incidents—443 out of 485 cases (over 91%)—the offenders were known to the victims, while only 42 cases involved unknown or unidentified perpetrators. This pattern highlights a deeply disturbing reality where trust, familiarity and proximity are often exploited, making such crimes harder to detect and report. Kathura reported the highest number of cases involving known offenders (60), closely followed by Rai (63), Ganaur (58) and Kharkhoda (56). Even smaller blocks like Murthal (53 known offenders) reflected this trend. Kharkhoda and Ganaur had the highest number of cases involving unknown offenders, with 8 and 6 cases respectively. These figures underscore the urgent need for comprehensive awareness programs, education on consent and boundaries and sensitive handling of such cases by law enforcement. It also emphasizes the importance of creating safe spaces for victims to come forward, especially when perpetrators are individuals from within their own families, neighborhoods, or social circles.

### **Conclusion**

The spatio-temporal analysis of crimes against women in Sonipat District reveals a concerning pattern of both visible and invisible vulnerabilities affecting women's safety across the region. While Sonipat benefits from economic and infrastructural growth due to its proximity to Delhi and major industrial hubs, this development has not translated into a proportionate sense of security for women. Instead, the data indicates a significant prevalence of crimes under Special and Local Laws (SLL), with domestic violence and human trafficking emerging as persistent issues across both urban and rural blocks. Kharkhoda, Rai and Sonipat blocks have surfaced as critical hotspots for SLL crimes, necessitating urgent policy and administrative focus. The analysis of rape victims further underscores the gravity of the situation—of the 486 victims recorded in 2024, the overwhelming majority were adults and a disturbing 91% of perpetrators were known to the victims. This not only challenges the perception of sexual violence as random or perpetrated by strangers but also highlights the deeply rooted issues of trust violation within familial and social networks.

The study thus emphasizes the need for a multi-dimensional approach to addressing crimes against women in Sonipat. Strengthening legal awareness, encouraging community vigilance, improving access to survivor support services and sensitizing law enforcement agencies are vital steps. Furthermore, integrating spatial mapping tools like QGIS into district-level crime analysis can significantly enhance data-driven policing and targeted interventions. It is equally important to challenge societal norms that silence victims and perpetuate impunity for offenders. Ensuring women's safety in Sonipat requires not only robust legal enforcement but also transformative shifts in community attitudes, institutional accountability and systemic responsiveness. The insights from this study serve as a foundation for developing localized, evidence-based strategies aimed at fostering an environment where women can live with dignity, safety and freedom from fear.

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