

# India's Daughter: will it help?

I did not watch it till now; the documentary by BBC on Nirbhaya rape case; called *India's Daughter*. After reading an article which told about the contents of the documentary, I don't think I wish to watch.

Leslee Udwin, an award winning producer took 2-years interviewing many people in India, including the convicts of the rape for the documentary. Their naïve and horrifying comments justifying their horrendous deed are the major attractions of the documentary.

*"India's Daughter is being broadcast on BBC4 next Sunday, International Women's Day, and simultaneously will be shown in seven other countries including India, Switzerland, Norway and Canada. On Monday 9 March, actresses Freida Pinto and Meryl Streep will attend a screening in New York, launching a worldwide India's Daughter campaign against gender inequality and sexual violence against women and girls. It begins by 20 million pupils viewing the film and taking part in workshops in Maharashtra, a state that includes Mumbai."* –from *The Guardian*

The Nirbhaya rape case was a turning point in India's social history as it was followed by a wave of protests and agitations for gender equality. Did it really change the scenario? Not much but it definitely made the men more aware of the crisis going on and it made the women bolder to react and raise their voice.

But how will BBC broadcasting it across the world help us?

Why should a "worldwide campaign" for gender inequality and sexual violence against women be called "*India's Daughter*"? How will it change the nature of men in the dark alleys of nights in remote Indian towns? How will it protect the poor little girls in villages from their drunk-uncles? How?

A rush of foreign NGOs with their Hollywood actresses will swoop down to meet the rape victims; take a lot of pictures and make more videos.

It might help the rape victims get some help and support.

But it still doesn't "stop rape", or do anything towards stopping it?

I am from Delhi and there have been times my fellow mates from different states pull my leg by calling Delhi -a rape capital. Some actually give a frown and ask, is it that unsafe in Delhi. I vehemently defend that it's just that every case of Delhi becomes news of national interest, whereas news from other states never makes headlines.

But now imagine going abroad and telling someone you are from India, and the reaction is “is that story about *India’s Daughter* true? Do you people really think like that? Is India so unsafe for girls?”

You think I am kidding. No! I have been in that situation and at that moment there is nothing more embarrassing, more painful. Patriotism which runs in our veins burns with shame, and head goes down in disgrace.

No one who loves his motherland should be facing this scenario.

Every country has some shame attached to its history, Britishers have their Empires, Americans their wars, and Germans have Hitler; so why are just Indians being put to this embarrassment?

India is not even in top 10 countries when you compare rape rates of nations of world. Even USA is way above India in the list.( *courtesy: NationMaster.com* )

You might say that our low rate is because of our enormous population, but isn’t that a point to ponder upon.

You think I am sounding petty here.

Justifying India’s faults by saying others are worse than us.

Think again.

Indians have given a steady competition to West in many areas throughout the human history. Our culture and traditions are often undermined only because of our own negligence towards it, and craving towards westernization.

All over the world today, there is not a single big market player who has not got a substantial amount of Indian work force. We might be the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populated country, but like China our people are not subjected to autocracy. We are the largest democracy in the world.

Our engineers, doctors, nurses, scholars, skilled and unskilled workers run the world, but still west loves to make movies on our slums. They love to celebrate our poverty.

It took us some time to shed off our image as “land of snake charmers”; and now they wish to brand us with another one.

For all feminist activists, gender equality crusaders supporting BBC’s documentary; please think once again. Think and act, spread awareness, try to change the mentality of people from the grass root level, protest for stricter laws, do something rather than crying over a foreign video. Crying out loud and telling the world about a disease spreading from inside will not benefit you. It will just gain you sympathy.

We don't want their sympathy. In a time when NaMo government is trying everything possible to attract foreign investments and show India as a stable player in world politics and economics; this is not the time for sympathy.

Rape, sexual violence against women- it is our problem. This is our mess and we must clean it up our self.

If you feel angry for the situation then get down and try to bring some change. When the world is pointing finger at your motherland, don't turn around and join the world; look back and try to sort out the issue.

Bharat Mata needs our help, *India's Daughter* is her problem, and she doesn't need London Queen or Uncle Sam to solve it.

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