

# **Targeting the Vulnerable: Witch hunting and Violation of Women's Right in North East India**

**Dr. Praveen Mishra & Priyanka Shukla**

There are different names which are used for calling the woman accused of witch hunting. The name varies from place to place for example “tonhi”, “dakani” , “dayan” etc. But the element which is common in all these terminologies involve pain and humiliation. The woman labelled as witch are tortured and ostracized. According to National crime record bureau 2097 murders were reported between 2000 and 2012, where the motive of Murder was “witch hunting”. It is prevalent in 17 states of India and involves violence, molestation and murder apart from other Physical and mental sufferings. It is worth mentioning that actual data related to offences committed in the course of witch hunting is higher than cases reported by national Crime Record Bureau. Sometimes offences related to witch hunting is not reported. There are silent sufferings where women suffers in the name of witch hunting. Unfortunately in the process of witch hunting it is not just the person who are targeted as witches has to suffer the family members also suffer. Children and spouse of the victims of such offences are the secondary victims of “witch hunting.”