

ABSTRACT

Reuben Fine suggested that “hatred remains a powerful force which cannot be ignored.” Nonetheless, the concept of hate is comparatively one of the least discussed topics and perhaps one of the most complex concepts to settle on a specific definition. One person may hate another person for either how they are or who they are and motivated by such hate they may commit vengeful acts. Such vengeful acts are hate crimes. The notion of hate crime started in the United States of America and has now become a pandemic. Many States like the USA, Canada, UK, France, etc. provide protection against hate crime, but whether all the countries provide the same kind of protection to the same protected groups becomes a matter of discussion. Moreover, there are countries like India that have an absence of specific hate crime-related provisions. The gaps in hate crime laws were more visible during the Covid-19 pandemic. Wuhan, China is believed to be the origin of the Coronavirus Disease that started at the end of 2019 and within 2-3 months it spread around the world. As the diseases started spreading across the globe, the entire Asian community became subjected to violence and discrimination. Asian Americans in the USA became subjected to verbal and physical abuse owing to the belief of the origin of Covid-19 in China. In India, the people of Northeast India became subjected to discrimination. The Muslim community in India also became victims of violence and discrimination as their religious gathering was blamed for an increase in Covid-19 cases in India. The covid-19 pandemic has motivated hate based on race, national origin, ethnicity, migrant status, etc., and has created national insecurity. This paper aims to compare the hate crime laws and policies in the USA and India by examining the increasing hate crime cases in both countries during covid-19. It also seeks to analyze how covid-19 became a motivation for hate crimes by delving into past pandemic situations.

Keywords: *Hate, Hate Crime, Covid-19, United States of America, India.*