...crimes. But this isn't where women are most vulnerable. Surprisingly, it's in the safety of a home or neighbourhood where most rapes take place.

State Crime Records Bureau statistics show that in 70% of rape cases reported in the state in the past five years, the rapists were known to the survivors.

In 10% of rape cases reported in the same period in one of these cases, the survivors knew the rapists. In 20 cases, the rapists were partners, close family friends or relatives; in 10 cases, they lived next door and in one, the survivors were acquainted with their rapists.

Around 70% of rape survivors were known to their attackers in cases recorded in the past five years.

The father of a rape survivor in Bangalore said he still cannot comprehend what drives their neighbour to rape his young daughter. The rape was committed in September last year in Srirampura. "We'll soon hire an honour-killing expert, he would soon come home to fetch a noose. We never suspected anything," he said.

"A woman who's assaulted by someone on the road is less shameful to help, but when a sexual assault comes from someone she knows and trusts, she is taken aback," said Dr Lakshmi Lakshmi, co-founder, Enfold Trust, an organisation working in the area of prevention of child sexual abuse, sexuality and life skills education.

Creating awareness and knowing the boundaries are the solutions, according to Dr Lakshmi. "Most importantly, families and workplaces should show zero tolerance towards molesters," she added.

A police officer said though many of these complaints are known to the women and children assaulted, cops have a role to play in checking the evil.

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