

Indian village bans girls from wearing jeans and T-shirts as 'poor dressing is the reason for most rapes'

- The ban, in Khedar, Hisar province, is designed to reduce rapes in the area
- Alcohol also outlawed while 'DJ parties' will carry a fine of 11,000RP (£125)
- Village council member: 'Poor dressing is the main reason behind rapes'

By Matt Blake

Young women in a village in India have been banned from wearing jeans and t-shirts because elders say they encourage rape.

Lawmakers in Khedar, in the Hisar region of northwest India, implemented the ban as part of a raft of measures designed to reduce sex attacks in the area.

Alcohol has also been outlawed while throwing a 'DJ party' will now carry a fine of 11,000 rupees (£125).



Trend setter? Khedar Village is in the north west of India. Alcohol has also been outlawed while throwing a 'DJ party' will now carry a fine of 11,000 rupees (£125).

Treatment of women in India has been thrust sharply under the spotlight in recent months, following the death of a 23-year-old medical student after she was gang raped on a bus in New Delhi.

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- Gang-raped, murdered and dumped half-naked: India rocked by the death of a another young woman as father claims blundering police told him she had eloped

There has been a groundswell protest in India ever since, with mass demonstrations for women's rights, tougher rape laws and calls for sex attackers to be hanged.

Khedar village patriarch Sarpanch Shamsheer Singh told the **Times of India**: 'We have decided to ban alcohol as

it is the main reason behind rapes. We have also banned jeans and T-shirts for girl students as it is not a proper dress.'



Protests: Treatment of women in India has been thrust sharply under the spotlight in recent months after a 23-year-old woman was gang raped on a bus in New Delhi, sparking a rape crisis that has shaken the country to its core



Groundswell: Indian women march to mourn the death of a gang rape victim in New Delhi. The brutal case has caused uproar in India, with mass demonstrations for women's rights, tougher rape laws and calls for the suspects in the case to be hanged



Heavy security: The decision in Khedar comes as five men appeared in court today accused of gang-raping a 23-year-old physiotherapy student on a bus in New Delhi. She later died of her injuries



Arrival: A police officer directs the van carrying the five suspects - named as Ram Singh, his brother Mukesh, Pawan Gupta, Vinay Sharma and Akshay Thakur

But while the decree may prove unpopular among young people in the town, it has been welcomed by older members of the village.

INDIA: IN THE GRIP OF A RAPE CRISIS

Rape is the one of the most common crimes against Indian women.

So common, in fact, that there is a euphemism coined for the public sexual molestation of women.

In reference to the biblical 'Eve', 'Eve teasing' implies that women are responsible for the behaviour of their attackers.

Rape victims rarely press charges because of social stigma and fear they will be accused of inviting the attack.

Many women say they structure their lives around protecting themselves and their daughters from attack.

New Delhi is the rape capital of India with a rape reported on average every 18 hours.

Government data show the number of reported rape cases in the country rose by nearly 17 percent between 2007 and 2011.

Shanti Devi, a middle-aged woman present at the panchayat said, 'The decision of the panchayat is good and will check the harassment of girls. Poor dressing is the main reason behind rapes.' Mahaveer Singh, a resident of the village, added: 'We welcome the decision of the panchayat and anyone organizing a DJ party in the village will be fined Rs 11,000. Our main purpose is to close the alcohol shops in the village as liquor is the main reason behind attacks on women.'

Meanwhile, a judge today ordered the trial of the five men accused of the gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old student in Delhi be held 'in-camera' for the suspects' own safety after chaotic courtroom scenes. More than 150 people tried to cram into a courtroom meant to fit just 30 people for the first hearing of the men charged with the abduction, gang rape and murder of Jyoti Singh Pandey. The 23-year-old physiotherapy student died in a Singapore hospital 13 days after being attacked as she made her way home from the cinema in New Delhi.

The woman - who has not been named for legal reasons - was thrown naked from the moving vehicle into the street where she lay for up to half an hour before anybody called emergency services. Days later she died from her injuries.



Protest: A man pictured performing an indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar to protest against the recent gang rape in New Delhi



Respect for women: A shrine dedicated to the memory of the woman who died from the horrific injuries of a gang rape.

Government data show the number of reported rape cases in the country rose by nearly 17 percent between 2007 and 2011.

And in New Delhi - known as the rape capital of India - one rape is reported every 18 hours.