



Sexual Harassment against Girls and Women at Public Places: A Study to Assess the Trend

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Abbreviations:

CEDAW-Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

LEA–Law Enforcing Agencies

GoB–Government of Bangladesh

MoHA–Ministry of Home Affairs

NGAF-National Girl Child Advocacy Forum

SDGs-Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030

UNCRC-United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

VAW–Violence against Women

Executive summary:

The report, 'Sexual Harassment against Girls and Women at Public Places: A Study to Assess the Trend' is an outcome of the research conducted by the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) with support of Plan International Bangladesh.

The first part is an introductory one. Girls and women continue to face increasing sexual harassment both in private and public lives in Bangladesh. They are sexually harassed in places like market, street, transport, hospital, bus station, train station, shopping mall etc. They are not even safe during festivals and social gatherings. Sexual harassment constrain women's and girls' freedom of movement, preventing them from taking advantage of opportunities at school and work. Most of the studies conducted earlier were focused on harassment at workplace and educational institutions. There is lack of reliable information regarding sexual harassment of girls and women in public places in Bangladesh. That is why the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF), a network of 168 non-government organizations intended to carry out this study to explore the incidents of sexual harassment among the girls and women at public places.

Objective of the study was to explore incidents of sexual harassment against girls and women at public places in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. This was carried out from May to October 2019. The report was written in November and was finalized in December 2019. Geographically, the study was carried out in urban and rural areas of Rangpur, a northern district and Barisal a southern district of Bangladesh. Primary information were collected from Rangpur city; Gojoghonta union of Gangachara upazila and Kabilpur union of Pirganj upazila of Rangpur district. Barisal city; Kedarpur union of Babugonj upazila; Rajihar union of Agailjhara upazila of Barisal district.

The second part elaborates methodology of the study. Both primary and secondary data were collected and analysed to understand incidents of sexual harassment against girls and women at public places in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. Primary data were collected by 10 youth volunteers of NGCAF. A through desk review was carried out on laws, policies, articles, books etc. on sexual harassment of girls and women in Bangladesh. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from the primary sources. A sample survey was carried among 392 girls and women in Rangpur and Barisal districts of Bangladesh. About 39 percent girls and women were from Barishal and 61 were from Rangpur district. A questionnaire was developed and pretested for the sample survey. Quantitative data were checked and coded after the field work.

Ten Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted to collect qualitative data from the primary sources. A FGD guideline was developed and pretested prior to data collection. A total number of 116 girls and women of various professions have attended these FGDs.

The third part contains major findings of the study. The study reveals that about 98 percent girls and women respondents encountered sexual harassment at public places within the last two years.

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One person experienced sexual harassment in multiple places. Majority of girls and women respondents (275) encountered sexual harassment on the footpath during walking. They were also harassed while getting into public transport, bus stops, shopping places, parks etc. About 38 percent have encountered sexual harassment more than 1 time while about 14 percent girls and women have encountered more than 10 times.

It was found out that dress is less important though girls and women are usually blamed for their dress as causes of harassment. A significant number of 206 girls and women were harassed when they were wearing salwar-kamiz. Quite a large number (115) were also harassed while they had veil. Sexual harassment encountered by girls and women were multiple in nature. These harassments were mainly verbal, physical, visual and mobile phone etc. The study reveals same girl and woman encountered harassment in different times of the day. However, majority of the girls and women (217) faced sexual harassment in the morning and afternoon.

Girls and women victims had multiple feelings of harassment. Majority of them were angry or felt humiliated after being harassed. Though a handful of the girls and women seek support from people nearby, very less were assisted. Majority of people (137) who were present during the harassment were silent observers. Only 19 of the girls and women asked for support from law enforcing agencies. Response of the law enforcing agency was not satisfactory when someone else or the observer called the law enforcing agency. Only 11 respondents informed that law enforcing agency came to help when they reported as observers. A large number respondents were unaware about the existence of helpline number (999) of police and existence of laws against sexual harassment.

Girls and women victims of sexual harassment do not share their experience with family and friends due to the fear of restrictions on their mobility. Participants perceived that complaining to the law enforcing agency will not bring any good for them. Rather the victim and their family will face unnecessary troubles. Perpetrators are often from well off and powerful families. They can get away paying money. They have suggested to formulate a comprehensive law with stringent punishment. They also emphasized on proper implementation of laws.

The fourth part concludes the report that fear of sexual harassment and oppressive social norms restrict mobility; prevent women from seeking education and employment; and has multiplier negative effect on the society. Girls and women constitutes half of the population of Bangladesh. It would be impossible to achieve the development goals of Bangladesh leaving half of its population behind. Enacting a comprehensive law; awareness raising campaign;

coaching on parenting and early childhood development; training for the law enforcing agencies were the key recommendation provided to prevent sexual harassment.

The last part contains annexure with figures and tables.

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1. Introduction:

Despite constitutional guarantees of equal rights of women and men in all spheres of the state and of public life, women continue to face wide spread sexual harassment both in public and private lives in Bangladesh. They are sexually harassed in the marketplace, street, transport, hospital, bus station, train station, shopping mall and even in the socio cultural events. The situation was reflected in the Human Development Report 2002 that ranked Bangladesh in the third place in the world in terms of violence against women.

Sexual harassment is an unwelcome behaviour which is conducted by men to women or men to men or women to women or women to men. Both men and women can be subjected to sexual harassment, but women are much more likely to be affected by it due to the unequal gender relations prevalent in many societies. In Bangladesh, women are the main victim of sexual harassment. Overwhelming majority of women, who are going outside of their home for education, work or for other needs, are being sexually harassed by men every day. Hundreds of women are raped and sexually assaulted every year. Incidents of sexual harassment are increasing day by day. (Rahman, 2019)

A recent study (May, 2019) jointly conducted by Manusher Jonno Foundation and Karmojibi Nari has showed that 22.4% of female garment workers are sexually harassed at and on their way to their workplaces. (Dhaka Tribune, 2019)

Research conducted by ActionAid has found that 80 percent of garment workers in Bangladesh have either seen or directly experienced sexual violence or harassment in the workplace. (ActionAid Briefing paper)

Study carried out by Mahila Parishad, a women's' rights organization based on news published in 14 national dailies revealed that from January to June 2019, total number of violence against women were 3,918 last year, but in the halfway of this year it came to 2,083. The number of rape incident reached 731. (The Daily Star, 2019)

Sexual harassment constrain women's and girls' freedom of movement, preventing them from taking advantage of opportunities at school, at work, and in politics. In the recent past, we have witnessed a number of tragic deaths. Some girls have committed suicide due to the repetitive tortures and harassment. Unfortunately, social and legal protections for these victims are almost negligible.

Moreover, there is no legislation specifically incriminating “sexual harassment” in Bangladesh. For instance, there are certain legislation which can arguably be used to penalize acts of a man sexually harassing a woman. Section 509 of the Penal Code 1860 criminalizes acts, words and gestures intended to “outrage the modesty of a woman” with a prison sentence that may extend to one year along with fines. Section 10 of the Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 introduced

an offence termed *jounopiron* (commonly translated as “sexual oppression”) to criminalize the act of someone who touches a woman or child (with any part of their body or with an object) or Page | 8 “violates a woman’s modesty” (*narirshilotahanikoren*) in order to “illegally satisfy their sexual desires” (Huda, 2019).

Furthermore, due to the amendment of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000 (amended 2003), fears are growing that incidents of sexual harassment may become rampant as the amended version of the law excludes the phrase “Indecent physical gesture” . The exclusion was justified on the grounds of preventing false case related harassment. It has been protested by various women and human rights groups. They argue that the problem of false cases related harassment should have been dealt with other means.

In 2009, the High Court issued 11-point directives on the prohibition, prevention and redress of sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions, after a writ petition filed by an NGO challenging the widespread prevalence of sexual harassment of women in university campuses and office spaces (29 BLD HCD 415). In formulating these guidelines, the court drew upon Bangladesh’s obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and our Constitution’s affirmative safeguards on gender equality and women’s rights. It extensively defined sexual harassment by outlining 11 different circumstances that would constitute acts of sexual harassment, ranging from unwanted physical contact to coerced sexual relations through abuse of power to unsolicited sexual remarks, advances and gestures be they in person, in writing or through telephone, etc. It obligated all institutions to form Sexual Harassment Complaint Committees which will register and investigate sexual harassment complaints filed by women and then take the appropriate disciplinary action against the perpetrator if allegations are found to be true. It is important to note that the aforementioned penal provisions (Section 509 and Section 10) criminalize individual acts of sexual harassment by the perpetrator (and are perhaps more relevant for sexual harassment of women in public spaces), while the High Court directives focus on institutional responsibility to prevent and redress sexual harassment of women in the workplace and educational institutions. (Huda, 2019).

According to the data compiled by University Grants Commission (UGC), among the 103 private, 45 public universities of the country revealed that only 52 and 35 universities respectively have established sexual harassment prevention committees. Many incidents of sexual harassment remain unreported, as students are unaware of the existence of these committees. According to a study conducted by ActionAid Bangladesh in May, 2018, a lack of awareness about the guidelines regarding sexual harassment among students is a major barrier to its effective implementation. (Dhaka Tribune, 2019)

Though several studies were conducted, most of them were focused either on workplace related violence or on students and educational institutions. There is lack of reliable information regarding sexual harassment of girls and women in public places in Bangladesh.

Under the above circumstances, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF), a network of 168 non-government organizations with support of Plan International Bangladesh carried out this study to explore the incidents of sexual harassment among the girls and women at public places in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh.

1.1 Objective of the study:

To explore the incidents of sexual harassment against girls and women at public places in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh.

1.2 Study period:

The study was carried out in May-October 2019. The report was written in November and was finalized in December 2019.

1.3 Geographic area:

The study was carried out in urban and rural areas of Rangpur, a northern district and Barisal a southern district of Bangladesh. Primary information were collected from Rangpur city; Gojoghonta union of Gangachara upazila and Kabilpur union of Pirganj upazila of Rangpur district. Barisal city; Kedarpur union of Babugonj upazila; Rajihar union of Agailjhara upazila of Barisal district.

2. Methodology:

Both primary and secondary data were collected and analysed to understand incidents of sexual harassment against girls and women at public places in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. Primary data were collected by 10 youth volunteers of NGCAF.

Details of the methodology are given below:

2.1 Secondary Data:

A thorough desk review was carried out on laws, policies, articles, books etc. on sexual harassment of girls and women in Bangladesh. The desk review included international instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (UNCRC) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2015-2030. In addition, national legal framework such as the Penal Code, 1860, the Children Act, 2013 (amended in 2018); and National Children Policy 2011, National Women Development Policy, 2011 were also reviewed. In addition, existing articles and publications on the issue were also reviewed.

2.2 Primary Data:

Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from the primary sources. A sample survey was carried among 392 girls and women in Rangpur and Barisal districts of Bangladesh. A questionnaire was developed and pretested for the sample survey. The questionnaire was filled up by the research assistants with responses of the respondents. Quantitative data were checked and coded after the field work.

2.2.1 Quantitative Data/ Sample Survey:

Sample size according to district/ geographic location:

Data were collected from a total number of 392 women respondents. About 153 (39.03%) women and girls were from Barishal and 239 (60.97%) were from Rangpur district.

Table-1. Sample size according to district/ geographic location

| Districts (city+upazila+union) | Total number of women interviewed | Percentage |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Barishal | 153 | 39.03 |
| Rangpur | 239 | 60.97 |
| Grand Total | 392 | 100.00 |

Sample size according to city/ upazila and union/ geographic location:

Data were collected from city, upazila and union levels. Out of the total of 392 girls and women respondents, 52 (13.27%) were from Rangpur city, 49 (12.50%) were from Barishal city; 53 (13.52%) from Agailjhara, 60 (15.31%) from Gangachara, 58 (14.80%) from Pirganj upazila; 34 (8.67%) from Gojoghonta union, 35 (8.93%) from Kabilpur union, 26 (6.63%) from Kedarpur union and 25 (6.38%) from Rajihar union.

Table-2. Sample size according to city/ upazila and union/ geographic location

| Places | Number of women interviewed | Percentage |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| District Level | | |
| Rangpur City | 52 | 13.27 |
| Barishal City | 49 | 12.50 |
| Upazila level | | |
| Agailjhara | 53 | 13.52 |
| Gangachara | 60 | 15.31 |
| Pirganj | 58 | 14.80 |
| Union level | | |
| Gojoghonta | 34 | 8.67 |
| Kabilpur | 35 | 8.93 |
| Kedarpur Union | 26 | 6.63 |
| Rajihar Union | 25 | 6.38 |
| Grand Total | 392 | 100.00 |

Sample by profession of women interviewed

Majority (52.29%) of respondents were student while 45.10 percent were working women in Barishal. In Rangpur, 60.67 percent respondents were student and 35.15 percent were working women.

Table-3. Sample by profession of women interviewed

| Profession of women interviewed | Number of women | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Barishal | 153 | |
| Housewife | 3 | 1.96 |
| Not mention | 1 | 0.65 |
| Student | 80 | 52.29 |
| Working Women | 69 | 45.10 |
| Rangpur | 239 | |
| Housewife | 9 | 3.77 |
| Not mention | 1 | 0.42 |
| Student | 145 | 60.67 |
| Working Women | 84 | 35.15 |
| Grand Total | 392 | 164.02 |

Sample size by age of girls and women interviewed:

Out of 392 respondents, 165 (42.09%) were under 18 years age, 117 (29, 84%) were between age group of 18-25 years, 45 (11.48%) were between 26-30 years, 43 (10.97%) were 31-35 years while 22 (5.61%) were more than 35 years of age.

Table-4. Sample size by age of girls and women interviewed

| Name of the District | Under 18 years | 18-25 years | 26-30 years | 31-35 years | 35+ years | Total |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Barishal | 47 | 51 | 31 | 22 | 2 | 153 |
| Rangpur | 118 | 66 | 14 | 21 | 20 | 239 |
| Grand Total | 165 | 117 | 45 | 43 | 22 | 392 |
| Percentage | 42.09 | 29.84 | 11.48 | 10.97 | 5.61 | 100 |

Sample size by level of education:

With regard to level of education, 192 (48.98) girls and women had Higher Secondary and above, 148 (37.76%) had up to Secondary level, 38 (9.69%) went up to class five level. However, 4 (1.02%) respondent were illiterate while there were no information regarding level education of 10 (2.55%) respondents.

Table-5. Sample size by level of education

| Name of the District | Illiterate | Up to class five | Up to SSC | HSC and above | Not mentioned | Grand Total |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Barishal | 4 | 18 | 43 | 81 | 7 | 153 |
| Rangpur | | 20 | 105 | 111 | 3 | 239 |
| Grand Total | 4 | 38 | 148 | 192 | 10 | 392 |
| Percentage | 1.02 | 9.69 | 37.76 | 48.98 | 2.55 | 100 |

Sample size by marital status:

A total number of 232 (59.19%) girls and women respondents were unmarried and 142 (36.22%) were married while information were not found regarding marital status of 18 (4.59%) girls and women.

Table-6. Sample size by marital status

| Name of the District | Married | Unmarried | Not mentioned | Total |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| Barishal | 64 | 76 | 13 | 153 |
| Rangpur | 78 | 156 | 5 | 239 |
| Grand Total | 142 | 232 | 18 | 392 |
| Percentage | 36.22 | 59.19 | 4.59 | 100 |

2.2.2 Qualitative Data:

A total of 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted to collect qualitative data from the primary sources. FGD guideline was developed and pretested for facilitation and data collection. A total number of 116 girls and women of various professions such as government officials, Journalists, Lawyers, NGO Workers, Teachers, Students and Housemaker have attended these FGDs.

3. Major Findings:

3.1 Quantitative Findings:

Out of 392 women and girls respondents, 384 (97.96%) encountered sexual harassment at public places within the last two (2) years (i.e. at bus stoppage, cinema hall, sports field, hat bazar, park, restaurant, Doctor's chamber, hospital, public transport, shopping mall, bus, religious place, in the street, train).

In case of places of sexual harassment, one woman was harassed in multiple places. Majority of girls and women respondents (275) encountered sexual harassment on the footpath/ street during walking followed by 169 during getting into public transport, 155 at hat/ bazar, 137 at bus stops and 129 at shopping places. Though less in numbers, they were also harassed at parks (68), hospitals (61), Doctor's chamber (34), train stations (28), cinema halls (27), during getting into the train (20), inside the train compartment (10), religious places (10).

Majority of the girls and women (38.27%) have encountered sexual harassment 2-3 times within the last two years while (22.96%) girls and women have encountered harassment 4-5 times. About 14.03 percent girls and women have encountered more than 10 times.

An overwhelming majority of girls and women (34.95%) were harassed within the last 2-3 months and 29.34 percent were harassed within the last 1 month.

About 35.46 percent girls and women were harassed by 1 person, followed by 25.00 percent by 2 people, 21.17 percent by 3 people, and 10.71 percent by 4 people. Quite a large percentage (14.87) of girls and women were also harassed by 5 or more than 5 people.

Girls and women are often blamed for their dress. However, data shows that dress is less important rather it is attitude of perpetrators results in harassment. It was found that same person was harassed while wearing different dresses in different occasions. A significant number of 206 girls and women were harassed when they were wearing salwar-kamiz. Quite a large number (115) were also harassed while they had *borka/* hijab or veil. About 80 girls and women were harassed when they were wearing *share*. Comparatively less number (55) girls and women were harassed when they were in western dress.

Multiple answers were found regarding use of transportation as one person uses different means of transportation in different times and needs. Majority of girls and women (264) are

pedestrians. Quite a large number (230) use auto-rickshaw, 168 rickshaw, 157 local bus, 134 van rickshaw, 98 tempu. Only 31 women and girls use personal vehicles.

Sexual harassment encountered by girls and women were multiple in nature. These harassments were mainly verbal, physical, visual and mobile phone etc. Majority of women and girls (325) encountered verbal harassment that included comments, whistles of sexual nature. About 221 girls and women faced visual harassments (indecent way of looking, gesture etc.) while 125 girls and women encountered physical harassment (touch, feeling of touch etc.) and 85 have faced harassments committed with mobile phone (taking photos, doing video without consent).

There is a common belief that girls and women are harassed during dark or at night. But the study reveals same girl and woman encountered harassment in different times of the day. Majority of the girls and women (217) faced sexual harassment in the morning and afternoon. About 131 were harassed during noon and 117 in the evening while less number (34) were harassed at night.

Same girl and woman was being harassed by different perpetrators. Majority of girls and women (335) were harassed by unknown people or strangers followed by 129 by people they knew and 29 by close relatives.

Feeling of the victims of harassment were multiple. A total number of 248 girls and women felt angry while 238 girls and felt humiliated. About 171 felt insulted, 167 were frightened and 119 were mentally shocked.

About 54.59 percent of girls and women reacted immediately after the incident of harassment. However, a large percentage (39.29%) did not react and kept silent.

A total number of 177 girls and women victims of harassment verbally reacted (rebuked) while 102 expressed anger.

A large percentage (61.48%) of the girls and women victims of harassment did not express any other reaction.

A handful of girls and women (97) asked for support from others. About 28 girls and women did not ask for any support and walked away. 19 asked support from law enforcing agencies.

Unfortunately, 62 girls and women were supported by no one even after seeking help.

Majority of the girls and women did not ask for support from the law enforcing agencies. However, 19 girls and women who seek support were assisted by the law enforcing agencies.

In case of 73.47 percent respondent, no one came forward to support before they have asked for. Only (11.48 percent informed that people came forward to help them before they have asked.

Majority of people (137) who were present during the harassment were silent observers. Quite a large number (116) also walked away.

Only 172 (43.88%) girls and women respondents helped other girls and women victims during harassment happening in their presence. And 104 respondents confronted the harasser while only 17 of them called the police.

Response of the law enforcing agencies was not satisfactory when someone else or the observer called the law enforcing agency. Only 11 respondents informed that law enforcing agency came to help when they reported as observers.

A large number (51) respondents were unaware about the existence of helpline number (999) of police. Majority of the respondents (50.26%) did not know that there are laws against sexual harassment and eve teasing.

A vast majority of girls and women (379) (96.68%) suggested the government to formulate a comprehensive law that address all aspects of sexual harassment.

A large number of women and girls (158) encountered sexual harassment when they were 11-13 years, followed by 103 at the age group of 14-17 years. It is very critical noticing that about 24 respondents have experienced sexual harassment below the age of 6 years.

Majority of the perpetrators (122) were (122) were 21-25 years old while 120 were 16-20 years. It is alarming noticing that there were also 32 boy child perpetrators of age group 12-15 years and 3 were below 12 years.

3.2 Qualitative Findings:

Sexual harassment of girls and women at public places is rampant in Barisal and Rangpur. Girls and women are harassed in the street, on their way to school/educational institutions, getting into public transport. Harassment also happens during festivals, social gatherings such as wedding, fair etc.

Boys and young men loitering do various sexual comments and gesture. Perpetrators push girls or touch them deliberately. They also collect cell numbers and send explicit materials.

Earlier boys not attending school were mainly the perpetrators. However, recently drug addiction, unemployment, unrestricted use of internet particularly easy access to pornography are aggravating the situation. Due to gender norms and erosion of social values, perpetrators

see girls and women as sexual objects. Girls and women victims of sexual harassment do not share their experience with family and friends due to the fear of restrictions on their mobility. Some family members and friends may even blame the girl and woman victim rather than blaming or taking any action against the perpetrator. Family members will force the victim to stop going to school or leave their job and stay home.

Participants also informed that complaining to the law enforcing agency will not bring any good for them. Rather the victim and their family will face unnecessary troubles. Perpetrators are often from well off and powerful families. They can get away paying money. Participants were not aware about the existence of the law against harassment. They informed that existence of the law does not make much sense if there is no implication. They have suggested to formulate a comprehensive law with stringent punishment. They also emphasized on proper implementation of laws with speedy trial to combat sexual harassment. They want law enforcing agencies to deal incidents of sexual harassment with gender sensitivity and sincerity. Participants suggested to raise boy child with strong moral values. Family and educational institutions can teach them to see girls and women with respect.

4. Conclusion and recommendations:

Bangladesh has been making remarkable progress in economic growth. Life expectancy, literacy rates and per capita food production have increased significantly over the last decade. The country is aspiring to be a middle-income country by 2021 and achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. However, SDG report 2018 of the Government of Bangladesh reveals that despite progress made, the country needs to improved 41 out of the 169 targets that fall within the 17 SDGs.

Sexual harassment of girls and women is widespread in Bangladesh. Sexual harassment restricts mobility of girls and women in public sphere. Fear of sexual harassment and oppressive social norms not only prevent women from seeking education and employment but has multiplier effect on the society. Girls and women constitutes half of the population of Bangladesh. It would be impossible to achieve the development goals of Bangladesh leaving half of its population behind.

Eleven point directives by the High Court in 2009 is certainly a major drive on the prohibition, prevention and redress of sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions. Girls and women remain unprotected from sexual harassment at the public places as these directives cover only workplace and educational institutions. Based on the findings of this study, some recommendations have been drawn as below:

Recommendations:

- A comprehensive law need to be enacted to address all facet of sexual harassment at public places. The law should include physical gesture of sexual nature as crime within the legal definition of sexual harassment. Proper implementation of the law is also crucial to prevent the crime.
- Campaign to raise awareness of people, especially youths and men should be launched. The campaign need to focus on changing dominant gender norms and general acceptance of sexual harassment.
- Coaching on parenting and early childhood development should be introduced as early childhood development plays significant role in human lives. It is the time when a child's brain is most flexible and learn how to judge the society. Though parents care for their children greatly, often they are not aware of the fact that brain development is sensitive to experience. Nurturing children with care and gender sensitivity at home and schools can reduce possibility for a child of becoming perpetrators.
- Law enforcing agencies are the first ones to come in contact with issues of sexual harassment in day-to-day lives. They can play a vital role in preventing sexual harassment of girls and women at public places. Therefore, adequate and continuous training of the law enforcing agencies should be introduced.
- Awareness need to be raised about services provided by the Hot Line Number (999).

Annexure:

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| Number | Title of the table |
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| 7. | Places of sexual harassment/ eve teasing encountered |
| 8. | Number of sexual harassment/ eve teasing in times encountered by respondents within the last 24 months |
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Tables and Figures:

Figure-1: Experience of encountering sexual harassment at public places within the last 2 years

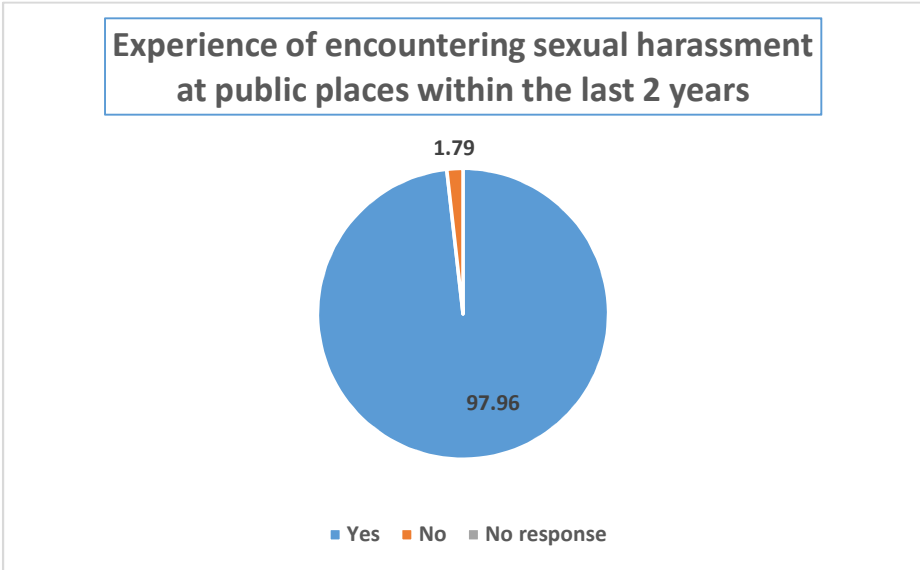


Table-7. Places of Sexual Harassment/ Eve teasing encountered (multiple answers)*

| Q-2. (Where did you encounter Sexual Harassment/ eve teasing)? | Number of answers (Multiple answers) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| During walking in the footpath/ street | 275 |
| During getting into public transport | 169 |
| Bazar/ hat | 155 |
| Bus stop | 137 |
| Shopping mall/ places | 129 |
| Park | 64 |
| Hospital | 61 |
| Doctor's chamber | 34 |
| Train station | 29 |
| Cinema hall | 27 |
| During getting into train | 20 |
| Religious places | 10 |
| Others/ did not mention | 31 |

Table-8. Number of Sexual Harassment/ Eve teasing in times encountered by respondents within the last 24 months (2 years)

| Q-3. How many times you have encountered Sexual Harassment/ Eve teasing within the last 24 months (2 years)? | 1 time | 2-3 times | 4-5 times | 5-10 times | More than 10 times | Total |
|--|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------------|-------|
| Number | 37 | 150 | 90 | 60 | 55 | 392 |
| Percentage | 9.44 | 38.27 | 22.96 | 15.30 | 14.03 | 100 |

Table - 9: Last incident of sexual harassment/ eve teasing happened

| Q-5. When the last incident of sexual harassment / eve teasing has happened? | Within the last 1 month | 2-3 months earlier | 4-6 months earlier | 6-12 months earlier | More than 12 months earlier | Not mentioned | Total |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Number | 115 | 137 | 74 | 33 | 25 | 8 | 392 |
| Percentage | 29.34 | 34.95 | 18.87 | 8.42 | 6.38 | 2.04 | 100 |

Table-10. Number of people involved in sexual harassment/ eve teasing

| Q-6. Can you tell us how many people were involved in sexual harassment / eve teasing | 1 person | 2 people | 3 people | 4 people | 5 people | More than 5 people | Not mentioned | Total |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| Number | 139 | 98 | 83 | 42 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 392 |
| Percentage | 35.46 | 25.00 | 21.17 | 10.71 | 3.06 | 2.81 | 1.79 | 100 |

Table-11. Type of dress of girls and women during sexual harassment/ eve teasing

| Q-7. What type Of dress you were wearing during the incident | <i>Salwar, Kamiz with Dopatta</i> | Tops & trouser | Jeans pant, tops or skirt | <i>Sharee</i> | <i>Borkha/ hijab</i> | Others |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------|
| | 206 | 17 | 28 | 80 | 115 | 29 |

Table-12. Means of transportation (multiple answers)*

| Q-8. What do you usually use as means of transportation? | Number of answers (Multiple answers) |
|--|---|
| Walk | 264 |
| Auto-rickshaw | 230 |
| Rickshaw | 168 |
| Local bus | 157 |
| Van rickshaw | 134 |
| Tempu | 98 |
| BRTC Bus | 37 |
| Personal vehicle | 31 |
| Train | 30 |
| Others | 7 |

Table-13. Type of sexual harassment encountered

| Q-9. (What are the type of sexual harassment/ teasing you have encountered)? | Number of answers (Multiple answers) |
|--|---|
| Verbal (comment, whistle etc.) | 325 |
| Visual (indecent way of looking, gesture etc.) | 211 |
| Physical (touch, feeling of touch etc.) | 125 |
| Mobile (taking photos, doing video without consent) | 85 |
| Others | 9 |

Table-14. Time of the day when sexual harassment/ teasing encountered (multiple answers)*

| Q-10. (When did you encountered sexual harassment/ teasing) | Number of answers (Multiple answers) |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| In the morning | 217 |
| Afternoon | 217 |
| Noon | 131 |
| Evening | 117 |
| Night | 34 |

Table-15. Perpetrator of Sexual Harassment (multiple answers)*

| Q-11. (Who did the sexual harassment/ teasing) | Number of answers (Multiple answers) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Unknown person/ strangers | 335 |
| Known person/ persons | 129 |
| Close relatives | 29 |

Table-16. Feelings of the victim of Sexual Harassment/ teasing (can be multiple answers)*

| Q-12. (How did you feel after being sexually harassed/ teased) | Number of answers (Multiple answers) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Felt angry | 248 |
| Felt humiliated | 238 |
| Felt insulted | 171 |
| Felt frightened | 167 |
| Got mental shock | 119 |
| There was no impact | 2 |
| Enjoyed it | 0 |

Figure-2: Reaction of victims after encountering sexual harassment at public places

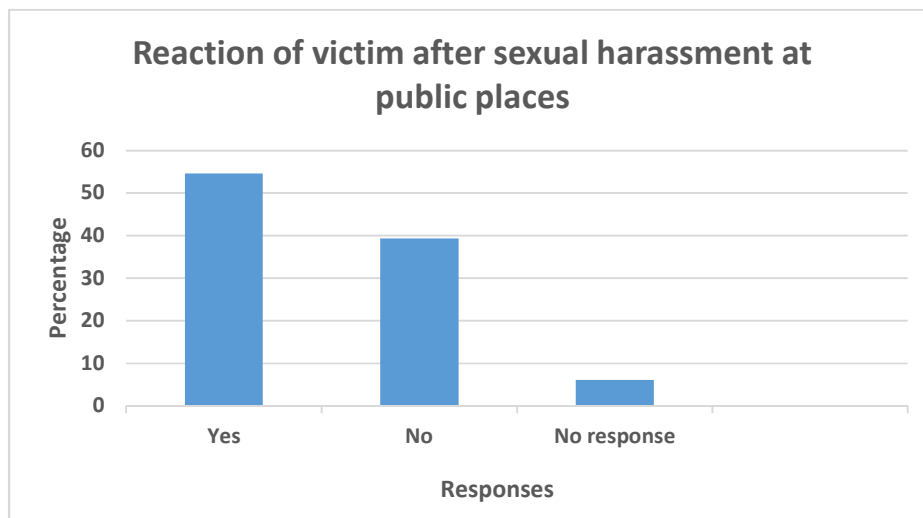


Table-17. Type of reactions of the victim:

| Q-14. (If the answer of question number 13 is yes, then how)? | Number of answers (Multiple answers) * |
|--|---|
| Verbal reactions (rebuked) | 177 |
| Showed shoes/ sleepers | 36 |
| Physical reactions (slapped/ heating with hand / expressing anger) | 102 |

Table-18. Other reaction/ initiatives instead of personal reactions

| | YES | No | No response |
|---|-------|-------|-------------|
| Q-15. Did you take any other measures instead of immediate personal reactions | 123 | 241 | 28 |
| Percentage | 31.38 | 61.48 | 7.14 |

Table-19. Types of other reaction/ measures

| Places-Q-15.1 (If the answer of question number 15 is yes, then how)? | Number of answers |
|---|-------------------|
| Walked away | 28 |
| Asked for support from others | 97 |
| Asked for support from law enforcing agencies | 18 |
| Others | 11 |

Table-20. Support extended by the law enforcement agencies

| Q-15.2 If you have asked for support from law enforcing agencies, did they support you? | YES | No |
|---|-----|----|
| | 19 | 37 |

Table-21. Initiatives instead of personal reactions

| Q-15.3 If you have seek support from others, did witness come forward to support you? | YES | No |
|---|-----|----|
| | 88 | 62 |

Figure-3: Supports for victim before asking

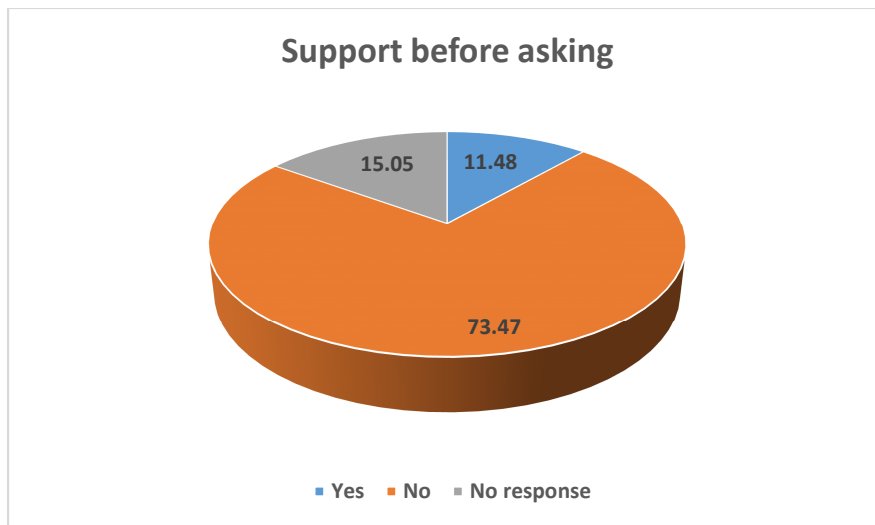


Table-22: Types of other measures of the witness

| Q-18. (If the answer of question number 16 is no, then what was their reaction)? | Number of answers |
|--|-------------------|
| Silent observer | 137 |
| Walked away | 116 |
| Making some comments | 44 |
| Others | 37 |

Table-23. Respondent's actions

| | YES | No | No response |
|---|-------|-------|-------------|
| Q-19. Did you ever help If someone else was harassed? | 172 | 187 | 33 |
| Percentage | 43.88 | 47.70 | 8.42 |

Table-24: Types of reaction of the respondent when some else was harassed

| Q-20. (If the answer of question number 19 is yes, then how)? | Number of answers |
|---|-------------------|
| Called police | 17 |
| Confronted the harasser/ abuser | 104 |
| Seek support from people around | 40 |
| Had a suggestive conversation | 74 |
| Others | |

Table-25. Response of the law enforcing agency when someone else was harassed

| | YES | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Q-20.1 Did the law enforcing agency respond/ come forward? | 11 | 49 |

Table-26. Response of common people when someone else was harassed

| | YES | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Q-20.2 Did common people respond/ come forward? | 61 | 64 |

Table-27: Response of the respondent during sexual harassment to the others

(multiple answers)*

| Q- 21 (If the answer of question number 19 is no, then how)? | Number of answers (Multiple answers) * |
|--|---|
| Did not protest | 132 |
| Did not seek help from police | 37 |
| Did not ask support from common people | 39 |
| Did not know the helpline number (999) of police | 51 |
| Others | 22 |

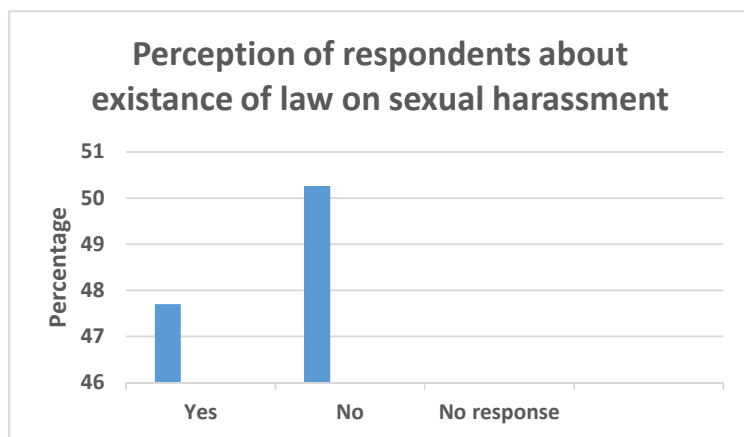


Figure-4: Perception about existence of law on sexual harassment

Table-28: Need for a comprehensive law on sexual harassment

| Q-23. Do you think that there is need for a comprehensive law to deal with sexual harassment at public and private spaces? | YES | No | No response |
|--|-------|------|-------------|
| | 379 | 5 | 8 |
| Percentage | 96.68 | 1.28 | 2.04 |

Table-29. Age during first experience of sexual harassment

| Q-24. When did you encounter sexual harassment for the first time in your life? | Below 6 years | Below 10 years | 11 -13 years | 14 – 17 years | 18 – 22 years | 23 – 28 years | Above 28 years |
|---|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | 24 | 67 | 158 | 103 | 47 | 31 | 9 |

Table-30. Age of perpetrators

| Q-26. Do you remember age of the perpetrators/ harassers? | Below 12 years | 12 – 15 years | 16 – 20 years | 21 – 25 years | 26 – 30 years | 31 – 35 years | Above 35 years |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | 3 | 32 | 120 | 122 | 83 | 79 | 32 |

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