



Causes Of Female Insecurity And Safety In Uttar Pradesh State

Harshita Chauhan¹, Neelma Kunwar², Smita Tripathi³ and Divya Rani Singh⁴

^{1,2,3} Department of Extension Education College of Home Science, C.S.A.U. A & T, Kanpur (India)

⁴Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur

(Received : June, 2017 : Revised : July, 2017; Accepted : August, 2017)

Abstract

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. With a decline in their status from the ancient to medieval times, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. In modern India, women have held high offices including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and Governors. Women's rights are secured under the Constitution of India — mainly, equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination; further, India has various statutes governing the rights of women. As of 2011, the President of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the parliament) were women. However, women in India continue to face numerous problems, including violent victimization through rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, and the forced prostitution of young girls. India is ranked as the worst G20 country to be born a woman and one of the worst countries for women in the world.

Key words : Causes, Insecurity, Safety

Introduction

Women in India today – a better half of the Indian society are becoming the most vulnerable section as far as their safety and security is concerned. Every day, headlines in newspapers report cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, molestation, sexual harassment, rapes, trafficking, and violence against women. This certainly implies that there has been an increasing trend of sexual overdrives in the present generation. Our supreme law i.e. our Indian Constitution has envisaged a dream of true social, economic and political democracy which guarantees the laudable and moral principles of equality for our citizens but this has not yet been fully realized. We all know that India

is a land with various social customs, traditions and sets of religious beliefs. These customs, which have a deep-rooted place in the core of the minds and hearts of every person of India, defines our lifestyle, our thoughts, our expressions and our beliefs be it man or a woman. This has given to the males, the feeling of masculinity in every aspect of their acts and thoughts. Most Indian males thus perceive themselves as physically, mentally superior than their counterparts while most Indian women treat their males as superior.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Kanpur district. All zones of Kanpur district were selected in this



Corresponding author's e-mail : neelmakunwar@gmail.com

Published by Indian Society of Genetics, Biotechnology Research and Development,
5, E Biotech Bhawan, Nikhil Estate, Mugalia Road, Shastripuram, Sikandra, Agra 282007

Online management by www.isgbrd.co.in

study. 50 females were selected from different zones. Total 300 sample size was drawn from the study area, dependent and independent variables such as age, education, caste,

occupation, security causes, harassment etc. were used. The statistical tools such as mean, rank, knowledge, 't' test, Cr were used.

Results

Table 1. Distribution of women according to age

N=300

SI.No.	Age range (Years)	Frequency	Per cent
1.	20 – 30	45	15.0
2.	30 – 40	165	55.0
3.	40 – 50	75	25.0
4.	50 – 60	15	5.0
	Total	300	100.0

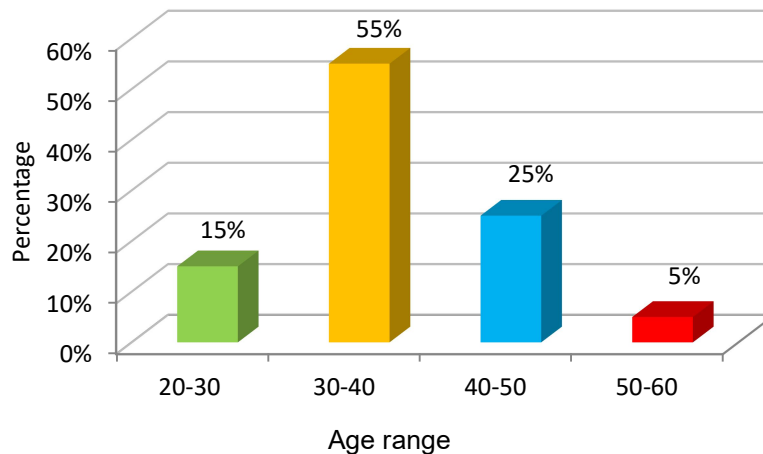


Fig. 5.1: Distribution of women according to age group

Many teenagers and young adults may raise the risk for harassment in the workplace. Workers in their first or second jobs may be less aware of laws and workplace norms - i.e., what is and is not appropriate behaviour in the workplace. Young workers who engage in harassment may lack the maturity to understand or care about consequences.

Young workers who are the targets of harassment may lack the self-confidence to resist unwelcome overtures or challenge conduct that makes them uncomfortable. Finally, young workers who are in unskilled or precarious jobs may be more susceptible to being taken advantage of by co-workers or

superiors, particularly those who may be older and more established in their positions.

Table 2. Causes of lack of security of females

SI. No.	Causes	Frequency		Mean score	Rank
		Yes	No		
1.	Socialization	60 (20.0)	240 (80.0)	1.20	VIII
2.	Power games	30 (10.0)	270 (90.0)	1.10	X
3.	Moral values, divorce and cultural differences	120 (40.0)	180 (60.0)	1.40	VI
4.	Credibility and victim blaming	45 (15.0)	255 (85.0)	1.15	IX
5.	Aggressiveness or bravado	30 (10.0)	270 (90.0)	1.10	X
6.	Lack of company policy	30 (10.0)	270 (90.0)	1.10	X
7.	The media	150 (50.0)	150 (50.0)	1.50	IV
8.	Substance abuse	60 (20.0)	240 (80.0)	1.20	VIII
9.	Gangs	30 (10.0)	270 (90.0)	1.10	X
10.	Unemployment	210 (70.0)	90 (30.0)	1.70	I
11.	Weapons	30 (10.0)	270 (90.0)	1.10	X
12.	Poverty	195 (65.0)	105 (35.0)	1.65	II
13.	Pear pressure	180 (60.0)	120 (40.0)	1.60	III
14.	Broken homes	45 (15.0)	255 (85.0)	1.15	IX
15.	Poor family environment/Bad neighbourhood	75 (25.0)	225 (75.0)	1.25	VII
16.	Intolerance/Ignorance	135 (45.0)	165 (55.0)	1.45	V

(Figures in parentheses denotes the percentage of respective values)

Gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of violence against women, influenced by the historical and structural power imbalances between women and men which exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world. Violence against women and girls is related to their lack of power and control, as well as to the social

norms that prescribe men and women's roles in society and condone abuse. Inequalities between men and women cut across public and private spheres of life, and across social, economic, cultural, and political rights and are manifested in restrictions and limitations on women's freedoms, choices and opportunities.

Table 3. Distribution of women according to the level of knowledge about types of harassment

Sl. No.	Type of harassment	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Sexual harassment	240	80.0
2.	Psychological harassment	120	40.0
3.	Cyber harassment	45	15.0
4.	Other type of harassment		
	(a) Drug related violence	45	15.0
	(b) Rape and custodial rape	210	70.0
	(c) Dowry related violence	180	60.0
	(d) Domestic violence	45	15.0
	(e) Dating violence	120	40.0
	(f) Emotional abuse	180	60.0
	(g) Human trafficking	210	70.0
	(h) Same sex relationship violence	30	10.0
	(i) Sexual assault and abuse	30	10.0
	(j) Stalking	15	5.0
	(k) Violence against immigrant and refugee women	15	5.0
	(l) Violence against women at work	120	40.0
	(m) Violence against women with disabilities	45	15.0
	(n) Economic abuse	60	20.0
	(o) Political violence	75	25.0
	(p) Elder abuse	30	10.0
	(q) Acid throwing	120	40.0

Harassment is a form of discrimination. It involves any unwanted physical or verbal behaviour that offends or humiliates him. Generally, harassment is a behaviour that persists over time. Serious one-time

incidents can also sometimes be considered harassment. The causes and forms of harassment are wide-ranging and complex. The same behaviour may be inoffensive to one person and deeply offensive and intimidating to another. Unintentional or misinterpreted behaviour may cause feelings of harassment.

Table 4. Remedies to reduce female sexual harassment at domestic level

Sl. No.	Remedies	Yes	No	Mean score	Rank
1.	Being aware of past facts and figures	75 (25.0)	225 (75.0)	1.25	III
2.	Need for stringent laws	30 (10.0)	270 (90.0)	1.10	IV
3.	Support from NGO's	175 (58.3)	125 (41.7)	1.58	I
4.	Support from police and health care agencies	150 (50.0)	150 (50.0)	1.50	II

(Figures in parentheses denotes the percentage of respective values)

Women who fall victims of sexual harassment at domestic level are more like to face severe health issues as they are often captured at home and not allowed to go out of their homes. In such cases, police officials should take immediate action on the complaints of neighbours and other family members even on the grounds of suspicious. Health care agencies should take major steps in addressing to the problems of those women who are psychologically and mentally tortured and even physically abused.

Conclusion

Presently Indian women are facing toughest time as far as their routine personal and life is concerned. Mental and physical torture of women has become quite common and their safety is at stake. One of the problems behind this situation is lack of knowledge of legal and constitutional rights of a woman. Most unfortunate part of this is even women are not fully aware about their rights. There is no lack of enactments, but there has to be more awareness and implementation,

especially in remote areas where women are uneducated, unaware of laws and do not have resources. Unfortunately, in many parts, women are not even aware that they are meant to be protected and respected. Issues of sexual harassment are also seen in smaller companies as well as public departments in cities, where there is lack of proper supervision and inaction.

Recommendations

1. Provide women with access to legal representation and opportunities.
2. Fostering support from the general public by engaging them effectively across various levels and sections of the society including educational institutions, Corporates, tourists and other stakeholders.
3. Confidentiality of complainants and witnesses.

References

1. Chroni, S.; Kourtesopoulou, A. and Kouli, O. (2007). Sexual harassment consequences for female athletes and prevention in

- Greek sports. *Inquiries in Sport & Physical Education*. **5**(2):283-293.
2. Dias, T.; Kociejowski, A.; Rathnayake, S.; Kumarasiri, S.; Abeykoon, S. and Padeniya, T. (2014). Sexual violence against women a challenge. *Ceylon Medical Journal*;. **59**(3):107-108. 8 ref.
3. **Lalitha, P.** (2015). An opinion analysis on safety issues among female construction workers in Kodaikanal. Dept of Commerce, Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal - 2, Tamil Nadu, India. *International Journal of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Research*, **4**(3):119-124. 11 ref.