

# STOP! STREET HARASSMENT



## A REPORT

Women's Safety in Public Places: Perception, Experience, Incidence and Impact of Sexual Harassment in Public Places in Patna – the State Capital of Bihar

**WINTER INTERNSHIP REPORT**

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## **PREFACE**

The primary aim of the study is to look at the issues of safety of women in public places in Patna with a special focus on sexual harassment in public places. The study looks at five broad thematic areas – the perception of safety in Patna, groups vulnerable to lack of safety, experience of sexual harassment in public places, perception of sexual harassment that include causes, ideal action, and solutions, and finally the awareness of mechanisms in place to address sexual harassment in public places. The data for the study was collected through questionnaires administered to people in public places such as restaurants, tea stall, markets, public grounds, malls, parks etc. Data was collected from both men and women for the purpose of this study.

## **DECLARATION**

I, Vineeta Chhetri hereby declare that the study entitled “Women’s Safety in Public Places: The Perception, Experience, Incidence and Impact Of Sexual Harassment in Public Places in Patna – The State Capital of Bihar” submitted to Equity Foundation and Azim Premji University was done during the internship from 11/11/14 to 22/12/14. The study is submitted as a partial requirement for the Degree of M.A Development, Azim Premji University, Bangalore and was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Ms. Nina Srivastava, Director, Equity Foundation and the supervision of Mr Rahul Kumar, Equity Foundation.

(Vineeta Chhetri)

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Bangalore

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I would also like to thank Ms. Puja Guha and Ms. Sreeparna Ghosh of Azim Premji University for their comments on the report.

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Vineeta Chhetri

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## Introduction

The fact that women in this country are unsafe is not a fact that needs more proof than the everyday reports on news channels, newspapers and internet outlets. According to Crime in India 2013<sup>1</sup>, there has been a 26.7% increase in the crimes against women. This statistic is based only on the incidents reported and under available laws. This also does not take into account the incidents reported under the newly instituted Sexual Harassment of Women (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. Bihar saw an incidence of 11229 cases of crimes against women which forms 5.4% of all the crimes against women in the country and Patna alone saw 2.01% of the contribution to the cities total<sup>2</sup>. There has been an increase in cases of rape, kidnapping, sexual harassment, and atrocities for dowry during 2013 vis-a-vis 2012.

The problem of sexual harassment has never been articulated in legal terms pre-2013. Cases were registered under the different laws like the Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC), Insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC) were what covered the cases that were considered sexual but not amounting to rape. The inclusion of the sexual harassment as an offence in the Indian Penal Code (through Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013 with effect from 2nd April 2013) has enabled the recognition of women's fundamental right to safety and security as well as the right to equal access. Other laws like the Prevention of the Sexual Exploitation of Children talk in a small section of the punishment for sexual harassment of young children are also further steps being taken in the legal reform towards the recognitions of these particular offences.

This recognition is highly important as our country is seeing more and more women being educated, entering the workforce and enabling the breakdown of the highly gendered space of the public sphere and public spaces. The increased visibility of women is also resulting in the increase in the levels of crime on women. At the same time, there is also the curious case of the declining labour force participation of women in India. Of all the factors responsible for this, one that can also be an important factor is increase in lack of safety in public spaces and women related crimes.

There has never been a greater need to discuss fervently the issue of safety of women in public places. With the most recent incident of rape<sup>3</sup> so close to the anniversary of the Nirbhaya incident that seared the psyche of the masses, the problem of safety and visibility of women in the very gendered space of the public arena calls for increased attention to a very problematic area. The increase in visibility of women in the public spaces including work places in working against very strong social structures in that have created highly gendered areas. This friction that is created by the resistance to established structures of society that categorises and compartmentalises is naturally creating dangerous consequences for women. The breakdown of structures due to the conscious awakening of the oppressed and their fight for emancipation against the oppressor to change existing modes of production puts the marginalised at great risk.

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<sup>1</sup> Crime Against Women - <http://ncrb.gov.in/CD-CII2013/Chapters/5-Crime%20against%20Women.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Incidence of crime against women - <http://ncrb.nic.in/CD-CII2012/Statistics2012.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Incident of Uber driver raping women that had called for the cab.

The research carried out attempts to add to existing bodies of knowledge on the perception and experiences of sexual harassment. The focus on public places where no institutional and private safeguard can be perfectly applied shows the attitudes of the area towards women and towards sex related crimes. The public space in the Indian context which is dichotomous to the private sphere shows the effect of the intersection between the private and the external public. This is where curious anomalies that result from the external influences can be found to be emerging and operating. It is also a space that is increasingly being populated as people move out and stay out more with the culture of production and efficiency.

The paper begins with a short literature review followed by a description of the research gap and the research question. After a description of research methodology, the paper moves on to the findings of the research and then presents the conclusion.

### **Literature review**

A research study conducted in Coventry, UK (Osmond, 2013) found that 61% of the women who had completed the surveys faced sexual harassment at least once in the past year. The harassment occurred in streets, around educational institutes, buses and left the women feeling unsafe. Victims stated that they began experiencing harassment at a very young age but never really complained to the police as it was not taken seriously by the police. They attributed harassment to patriarchal structures, normalisation of harassment, excessive spread of pornography and the lack of any repercussions for the perpetrators. The respondents admitted to the harassment having profound emotional toll as well as necessitating alteration of behaviour in public spaces due to the victim-blame culture that exists. Respondents said that a way to tackle the issue would be to 'raise their boys right' as well as increase police and focus of the maintenance of public places. They spoke of better governance structures as well as the need to impart ideas of respect and consent in schools was stressed.

A study looking at street harassment in Delhi (Dhillon and Bakaya, 2014) found that street harassment was so prevalent that everywhere women went they felt the fear of harassment. It was found to be especially high in crowded public places and happened even in broad daylight. Women saw the increase lack of safety as being brought on by the influx of immigrant workers while others pointed to the sense of entitlement felt by men over the bodies of women. The fear of escalation was a big deterrent for women to not act out or confront those that harassed them despite wishing that they were able to speak out more often. The study also found that most street harassment can often if not always lead to more violent crimes like rape and acid attacks. Parents of victims often play down incidents also for fear of escalation as well as reputation. The lax attitude of police towards such crimes also influenced the decision to not report. The study found that women changed behaviour when stepping out and that they felt compelled to strategize to protect themselves in case such an event occurs.

A study conducted in Kashmir on eve-teasing as a form of violence (Akhtar, 2013) found 100% of their respondents had experienced eve-teasing and that there was no particular place where it happened. It happened greatly in busy areas, near educational institutes and picnic spots. The incidence of eve-teasing was found to have begun at a very young age. Intensity of victimisation was found to decrease with age and yet again the reportage was close to zero with only one percent reporting any incident. In fact any incident of physical intimacy,

unwanted attention, groping, showing obscene pictures and videos, flashing etc., were found to be extremely underreported.

The above three are samples of other literature that exists that shows the extent of street sexual harassment/ sexual harassment in public places around the world. They all show a similar picture of a world highly unsafe and fearsome for women to inhabit. They are constant and insistent reiteration of the fact that gender related violence is so deeply entrenched and normalised that we often do not even pay attention to it. Hence there is a need for coming up with strategies to tackle the issue to ensure a less unequal world.

### **Research Gaps**

From the literature presented above, we can see that while the issue of the safety of women in public places has been studied in India, these studies have looked at either the metros or rural areas. There is very little literature apart from newspaper reports that discuss safety in public places in Tier II cities like Patna. The kind of information that the research seeks to uncover would not only generate new knowledge but also enable a comprehensive understanding of the issue as understood in different parts of the country. There is also the issue of the differences in lived experiences of different people and the state of affairs differ from region to region. As such while the problem may be universal, the solutions to the problems cannot be. To come up with suitable policy and infrastructural solutions to this deeply rooted problem, there is a need to understand the problem as it exists in a certain space. In India there is the increase in complexity of changing cultures and social mores from region to region.

In this context there is a need to build the knowledge base of existing data to efficiently address the problem.

### **Research questions**

The paper asks primarily the following questions:

1. What is the perception of safety in public places?
2. Which are the groups which are considered vulnerable due to lack of safety?
3. What is the perception and experience of sexual harassment in public places?
4. What are the causes, impact and solution to sexual harassment in public places?
5. What is the level of awareness of laws and mechanisms in place to tackle sexual harassment in public places?

### **Methodology:**

The research has used data collected from primary data collection methods. For the purpose of the research a structured survey questionnaire was created containing both close and open ended questions. Discussions and informal interviews were also conducted for a few stakeholders.

The sample population was defined as urban dwellers of both genders. Different categories were used for ensuring that the sample was representative. Therefore the sampling method was purposive random sampling. Categories of school-going, college students, working and non-working were created. The sample size was 110 respondents out of which 30 percent were male and 70 percent were female.



Or the purpose of analysis, both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods have been used and inferences have been drawn from these analyses. Simple statistics have been used to analyse results.

The research was descriptive in nature as it adds to the existing body of knowledge on the topic

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this research sexual harassment and public place have been defined in the following ways.

#### Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as ‘unwelcome behaviours of a sexual nature that included physical contact, sexually coloured remarks, a demand or request for sexual favours, showing pornography and any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature’

The definition used in this research has been taken from the definition of sexual harassment as provided in the Vishaka guidelines as well as those given in the UN Women Watch document describing sexual harassment.

#### Public Place

A public place is defined as ‘an area either indoors or outdoors, either publicly or privately owned to which the public have access by right, invitation or through payment , but not a place when used exclusively by one or more individuals for a private gathering or other personal purpose.’

In the current study office, schools and other institutional spaces are not considered public as they are supervised by an administrator who has responsibility towards conduct within the area occupied by the institution.

### **Limitation:**

The study while hoping to produce credible and useful results was highly limited by the size of the sample in contrast to the size of the population. Hence it cannot be expected to be representative and therefore no generalisations can be made. The problem of language prevented the most efficient translations of the questionnaire and therefor may have altered understandings on both the author’s and the respondent’s side.

## **FINDINGS**

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The questionnaire generated for the purpose of data collection was thematically structured and the findings will also be presented under these thematic areas.

### **Perception of Public Safety**

This section looks at the findings generated on perceived levels of safety, areas considered unsafe, reasons for a place being unsafe, unsafe means of transport and safety concerns that people have.

First off, on the question of how safe they felt in their city, most people said that the city was somewhat unsafe (45.45%) and some (34.55%) found it somewhat safe. Only 5% said that it was completely safe and 15% said that it was completely unsafe.

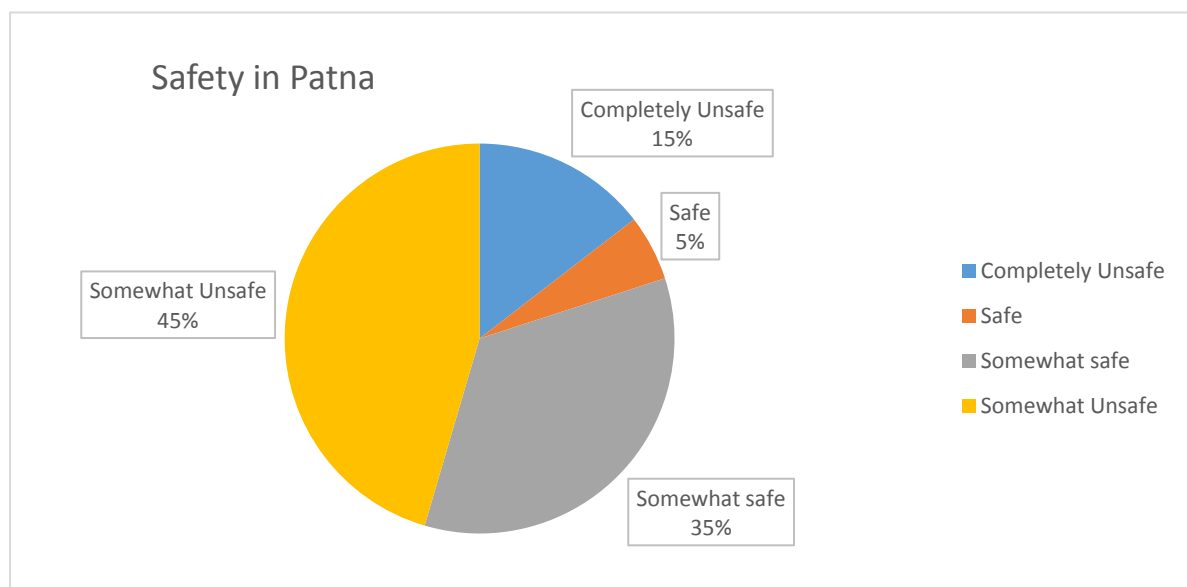
Night time was seen as the most unsafe time of the day followed by evening. Few people also found mornings and afternoons unsafe. The reason for lack of safety included the lack of visible/effective guards, the lack of respect for women, crowded places, and men in states of inebriation were most commonly put forward.

Most unsafe places according to the information collected was the roadside clubbed with streets that account for 40% of the responses. Other places like parks, bus stands and railway station were also commonly mentioned.

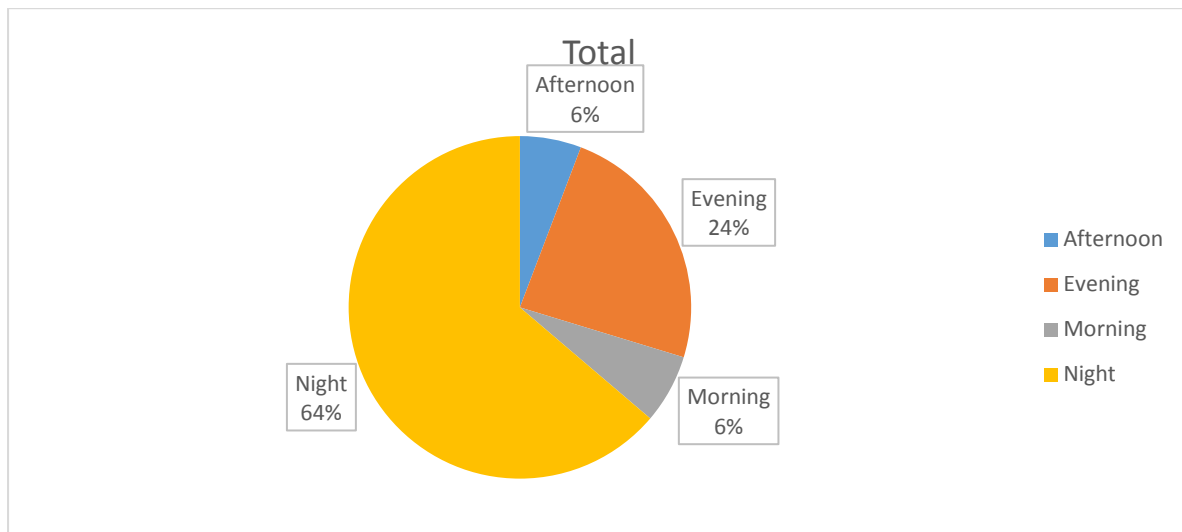
Sexual harassment was the most commonly mentioned safety concern followed by theft and sexual assault.

The buses are seen as most unsafe followed very closely by autos. However, the reasons for them being unsafe is very a little. While autos are most unsafe due to the high chances of sexual harassment, buses are most unsafe due to their crowded nature. While the congestion is also bad in autos, there are higher chances of things like theft in buses while in autos, the chances of sexual harassment added on by longer duration and lack of individual autonomy in choosing the place to disembark.

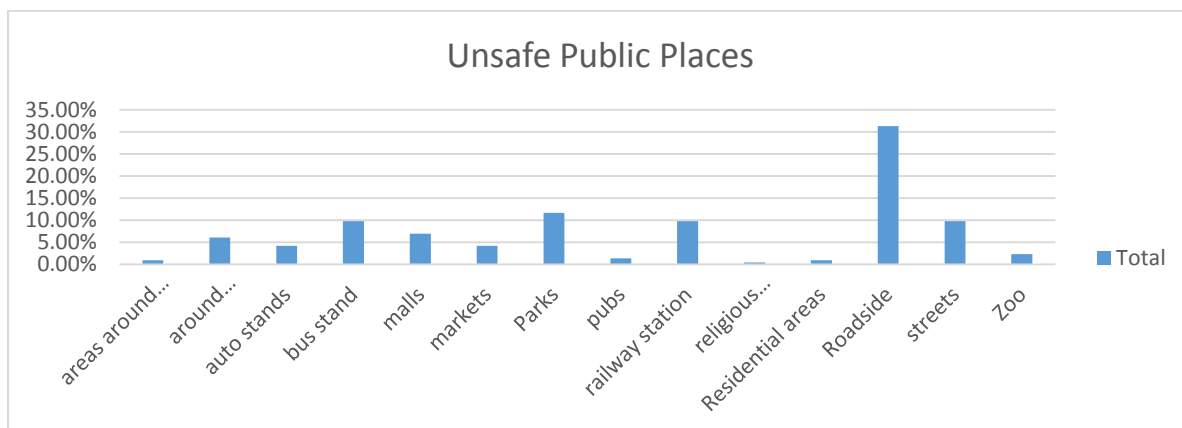
Fig 1: How safe is Patna?



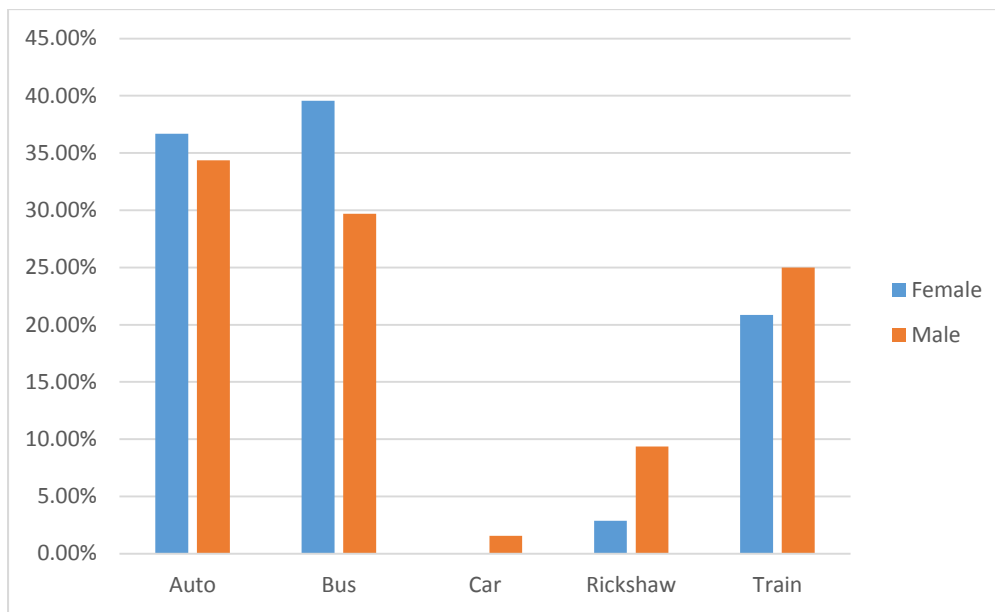
**Fig 2: What time is unsafe?**



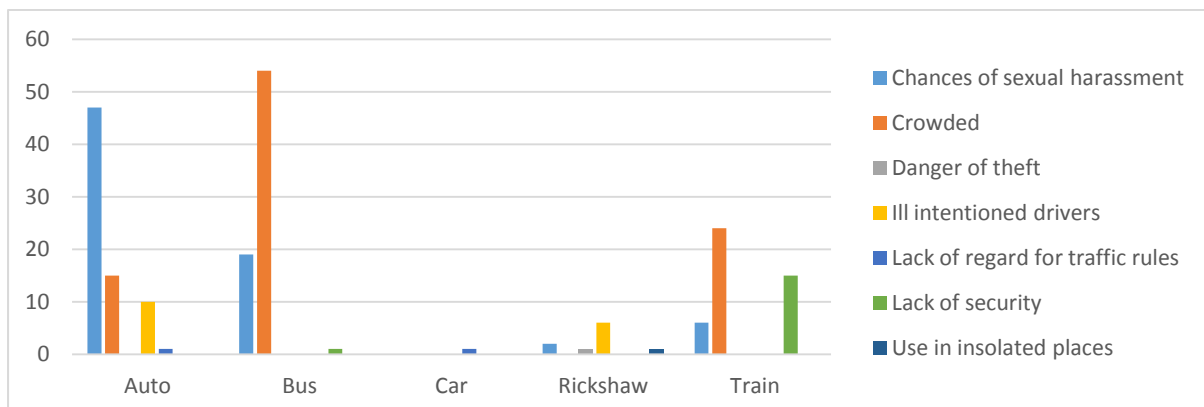
**Fig 3: Which public places are unsafe?**



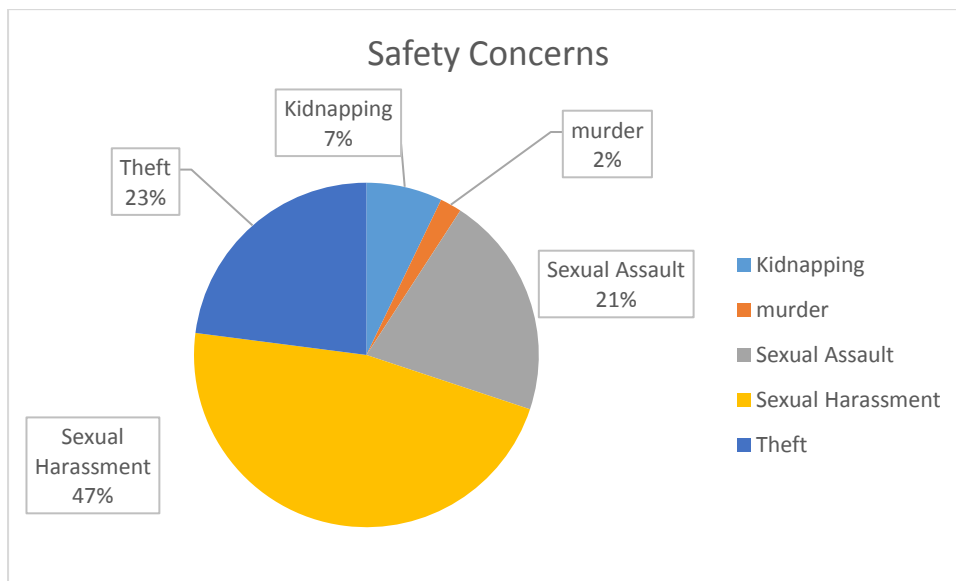
**Fig 4: Which transport is unsafe?**



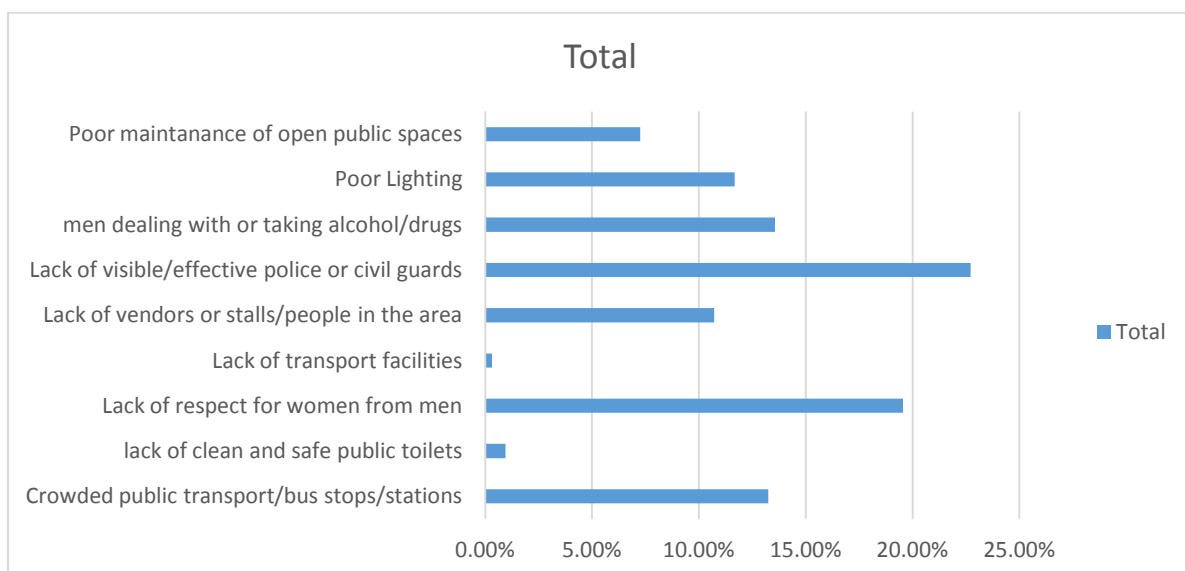
**Fig 5: Reasons for lack of safety in transport**



**Fig 6: What are the concerns you have at these places?**



**Fig 7: What make these places unsafe?**



## Vulnerable Groups

The difference in vulnerability depends on age, sex, economic status and various other factors. The paper has looked at these three indices and tried to identify which groups are most vulnerable to lack of safety.

In terms of sex, both men and women agree that women are more vulnerable to lack of safety than men and a few also think that both are vulnerable. The percentage of women who think there is a danger to both men and women is higher than men who think women are more vulnerable. The most common reason cited by both men and women for the lack of safety for women is due to the fact that they are physically weaker. More men than women think this however. Another important factor for men is the fact that women are moving alone. More women said that it is the domination of men in society that make it unsafe for women in

public places. Both men and women agreed that women were seen as easy targets and that they were not respected.

Fig 8: Vulnerable Sex

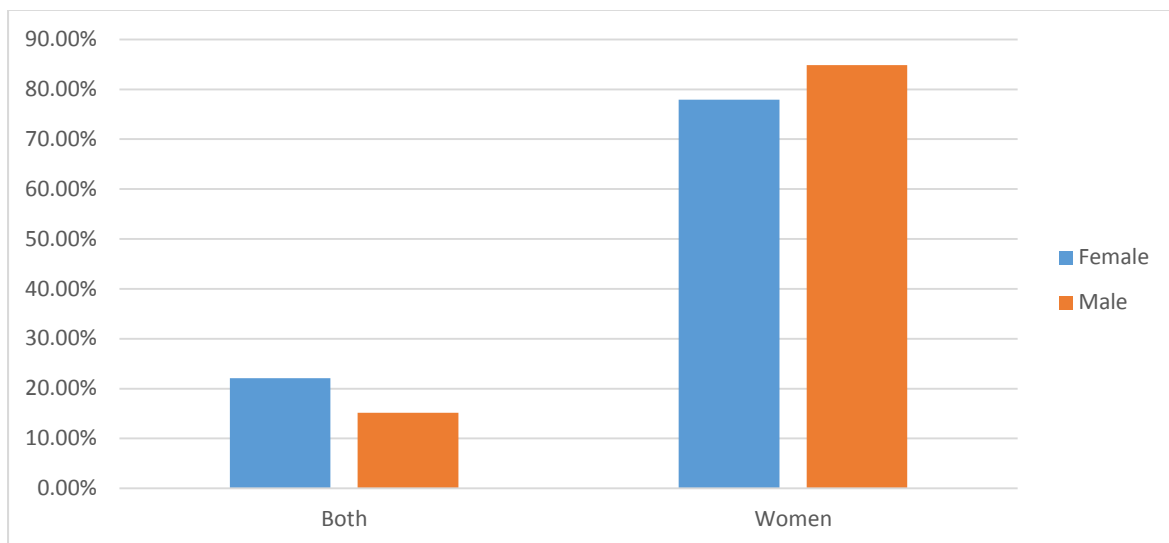
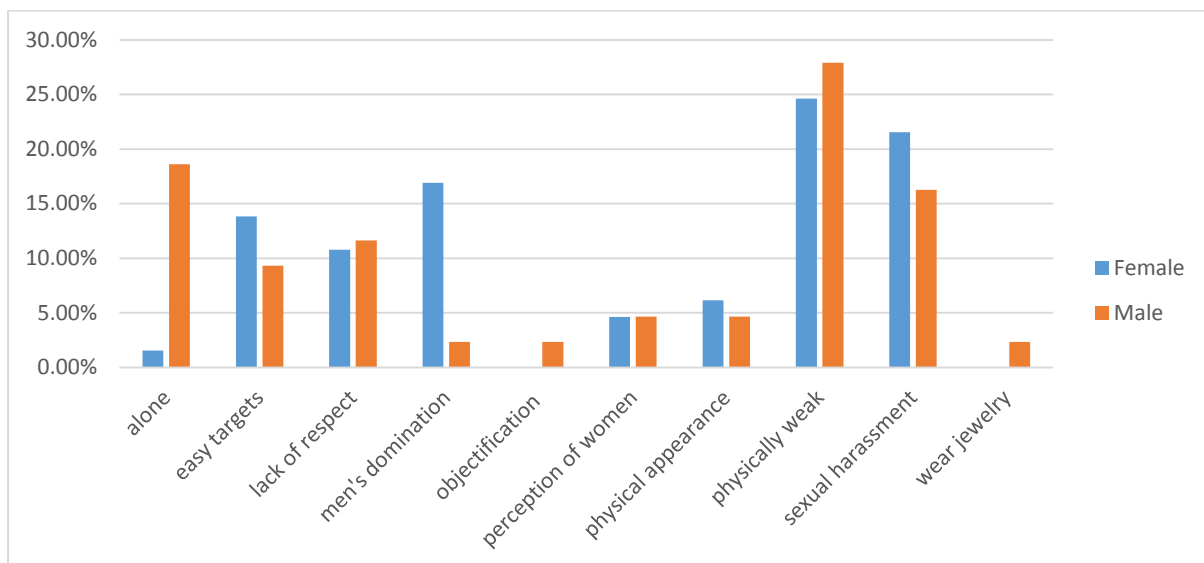


Fig 9: Reasons for female vulnerability

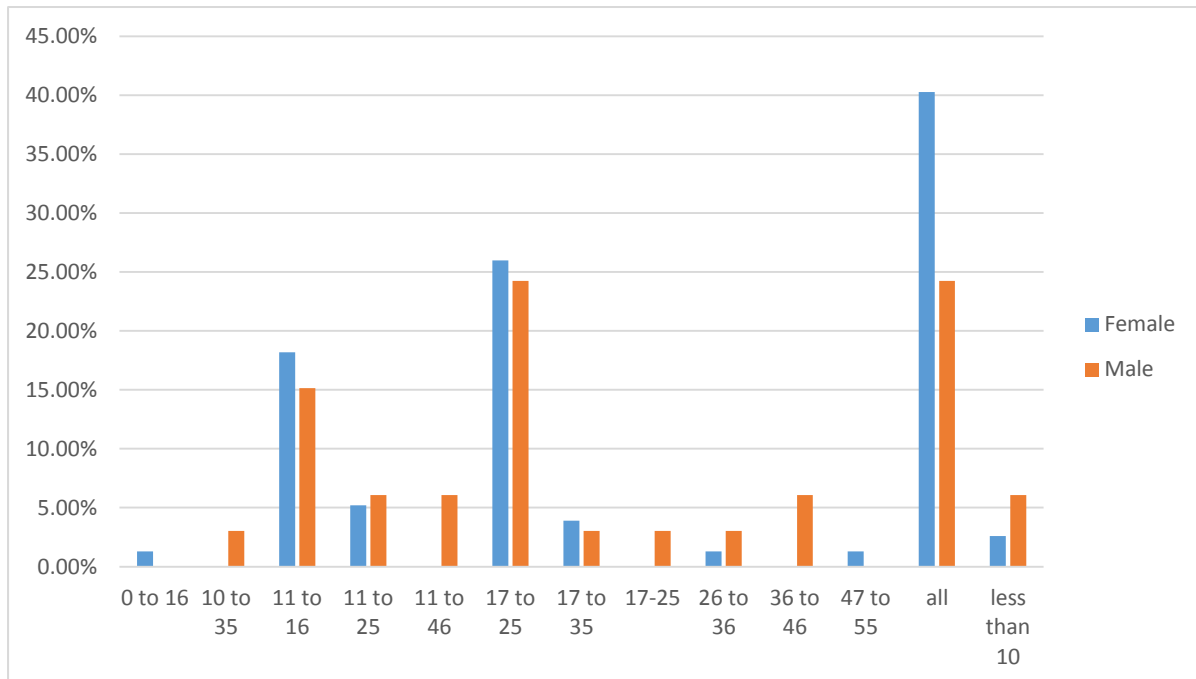


When it came to the vulnerable economic classes the data shows that significant number of people think that all economic classes are vulnerable overall there was a marked difference in the response of men and women. While women said that all were as vulnerable, men said that the poor were most vulnerable. The reasons were mostly the fact that the poor used the public places more and had no means to protect themselves. The middle class were also seen as target due to their use of public places while the upper classes had immunity due to the fact that they could hire private security to guard themselves and their families from any threat.

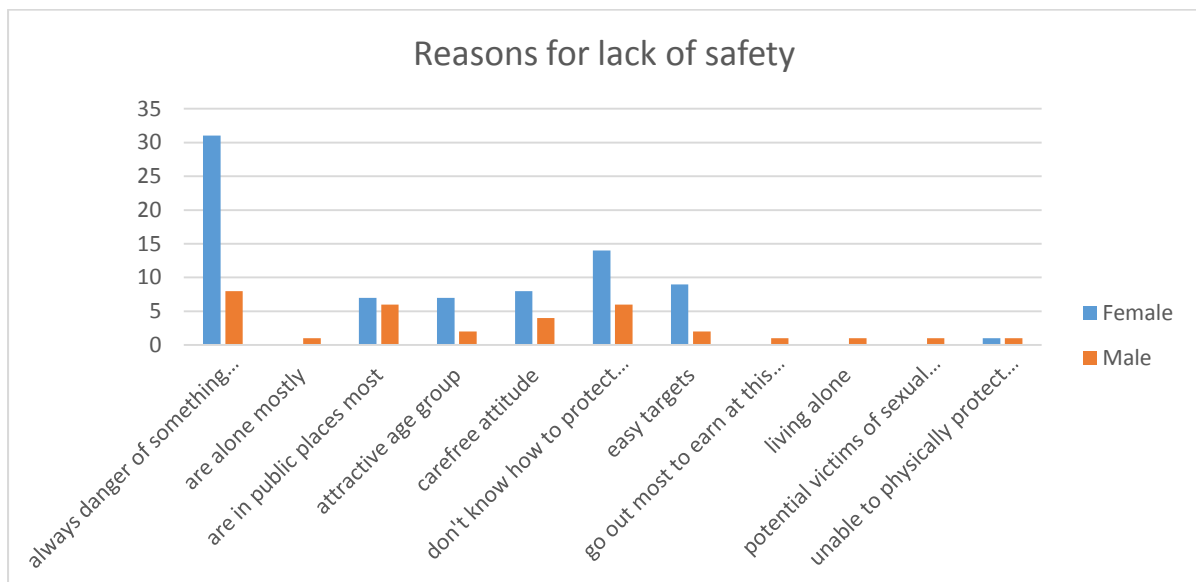
In terms of age, the demographic 10 – 25 seem to be the most vulnerable group. While the most common answer to the question was that all age group of people were vulnerable to lack of safety. Reasons cited for this age group being vulnerable was their increased mobility and

visibility in pen spaces for education and employment, their attractiveness, their carefree attitude, and lack of knowledge on how to deal with issues.

**Fig 10: Vulnerable age group**

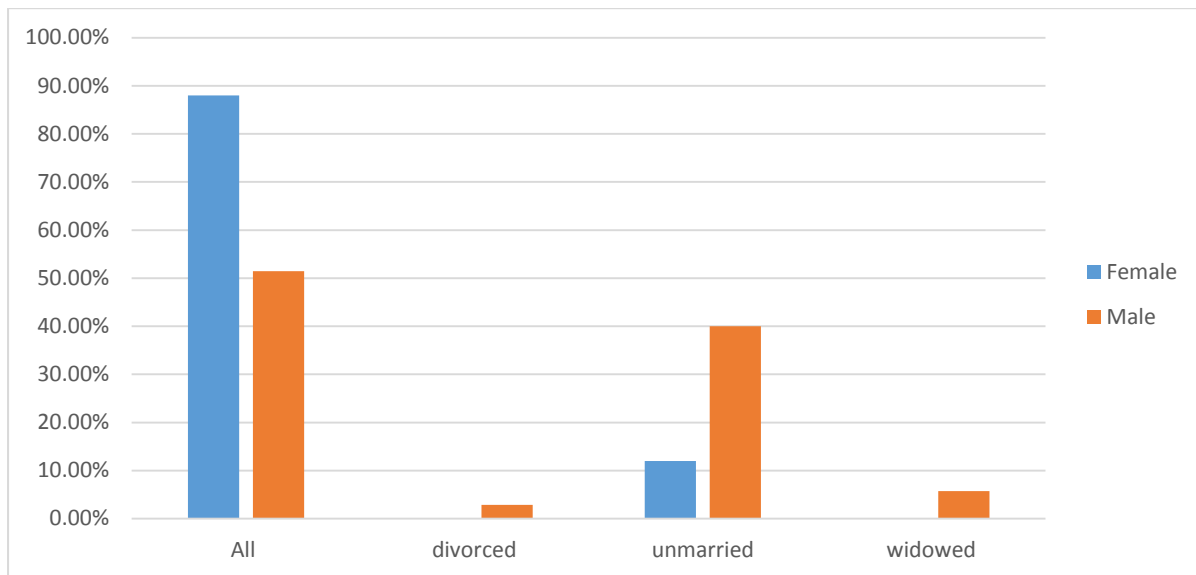


**Fig 11: Reasons for Lack of safety (Age)**



In terms of marital status, overall the danger to self was there for everyone. While more women than men thought this, more men thought that unmarried women were more vulnerable.

**Fig 12: Unsafe category of people based on marital status**



### **Perception and Experience of Sexual Harassment**

The idea of sexual harassment had to be conveyed to the respondents in the local language. As such the definition of sexual harassment was already provided. The term sexual harassment in English would evoke ideas of violent and physical assault on women. As such the terms '*chhed chhad*' or '*chhedkhani*' were used. Even so many respondents did not see the visual aspects of harassment as leering, staring as sexual harassment as it has become so internalised that it has become a part of the everyday lives of both men and women. It has become a new social more as it is assumed that men will stare and that women should ignore these instances. Most people thought that it was women who were victims of sexual harassment (85.45%) while the remaining (14.55%) thought that both men and women could be victims of sexual harassment. Most of those who answered that it could be both were men. Women almost unequivocally stated that they'd never heard of a man being sexually harassed. Even when a woman said yes, it was mostly because they were looking at sexual crimes on young children of both genders. There was a very slight variation when it came to the perpetrators of sexual harassment. There as a 2% drop when it came to naming males as perpetrators as men said that even women if they got the chance and opportunity harassed men. This finding is corroborated with the information gathered from informal discussions with students of the Patna Women's College who admitted to doing this within their campus. It is however important to note that this is a very small percentage compared to men. Also women mostly indulged in these when they were within what they considered secure spaces of their own like a Women's college campus, an all-women's gathering etc.

On the question of how common sexual harassment was in Patna, answers varied between Very common and Not Very common. More than 50% of the respondents said that it was very common, the next 20% saw it as fairly common. The remaining found it to be a rare occurrence. The difference in responses seemed to point towards a class bias. Those who had certain means of ensuring safety for themselves experienced or observed fewer incidences of sexual harassment compared to those that didn't. There was also a certain age difference in

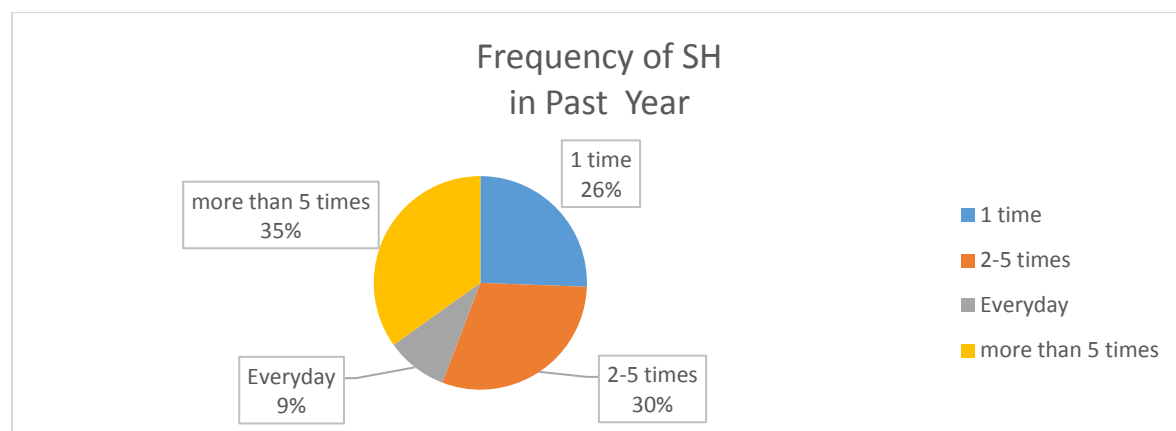


the responses where the younger respondents who were either school or college going students insisted in the pervasiveness of the phenomena while an older age group of people saw it as less common.

Of the 110 respondents, 44 had experienced sexual harassment of some form in the past year. All 44 respondents were women. None of the 33 men included in the study were harassed in the past year. Thus 57.89% of the women who took the survey admitted to being sexually harassed in a public place. Overall, with the men, the figure drops to 40.91%.

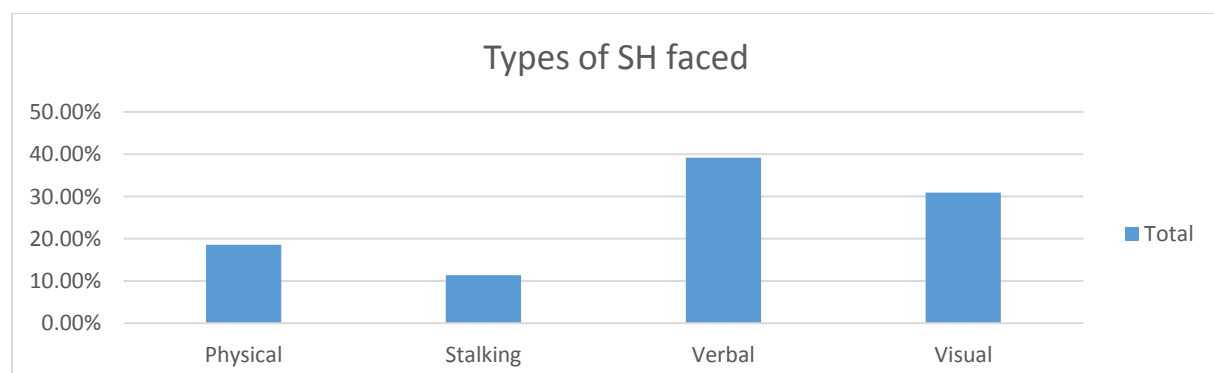
35% of those that experience sexual harassment said that it had happened more than 5 times in the past year while 30 percent said that it was between 2-5 times. 9 percent women said that they face sexual harassment in the public every day while 26 percent had experienced it at least once in the past year.

**Fig 13: Frequency of SH in Past Year**



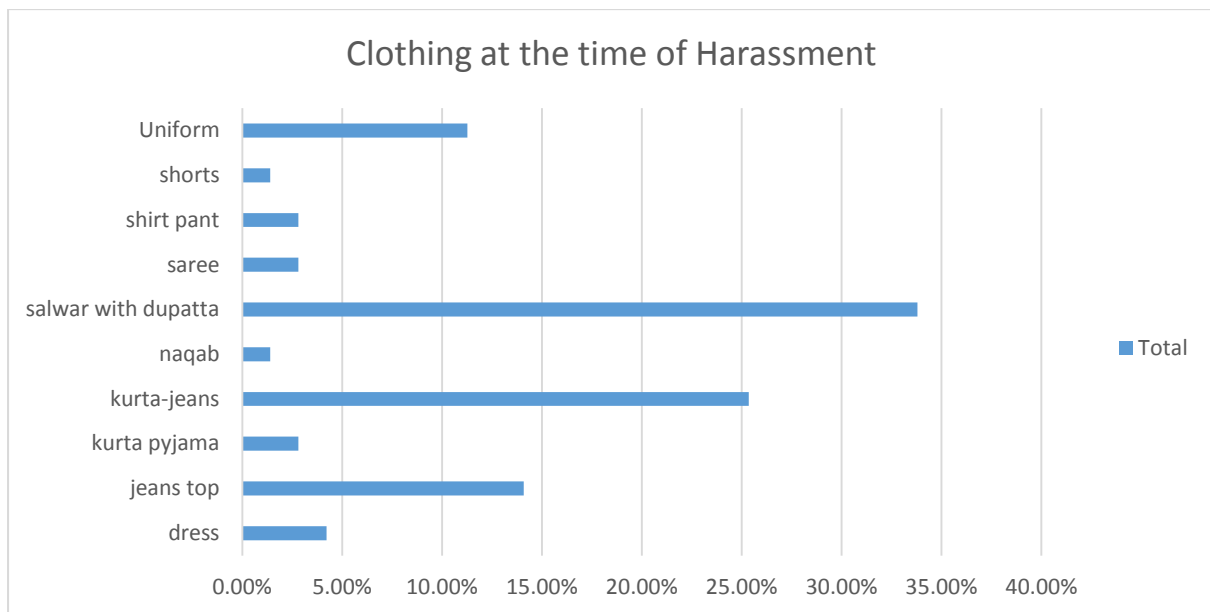
The type of sexual harassment that people faced in public places included verbal, physical, visual and stalking. The most common form of harassment was found to be verbal taunts of different kinds followed by uncomfortable visual attention. What is important to note here is that despite the fact that it hasn't been captured by the questionnaire, the kind of sexual harassment that women faced changed from place to place. Whereas in open public places, it was more visual and verbal harassment, in closed spaced like public transport, the kind of harassment faced is physical.

**Fig 14: Type of Sexual Harassment Faced**



Another question that was posed to the respondents was the type of clothing they were wearing at the time of the incident.

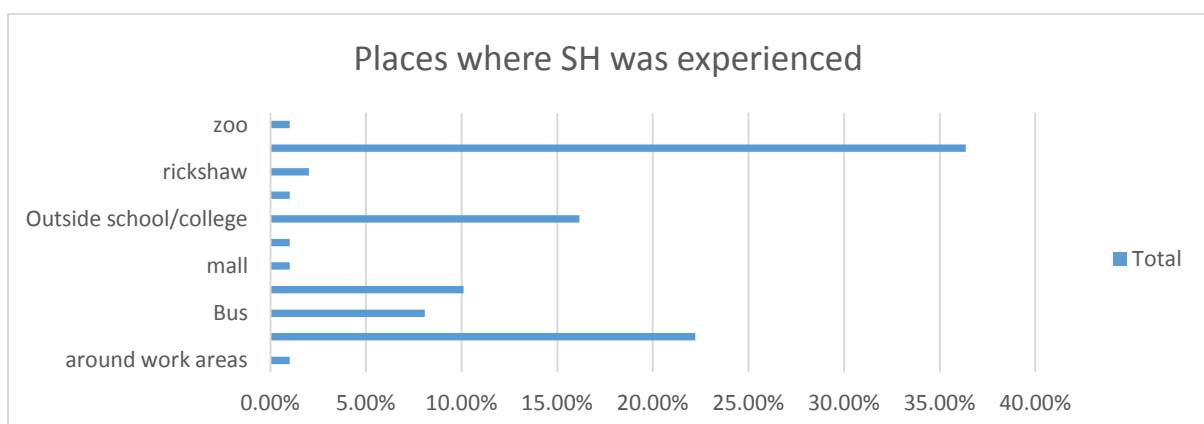
**Fig 15: Clothing**



As one can see from the figure above, none of the victims were ‘immodestly’ dressed as is the contention of perpetrators who often claim that women provoke with their clothing. Women who have worn clothing ranging from a naqab to saree to salwar suit with dupattas have all been victims of the same crime. This is while some of the male respondents say out of the questionnaire that the reason there are such few cases of Muslim women being harassed because they have the naqab.

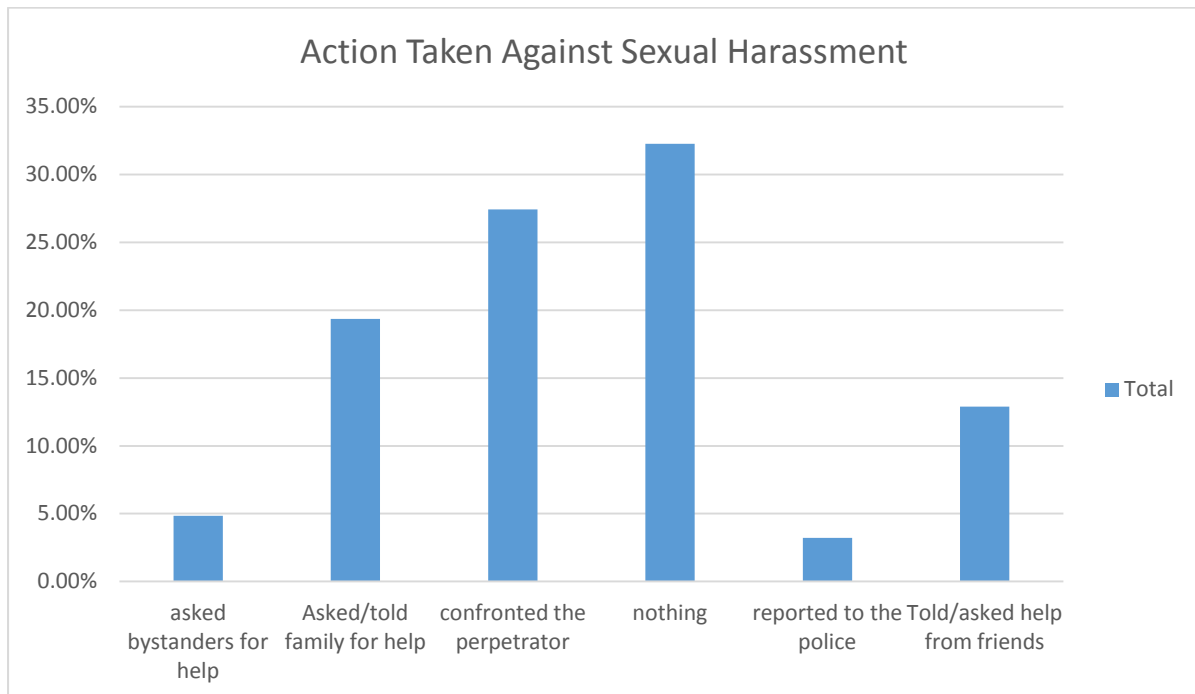
The roadside/ street-side seems to be the most common place where the victims faced harassment. Also featuring significantly are autos. The shared nature of autos in the city of Patna makes it a very convenient space for people who are sexual predators. The short ride and the congested space make touch ideal. What is baffling to the women is that the kind of men behaving this way in autos are men who are either middle aged or old and so more often than not women find it difficult to speak out for fear of being accused of showing disrespect to an elderly person.

**Fig 16: Places where SH is Experienced**



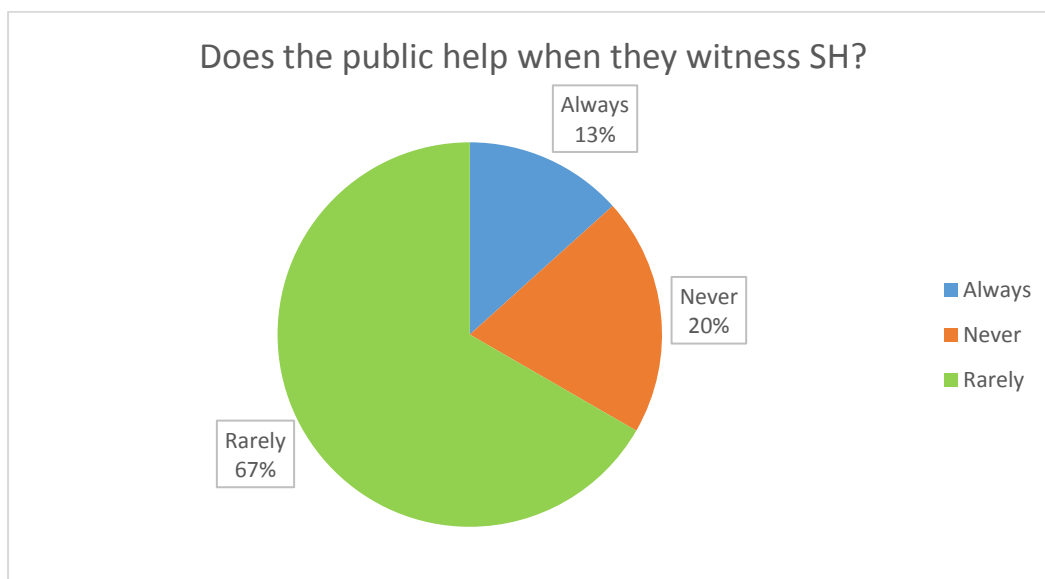
In response to sexual harassment, most women did nothing while a significant number did say that they confronted the perpetrator. Less than one percent said that they reported to the police.

**Fig 17: Action Taken in Response to Sexual Harassment**



In association to this question, most people said that the public rarely helped even as they were witness to some form of sexual harassment happening around them in a public place as it is either not considered a problem or they don't care about what is happening around them.

**Fig 18: Response of public to experience of sexual harassment**



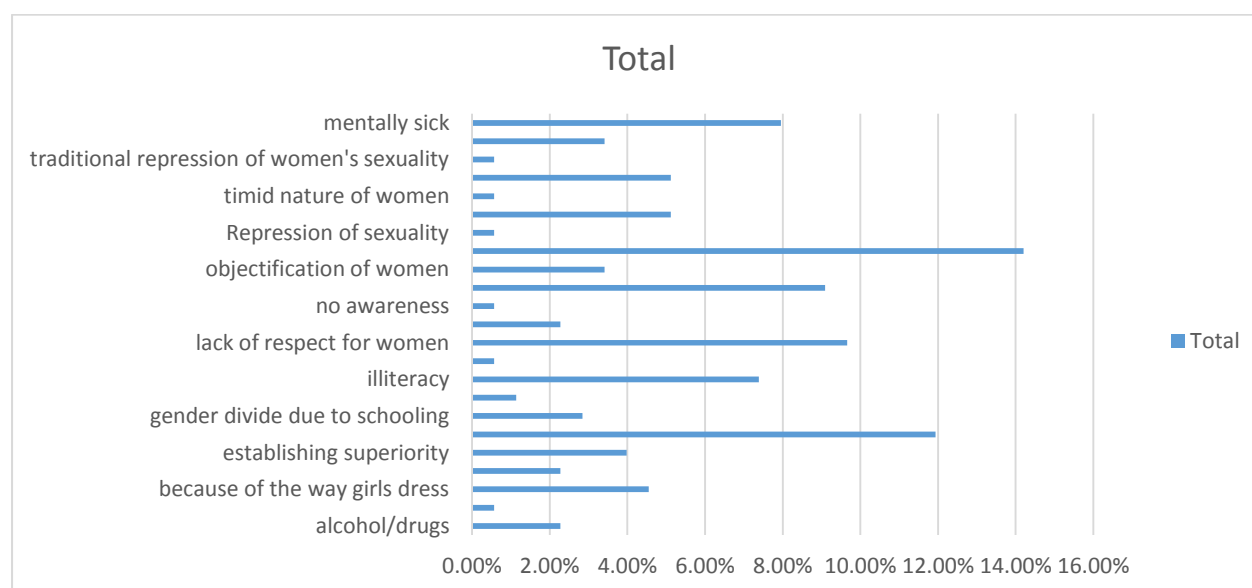
When it came to whether they would approach the police for help had they been around, most women said they would. But no police was available at the place of harassment of the

victims. Some even said that they would not go to the police as they themselves would more often than not start harassing them, or because it would damage their reputation or because they thought they would be able to take care of it themselves. Most who said they would go to the police said that they would because it is the responsibility of the police to offer them protection and provide relief.

### Causes, Impact and Solutions of Sexual Harassment

While the respondents gave various reasons for why people indulged in sexual harassment in public places – four most commonly cited reasons included poor upbringing and lack of social values, the lack of any fear of repercussion, lack of respect for women and for fun. These together accounted for almost half of the reason cited by the respondents. People also saw illiteracy and unemployment as big factors for the incidences of sexual harassment. The idea that the ‘joblessness’ and the lack of purpose in the lives of young men was seen as crucial to the existence of these problems. Few also identified the increasing modernisation of the way women dressed as a reason for the increase in sexual crimes. What the respondents didn’t question were existing structures of society. While lack of respect for women was considered the reason for the existence of lack of respect was not. There was a marked difference in the responses of different age groups with those in the younger age group answered that it was for fun, to show off, older respondents pointed to the way women dressed, the timid nature of women, and the mentally sick attitudes of those who partake in such activities.

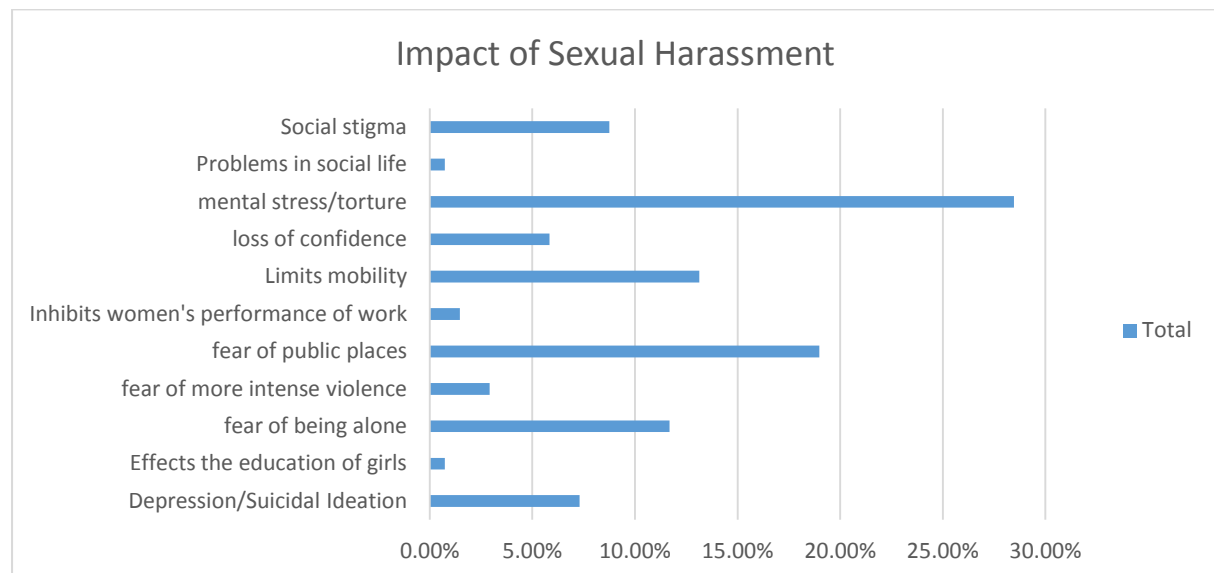
**Fig 19: Causes of Sexual Harassment**



Most respondents responded saying that sexual harassment has a great impact on those that undergo it. They said that it greatly influences the mental stability of women and instilled fear in them. Victims of sexual harassment on a daily basis fear moving out alone and in some cases even limit their public presence. Apart from creating an overall fear in the psyche of people, fear of public places, of being alone and the intensification of violence were some things that were highlighted. Mobility was something that most respondents alluded to in

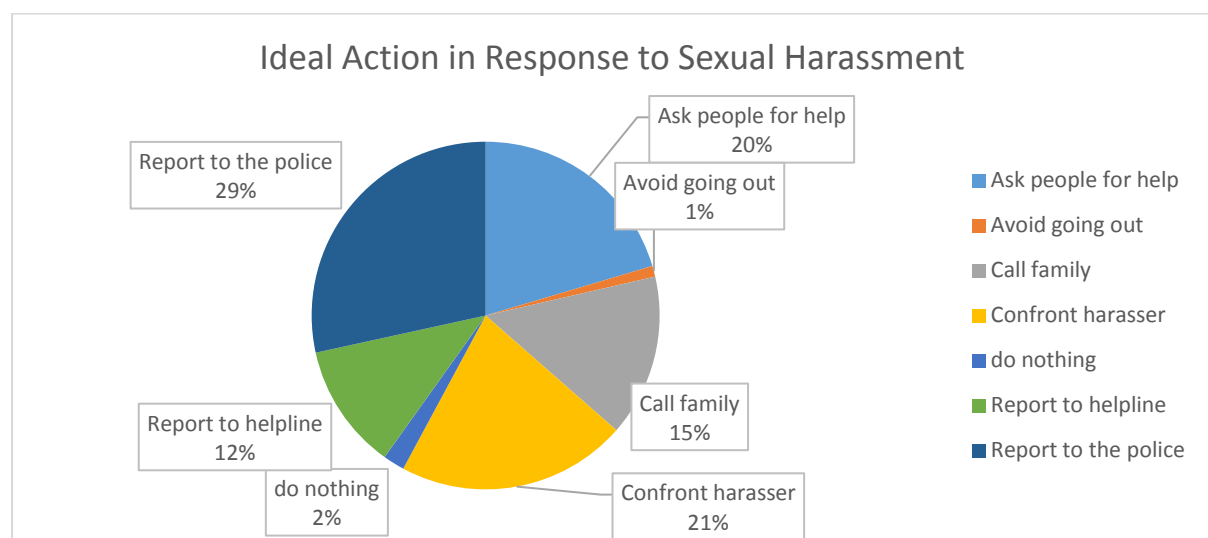
their responses. Most spoke of the difficulty women had stepping out of their houses and how some women had to stop getting education due to the fear of any such incident occurring during the periods they inhabited the public space with little or no protection available to them.

**Fig 20: Impact of Sexual Harassment**



On what a person who faces sexual harassment in a public place should do, most responded saying that they should report to the police, confront their harassers or ask people for help. This indicated the ideal action that people thought should be taken.

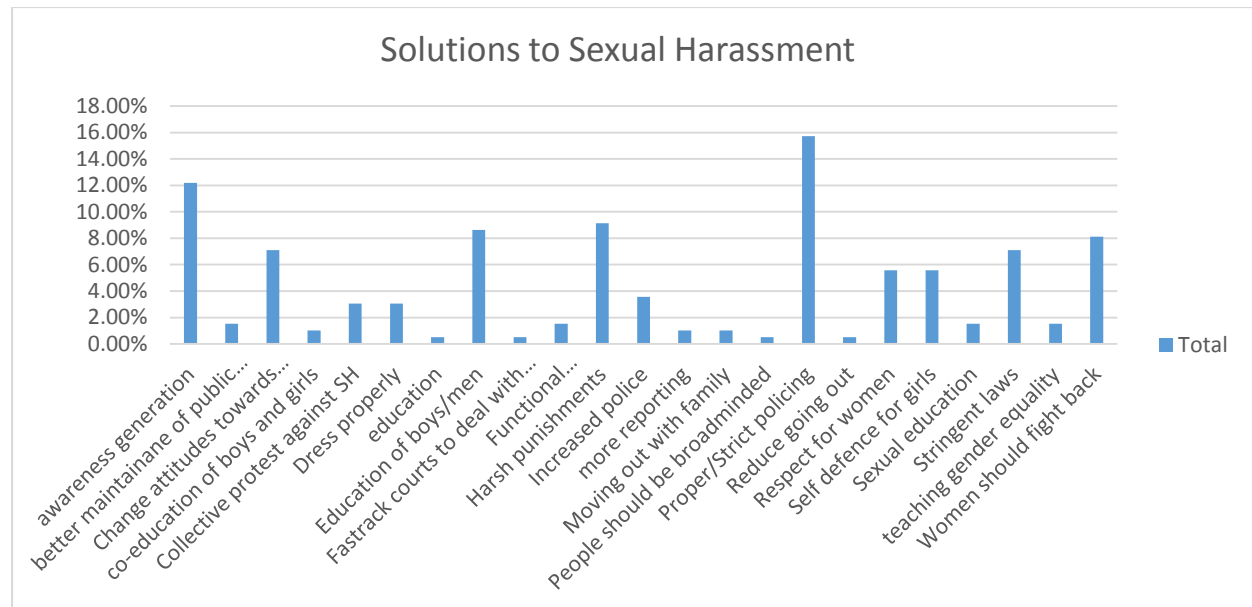
**Fig 21: Ideal Action**



The solutions for sexual harassment provided by the respondents include harsher punishment, strict policing, education for men, awareness generation etc. These account for the majority of the responses and together constitute 45% of the total responses. Other responses include

emphasis on the need for women to be proactive and the need for women to be able to protect themselves. Most respondent recognized the impossibility of external security at all times and therefore stressed at the need for women to become bold and speak out against SH and act when an incident happens. There were only a few responses that were angled towards restricting the visibility and mobility of women in public places.

**Fig 22: Solution to Sexual Harassment**



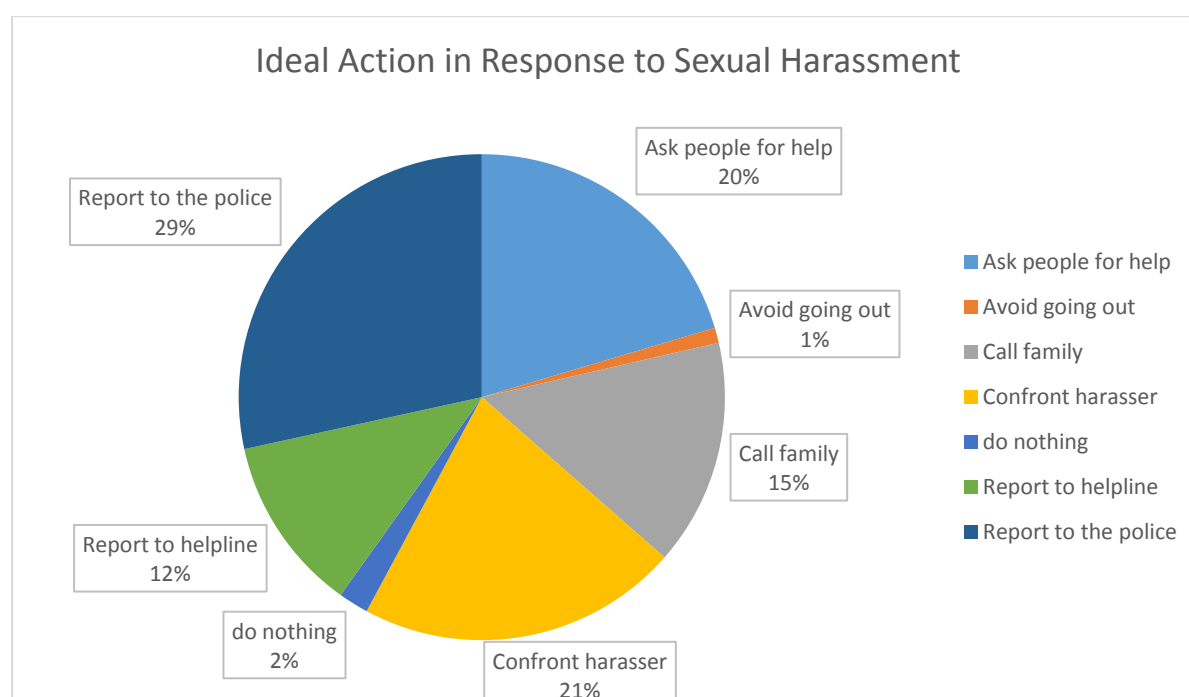
### **Action and Awareness of Laws and Mechanisms**

The last part of the questionnaire dealt with the levels of awareness among people about the recourses that an individual can take up in cases of sexual harassment. As such questions were asked about the legal status of sexual harassment in public places, existence of awareness programmes and the programmes in place to tackle sexual harassment in public places.

The most common response to the question of the ideal action to be taken was to report to the police and to confront the perpetrator. These responses indicated at what people thought women should do when faced with a situation of sexual harassment.

However, information received from informal discussion with members of the women's helpline indicated that reportage was very low and even when there was reportage, women feared to file FIRs for fear of reputation and also the hassle of police related work.

**Fig 23: Ideal Action**



90% of the respondents were aware that sexual harassment in public places was an offence, about 3% were unaware of its criminal status and about 7% thought it was not.

On the question of redressal mechanisms 76.36% of the respondents were not aware of any redressal mechanism for SH in public places while 23.64% said that they were aware. Of the redressal mechanisms mentioned, women's helpline was the most common with 45.83%, then the Police with 41.67% and Durga dasta, Women's commission and Mahila Mandal 4% of the time respectively.

90.91% of the respondents did not know of any government programme while the remaining 9.09% identified programmes of the government such as fast track courts, 'May I Help you' police centres, the women police and women helpline that were taken up to tackle the issue of the safety of women in public places.

On the question of awareness programmes within the city, 30% said they didn't know if awareness programmes happened, 47.27% said no awareness programmes on the issue were carried out and the rest 22.73% said that they knew of these programmes. Those that were aware identified school programmes, TV programmes like Satyameva jayate and Crime patrol and seminars held by non-governmental organisations.

### **Analysis**

The study shows that sexual harassment in public places is a deeply rooted problem that has become normalised in the society. The onus is put on women for their safety while men are left loose to prey on vulnerable women as they step out to work, gain education or entertain themselves. Women feel unsafe and the population in general feels that it is unsafe for women out in the open. The mobility of women is restricted and only the daylight hours are available for women to move around freely with a certain sense of safety.

In everyday functions of travel women face physical, verbal and visual harassment. Most of these women either do not retaliate or even if they do they do not report for fear of intensification of violence and the depreciation of their social value. Women deal with unwanted attention mostly by ignoring such overtures as they fear that any response could also be misconstrued as an invitation or flirting.

Women are psychologically impacted by the constant volley of sexual overtures and they develop a fear of being alone, of public places and places immense stress on their psyche. The respondents feel that it was lack of effective action by the government in the form of police and security.

The public space is seen as a space for men and women are seen as trespassers and deviant. This is why men feel entitled to comment, leer at women who use these public spaces. The women who navigate these spaces alone are seen as uncontrolled and men see harassment as a way of controlling women and 'putting them in place'. This in a large extent is produced by the socialisation processes that create binaries of two genders and associate behaviours and actions to them. Therefore there results a 'proper' and 'improper' way of behaving for most genders. This becomes occupying the public space for men and being controlled for women. The demands placed on both men and women is enormous. It takes away the agency of individuals to behave. Even harmful acts get condoned as morality and character get tied to these behaviours. The kind of hyper masculinity that demands men to be 'macho' also results in the disrespect of women and the 'femininity' associated with women prevents and stops women from being bold enough to speak out against these. The gendered roles need to be broken down to open up the public space for people of all genders to occupy equally. For this the taboo and secrecy around the sexuality of women needs to be broken. The inequality in power relations need to be corrected in the social space and this can be done through gender sensitisation, reducing differences, desegregation and sharing of responsibility to enable those oppressed to emerge out of the shadows.

## **Conclusion**

This study is very important in the highly gendered public space that was observed by the researcher with the public areas being overwhelmingly male. There was a lack of women entrepreneurs that were visible in the public space that women have to frequent. The lack of women in even micro enterprises that sees women in other parts of the country spoke out volumes about the need for addressing the gendered nature of spaces within the state and especially the city. This is particularly worrisome due to the city's growth as an educational destination where students including women from all over the country are coming to get coaching for the competitive exams. The increase in crimes against women and the falling women labour force participation in the country may also push back the little progress we have made towards the empowerment of women.

There is also the intense and incredible churning that is emerging from the engagement of tradition and modernity and is as a result producing new and unseen new social forms. The questions of clothing, behaviours are manifestations of these changes and the tension between the new and the old. There is a great need to explore the upcoming changes through these lenses of tradition and modernity and the ways in which these forces work in society.



Unless the women of a country are enabled and freed from fear by ensuring them justice, they will never be able to realise their capabilities required for development and true freedom. If half the productive population of the country is fettered by chains of oppression and fear, then the progressed envisioned by the male leaders of the state shall never be achieved.

References:

Akhtar, C. (2013). Eve teasing as a form of violence against women: A case study of district Srinagar, Kashmir. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 5(5), 168-178.

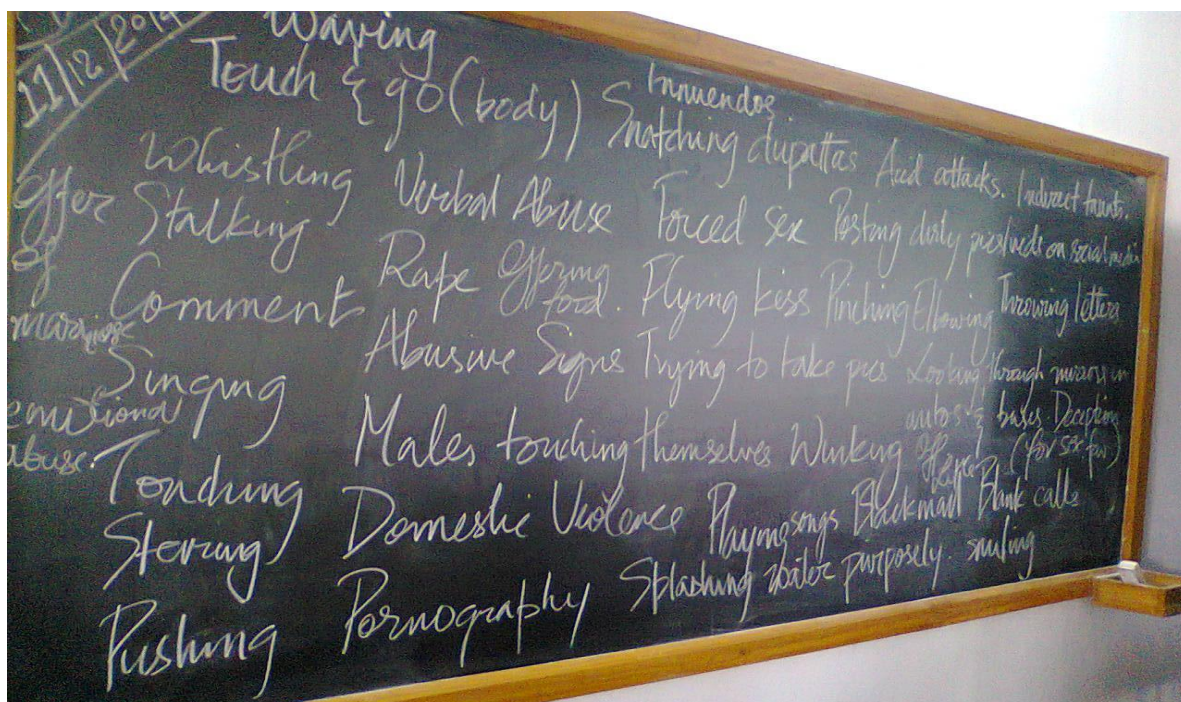
Dhillon, M., & Bakaya, S. (2014). Street harassment: A qualitative study of the Experiences of young women in Delhi. *Sage Open*, July- September, 1-11.

Osmond, J. (2013). *Public Spaces and Gender: An Everyday Occurance: Women and street Harassment*. Coventry Women's Voices.

**Annexure I: Photos taken during the study**

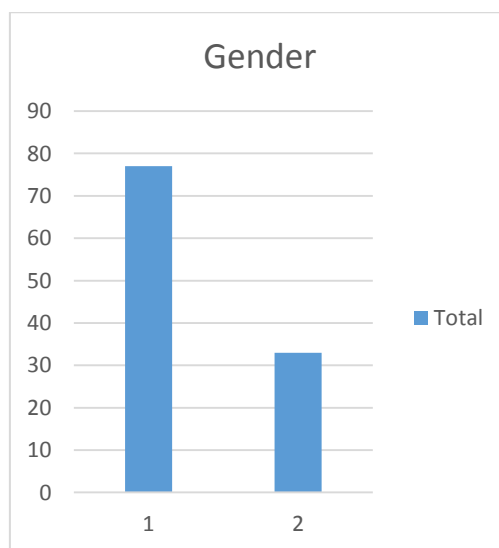




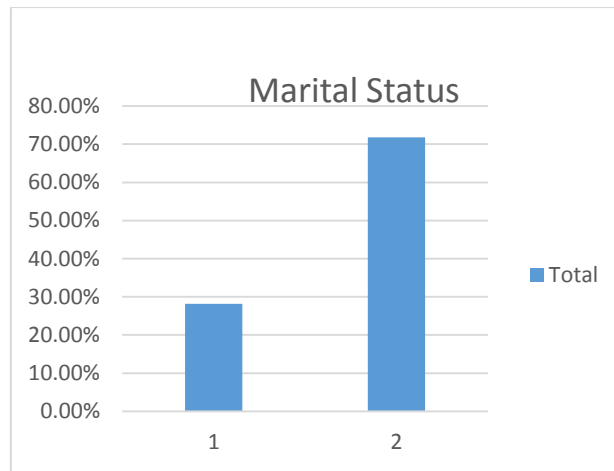


## Annexure II: Demographic Profile of Respondents

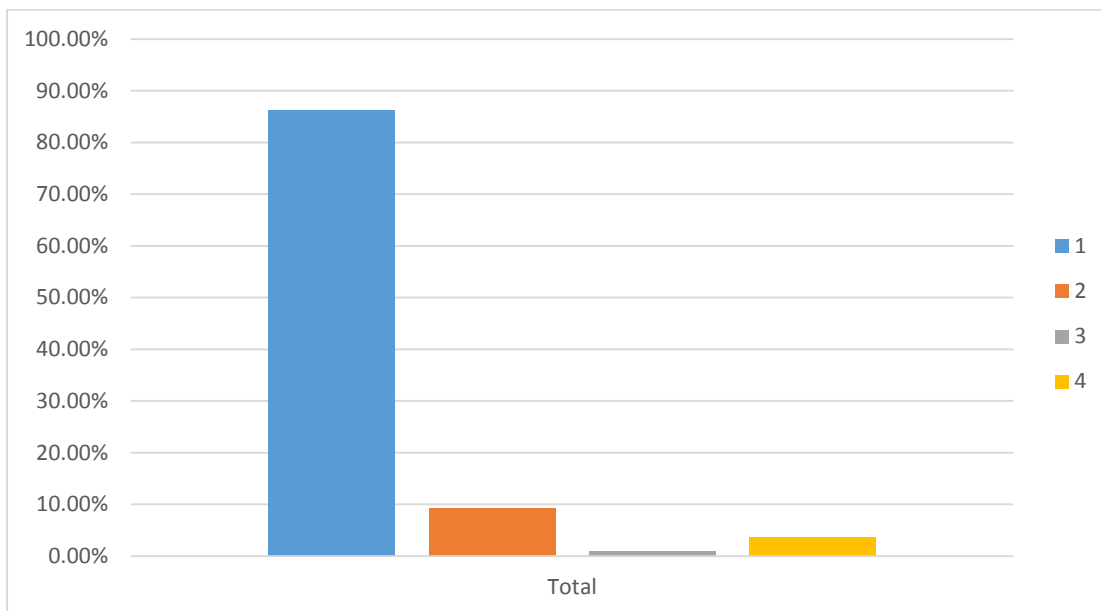
The average age of the respondents was 24 years, 70% of the respondents are female and 30% of the respondents were male. 86% were Hindus, 9% were Muslims, 4% chose other and 1% were Christian. 71% are married and 29% are unmarried.



Here in the above, 1- Female; 2- Male



In the above, 1- Married; 2-Unmarried



In the above, 1-Hindu; 2- Muslim; 3-Christian; Others-4

**Annexure III: Questionnaire used for data collection**



**EQUITY FOUNDATION**

**WINTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (WIP) 2014**

**THEME OF THE STUDY**

**SAFETY IN PUBLIC PLACES: KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

**A RESEARCH STUDY ON THE PERCEPTION OF SAFETY, EXPERIENCE, INCIDENCE, IMPACT  
AND PERCEPTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PUBLIC PLACES IN PATNA: THE STATE  
CAPITAL OF BIHAR(WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON STATE POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR  
INCREASING SAFETY IN PUBLIC PLACES)**

**STUDY CONDUCTED BY:**

**Vineeta Chhetri**

**Second Year (3<sup>rd</sup> Semester) student pursuing Masters (M.A.) in Development**

**Azim Premji University, Bengaluru (Karnataka)**

Signature of the Researcher:

Date:

Venue:

**CONFIDENTIALITY: The personal details required herein are optional, but we assure you the confidentiality of the information should you decide to share the same with us.**

1. Respondent Profile

- a. Age:
- b. Sex:
- c. Marital Status:
- d. Occupation:
- e. Religion:
- f. Area:

**Perception of Public Place**

2. How safe are people in public places in Patna?

- a. Safe
- b. Somewhat safe
- c. Somewhat unsafe
- d. Completely unsafe

3. Is there a particular time when public places are unsafe?

- a. Morning
- b. Afternoon
- c. Evening
- d. Night

4. Which public places are unsafe?

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5. What are some concerns you have when you are at these places? Tick all that apply.

- a. Danger of sexual harassment
- b. Sexual assault
- c. Theft
- d. Kidnapping
- e. Murder
- f. Other (specify)

6. What factors lead to these spaces not being safe? Tick three most important.

- a. Poor lighting
- b. Lack of/poor signage or information
- c. Poor maintenance of open public spaces
- d. Crowded public transport/bus stops/stations
- e. Lack of clean and safe public toilets

- f. Lack of vendors or stalls/people in the area
- g. Lack of effective/visible police or civil guards
- h. Men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs
- i. Lack of respect for women from men
- j. Other (specify)

7. Which mode of transport is most unsafe? How often it is used and why it is unsafe.

Mode of Transport	Unsafe	Safe	Frequency of use	Why its unsafe
Bus				
Rickshaw				
Auto				
Train				
Car				
Scooter				
Others (Specify)				

### Perception of groups vulnerable to lack of safety

8. Who is vulnerable to lack of safety in public places and why?

- a. Men \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Women \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Both \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which economic class is more vulnerable due to lack of safety and why?

- a. Poor \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Middle class \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Upper middle class \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Upper \_\_\_\_\_
- e. All economic classes \_\_\_\_\_

10. Which section of people are more vulnerable due to lack of safety and why?

- a. Unmarried \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Married \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Widowed \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Divorced \_\_\_\_\_
- e. All types \_\_\_\_\_

11. Which age group is more vulnerable due to lack of safety and why?

- a. <10 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 11-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 17-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. 26-35 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. 36-46 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. 47-55 \_\_\_\_\_
- g. All age groups \_\_\_\_\_

### **Experience of Sexual Harassment**

12. Have you been harassed in a public space in the last one year?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes – Move to next Question if no, move to question 19

13. In the past year, how often have you experienced this?

- a. Once
- b. 2-5 times
- c. More than 5 times
- d. Every day

14. Where all have you been harassed/eve-teased? Tick all that apply.

- a. Roadside
- b. Bus stops
- c. Bus
- d. Auto
- e. Rickshaw
- f. Outside school/college
- g. Outside religious centres
- h. Others

15. What kind of sexual harassment have you faced in the past year?

- a. Verbal (whistling, singing, etc.)
- b. Physical (touching, groping etc.)
- c. Visual (staring, leering, gesticulating etc.)
- d. Flashing
- e. Stalking
- f. Violent physical attack
- g. Others
- h. None

16. What clothing were you wearing when harassment happened? Tick all that apply.



- a. Salwar with dupatta
- b. Salwar suit without dupatta
- c. Kurta pyjama
- d. Kurta jeans
- e. Saree
- f. Uniform
- g. Others(specify)

17. When harassment occurred, what did you do? Tick all that apply

- a. Nothing
- b. Confronted perpetrator
- c. Reported to the police
- d. Asked bystanders for help
- e. Reported it to a helpline
- f. Told/asked for help from family
- g. Told/ asked for help from friends
- h. Others

18. When harassment occurred, was police around?

- a. Yes
- b. No

19. If police was around, would you inform the police?

- a. Yes
- b. No

i. If yes, why?

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ii. If no, why?

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20. How often does the public help when harassment happen?

- a. Always
- b. Rarely
- c. Never

### **Perception of Sexual Harassment**

21. Who gets sexually harassed?

- a. Females
- b. Males
- c. Both

22. Who are the perpetrators?

- a. Males
- b. Females
- c. Both

23. How common is sexual harassment in Patna?

- a. Very
- b. Fairly
- c. Not very
- d. Not at all

#### **Perception of Causes of Sexual harassment?**

24. What causes people to sexually harass in public places?

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#### **Impact of sexual harassment**

25. Does the fear of sexual harassment have an impact?

- a. Yes
- b. No
  - i. If yes, what impact does it have?

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#### **Ideal action against sexual harassment**

26. What should be done when someone faces harassment in public places? Tick all that apply.

- a. Do nothing/ignore
- b. Report to police
- c. Report to helpline
- d. Avoid going out
- e. Call family
- f. Ask people for help
- g. Confront harasser

### **Perception of Solution to Harassment**

27. What should be done to bring down the incidences of sexual harassment in public places?

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### **Perception/Awareness of laws and mechanisms to address Sexual Harassment In Public**

28. Is sexual harassment is an offence under Indian law?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

29. Do you know of any redressal mechanism for sexual harassment in a public place?

- a. Yes
- b. No
  - i. If yes, which

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30. Do you know of any government programmes to tackle lack of safety in public places?

- a. Yes
- b. No
  - i. If yes, which

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31. Are there any awareness programmes held about sexual harassment in public places?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know
  - i. If yes, which programme?

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32. Will sexual harassment ever be completely eradicated?

a. Yes

b. No

i. If yes – how

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ii. If no – why?

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Data Analysis on Excel - <https://drive.google.com/a/apu.edu.in/?tab=mo#my-drive>

Tool Used to design questionnaire-

[https://docs.google.com/a/apu.edu.in/file/d/0B1I\\_1UtepM6NLXBqZEJ5Yi02TTQ/edit](https://docs.google.com/a/apu.edu.in/file/d/0B1I_1UtepM6NLXBqZEJ5Yi02TTQ/edit)