

Safe Cities Free of Violence Against Women and Girls Initiative

**Report of the Baseline Survey Delhi
2010**

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Report of the Baseline Survey Delhi 2010

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The *Safe City Initiative* includes key components: i) development of a strategic framework for Delhi; ii) capacity building and material development for wider outreach to civil society organizations such as students, resident welfare associations, city planners, community groups, youth groups, men's groups, women's special interest groups (working with minority and marginalized communities); iii) advocacy with different departments and agencies: Departments of Education, Police, Transport, Urban Planning, Bhagidari, Delhi Commission of Women, Mission Convergence and others; iv) dissemination of the findings of the survey and tools with women's groups working on these issues in the country.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CW	: Common Witness
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion
FW	: Factory Workers
GIC	: Gender Inclusive Cities project
HL	: High Level Category
HM	: Home maker
HM	: Headmistress
Mgrs	: Managers
M/ JP	: Mid Level/ Junior Profile
OW	: Other workers
SC	: School Students
TL	: Team leader
UNESCO	: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN Women	: United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is a truism that women in the national capital of Delhi feel unsafe in many public spaces, and at all times of the day and night. Cutting across class, profession, they face continuous and different forms of sexual harassment in crowded as well as secluded places, including public transport, cars, markets, roads, public toilets and parks. School and college students are most vulnerable to harassment, particularly rampant in public transport, particularly buses. Unlike men, women experience the city differently and have to devise their own safety strategies to negotiate public spaces during day and night.

To address the issue, a joint action research initiative was undertaken by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Delhi, JAGORI, UNIFEM South Asia Regional Office and UN Habitat titled Safe City Free of Violence for Women and Girls, this baseline survey is based on a sample of 5010 women and men, conducted by during the period January - March 2010 by New Concept Information Systems, New Delhi.

Conducted to research into factors that create greater safety and inclusion for women in public spaces around the city, the survey gathered and analyzed information about the following: (a) nature and forms of gender-based violence and/or harassment faced by women, (b) spots where these incidents happen and that are perceived to be unsafe and inaccessible to women, (c) strategies adopted by women to defend themselves, (d) role of governing agencies and the police in safeguarding women's rights, and (e) societal perceptions and attitudes to sexual harassment.

Some of the findings supported the results of the previous surveys undertaken by Jagori (2007 and 2009). However, there are some new insights as well. The findings of the survey and its recommendations (including interactions with key stakeholders) are part of the strategic framework that will guide interventions to make Delhi a safer city for women, especially those from vulnerable groups. The outcome of the study is expected to feed into further dialogue and planning for improved gender-sensitive infrastructure, mechanisms and programming. Hopefully, this would enable women from diverse backgrounds to realize their fundamental right to work, study and move around without violence and fear.

Survey methodology

The study used purposive sampling methods to collect information from respondents belonging to diverse occupational categories spread across public places such as bus stops, markets and shopping malls in all nine districts of Delhi. The survey covered a total of 23 areas and 50 interview sites. The total sample of 5,010 included 3,816 women, 944 men and 250 common witnesses (see below). Men and women above 16 years of age were part of the sample group.

In the report, the term 'common witness' refers to men and women who, by virtue of being located physically closer to public places, have a high probability of witnessing acts of sexual harassment on women. Each of the respondent categories was further divided into groups, broadly based on their occupation and nature of work, such as senior and mid-level workers, factory workers, home makers, students and others.

The study is unique in eliciting the perception and experience of men regarding the issue. Men felt very strongly that women are unsafe in the city and reported witnessing incidents in all parts of the city. They shared similar views to women on kinds of harassment and responses.

Major highlights

- Women of all classes have to contend with harassment as part of their daily lives. School and college students in the 15-19 age-group and women workers in the unorganized sectors are particularly vulnerable.
- Harassment occurs during day and night and in all kinds of public spaces, both secluded and crowded.
- Public transport, buses and roadsides are reported as spaces where women and girls face high levels of sexual harassment.
- The most common form of harassment reported is verbal (passing comments) and visual (staring and leering) and physical (touching/groping, leaning over etc.) This view was shared by women, men and 'common witnesses'.
- Almost two out of every three women reported facing incidents of sexual harassment between 2-5 times in the past year.
- Three out of every five women reported facing sexual harassment not only after dark but through the day time as well.
- Higher proportion of men and 'common witnesses' —that is almost nine out of every 10 respondents —have witnessed incidents of sexual harassment of women after dark and during the day time.
- Poor infrastructure (including poor or absent streetlights), unusable pavements, lack of public toilets, open usage of drugs and alcohol are major reasons behind the lack of safety.
- The burden of ensuring safety remains upon women. They try to ensure their own safety by not visiting certain places, staying indoors after dark, maintaining a dress code, and carrying pepper spray and safety pins etc.
- A high percentage of women (around 68 % (N=3493) resist harassment and deal with it in different ways; such as: confronting the perpetrator, seeking help from family and friends. 17 % also approached by-standers for assistance, while just 6.6 % accessed help lines.

Key Findings

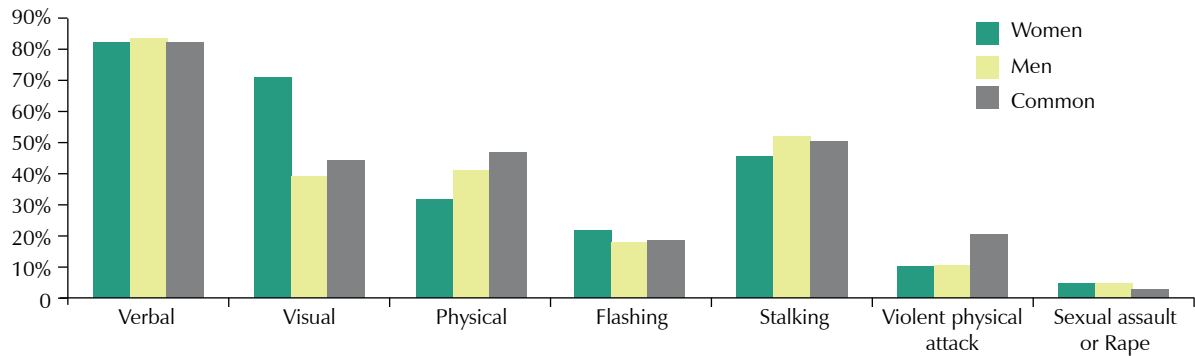
Forms of violence / harassment women face in public spaces in Delhi

An overwhelmingly high percentage of respondents in all categories believe that sexual harassment of woman is the single most important factor that renders Delhi an unsafe city. In fact, a high of 85.4 percent women, 87 percent men and 93 percent among common witnesses said that sexual harassment is rampant in public places.

Verbal harassment of women is the most common form of sexual harassment, as reported by more than 80 percent respondents. This is followed by visual harassment, as reported by 70 percent women, even though male respondents and common witnesses pegged the frequency of visual harassment at a lower level. Only 38.5 percent among men and 43.6 among percent common witnesses reported visual harassment. Stalking of women is common on the streets. While 45 percent women had experienced being stalked, 51 percent men and 48.6 percent common witnesses reported witnessing women being

stalked. In addition 40 percent men and 46 percent common witnesses reported witnessing physical harassment of women. Significantly, only 31 percent women reported physical harassment. While 21 percent women said flashing was a common form of harassment, 18 percent of men agreed. (See Fig 1)

Figure 1: Percentage distribution - kind of sexual harassment faced by women

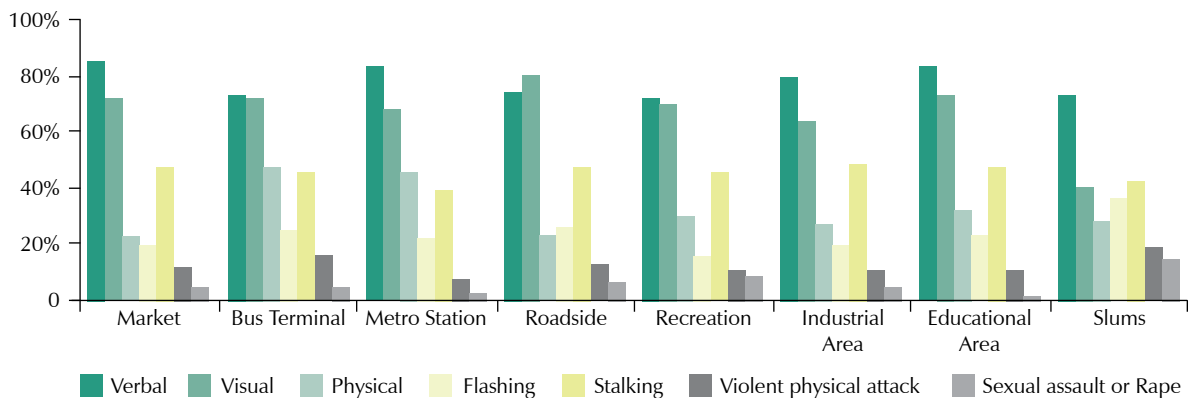


Where harassment is faced

The area wise distribution of harassment shows that women face maximum harassment in market places (84.9 percent), followed by 83 percent at Metro stations, 82.4 percent, in areas around schools and colleges and 79 percent in industrial areas.

At around 80 percent visual harassment is highest on roadside followed by 73 percent around educational institution and 71.3 percent around bus stops. (See Fig 2)

Figure 2: Percentage distribution of forms of sexual harassment faced by women — by kind of public space



Who is more vulnerable

An examination of occupational profile of respondents reveals highest incidence of verbal harassment among school and college students (87 percent, and 86 percent,) respectively. These are also the categories facing the highest incidence of visual harassment (73 percent among school and 75 percent among college students).

Physical harassment is highest among school students (41 percent), unorganized workers (40 percent), particularly construction site workers and domestic help. At around 51 percent stalking is highest among college students. Although women of all categories face sexual harassment in various degrees, school and college going students appear to be most vulnerable to harassment in public places. (See Fig 3)

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of forms of sexual harassment faced by women – by occupational category

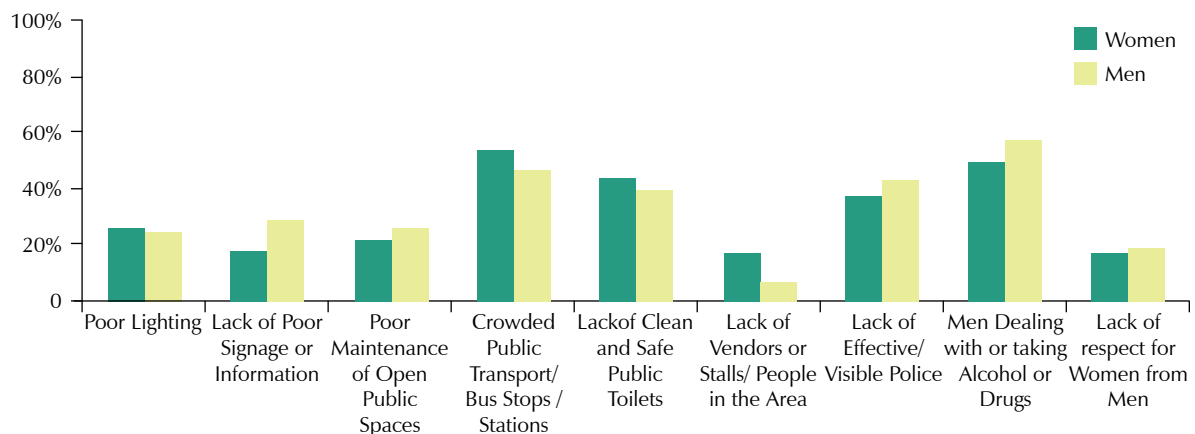


Factors that contribute to lack of safety

The lack of gender friendly and proper, functional infrastructure like street lights, public transport, roadside toilets largely contribute to making Delhi unsafe. The survey findings show public transport, buses as the most common public space where maximum sexual harassment occurs. In addition, the behaviour and conduct of men in public spaces, particularly on the roads aggravate insecurity.

Around 54 percent women reported feeling unsafe and vulnerable in crowded public transport and bus stops. Quite a high percentage of men, approximately (47 percent), as well as common witnesses (57 percent) share the same opinion. An equally important cause of insecurity is the open usage of alcohol and drugs by men in public spaces, as reported by 49 percent women and a relatively higher percentage of men (57.5 percent) and common witnesses (56.8 percent). Lack of clean and safe public toilets add to women's insecurity, as reported by approximately 44 percent women, 40 percent men and 43.2 percent common witnesses. Lack of effective and visible police presence contributes largely to making Delhi unsafe. 43.1 percent of men shared this opinion, as against 37 percent women. 17 percent among women perceive vendors and stalls on the streets as markers of safety. Men and common witnesses, however, gave less importance to presence of vendors and stalls as safety guarantors. (See Fig 4)

Figure 4: Percentage distribution of factors that contribute to women feeling unsafe



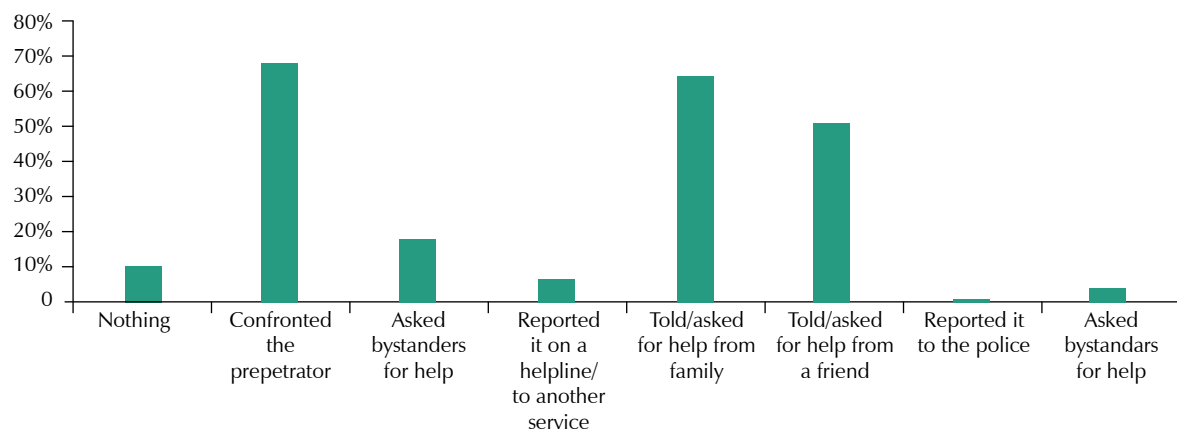
How women respond to harassment and lack of safety

Women adopt different strategies to deal with sexual harassment, often confronting the harasser, sometimes seeking help from family and friends. Rarely however do they turn to the police for help. Nearly 68 percent (N=3493) women respondents reported confronting the perpetrator, 65 percent sought help from family, while 50 percent approached friends. 17 percent said they approached bystanders for help. A mere 6.6 percent accessed helplines.

Women expressed a lack of trust and confidence in the police. Only 0.8 percent women respondents reported incidents of harassment to the police. 58 percent said that they did not even consider approaching the police. Majority of women - 60 percent perceived great obstacles in approaching the police. 44.6 percent thought that the police would not take any action, 42 percent believed the police would trivialize the incident, while nearly 29 percent said that the law enforcers would merely perform token duty by registering the case. Significantly, 27.3 percent thought police would blame the harassed instead of the harasser. The survey reveals very few women 0.8 percent actually reported to the police when faced with sexual harassment.

The survey finds that the lack of faith in the police is the highest among unorganized workers and factory workers. Around 49 percent of unorganized workers and 46 percent of factory workers thought that police would not take any action. 31 percent of women in the high profile occupational category, and 35 percent in the mid profile category believed that police would merely record the incidents if sexual harassment cases are reported. (See Fig 5)

Figure 5: Percentage distribution on the occasions in the past year, when you were sexually harassed or assaulted, what did you do?



Women from high level employment categories (75 percent), followed by mid-level professionals (72 percent) and unorganized workers (71 percent) were most vocal in confronting harassers. School and college-goers, who were most vulnerable to harassment, however, generally did not confront the harasser. (See Table 1)

Table 1: Actions taken on facing sexual harassment by women

(All figures in percentage)

Action Taken	High profile category	Mid & junior profile	Factory workers	Un-organized workers	House-wives	College students	School students
Nothing	8.6	12.3	10	11.8	9.5	6.3	9.7
Confronted the perpetrator	74.7	72.1	67.4	70.5	69.5	59.2	59.5
Asked by-standers for help	13.9	16.1	18.2	14.3	21.9	17.2	11.7
Reported it on a helpline/to another services	7.7	8.3	9.8	3.1	7.9	9.2	1.8
Told/asked for help from family	61.3	54.9	59.5	67.4	65.8	65.1	77
Told/asked for help from friend	46.6	48.2	43.7	40.1	37.8	71.4	64.4
Reported it to the police	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.6	1.5	0.2
Other	1.6	3.8	1.8	8.2	4.1	3.7	1.6

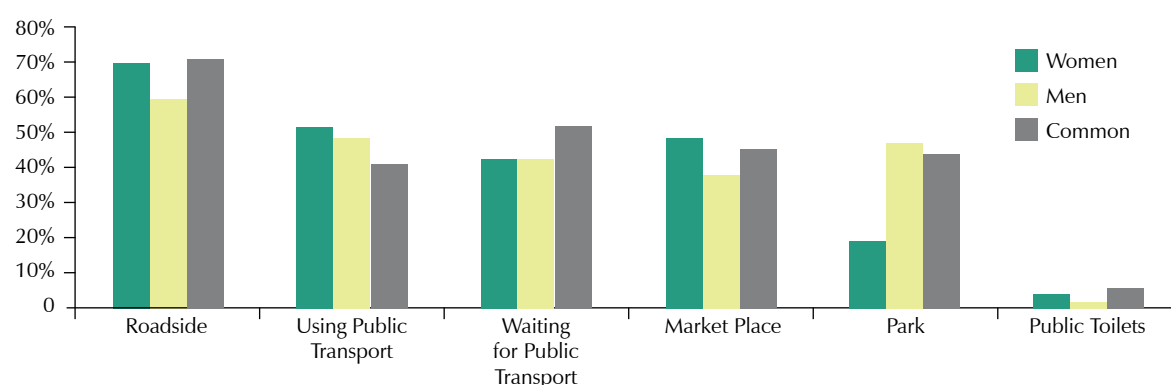
Response of witnesses to sexual harassment of women in public spaces

When asking women and men whether they would extend support when they saw a woman facing harassment, 54 percent women, 69 percent men and 66 percent common witnesses reported that they preferred to not get involved. Among women respondents, 37 percent came forward to the support of the victim, 22 percent gathered public support while a mere 7.1 percent sought help from the police.

Spaces are perceived as unsafe or inaccessible to women

Roadsides and public transport are the most vulnerable places where women face the highest risk of sexual harassment. Around 70 percent women admitted being harassed on the roadside while 50 percent women reported being harassed in public transport and 42 percent faced harassment waiting for public transport. Around 60 percent men and 71 percent common witnesses reported that they have seen women being harassed in similar situations. Men and common witness also voiced similar kind of opinions. (See Fig 6)

Figure 6: Percentage distribution in which specific public spaces have you faced sexual harassment/assault in the past year in this area?



Among the different occupational categories, unorganized workers faced maximum harassment on the roadside (79.5 percent), followed by school and college-goers (70 percent). Among male respondents, majority of factory workers, 69.6 percent reported witnessing incidents of sexual harassment on roadside followed by 66.4 percent unorganized workers. A high of 65.5 percent men in the mid-level occupational category said they have witnessed women being harassed in public transport.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The baseline survey was conducted by New Concept Information Systems (NCIS) on behalf of Jagori. The research framework and questionnaire designed by Jagori and pilot tested by New Concept were validated through inputs by a multi-disciplinary Research Advisory Committee. Earlier studies undertaken were based in interviews with women alone. In this case, there was a clear decision from the outset itself that the perceptions and responses of men and by-standers would also be considered. That it was crucial not only to understand the violations but also gain an understanding of the how the affected and the community, including men and others in the vicinity respond to such blatant violations. A deeper exploration would also throw light on whether all such violations fall only in the realm of state response and what is the nature of citizen response.

This survey was conducted on a sample of 5010 men and women, cutting across class, age and profession. It was conducted through interviews in a variety of public spaces, including markets, parks, bus stops, residential areas, etc. The main aims of the research are to identify the forms of harassment faced by women, the factors contributing to them, societal response, role of the police, as well as the strategies adopted by women to deal with continued and multiple forms of harassment.

The term 'public spaces' here include roadside, bus stops, metro stations, public transport, parks, market places, work places, etc

"Sexual harassment" here means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It includes demands for sexual favours, coercion/pressure to enter into sexual relationships, intrusive/unwanted physical contact, sexually-coloured comments, use of sexually suggestive language, or showing material that is likely to cause offence on account of its sexual content or because it is derogatory to women. In the context of the survey, sexual harassment incorporates staring, touching, sexual assault, stalking, lewd comments and such other acts.

1.2 Objectives of the survey

1. To identify forms of violence/harassment faced by women in public spaces
2. To determine key factors that play a role or contribute to enhanced safety and inclusiveness for women
3. To gain understanding of ways in which women respond to harassment and lack of safety
4. To gain deeper understanding of women accessing police and other service providers in safeguarding their rights
5. To identify spaces that are perceived and experienced as unsafe or inaccessible to women
6. To determine how women respond to harassment and lack of safety
7. To gain insights into the perception of men about women's safety in the city

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Sample design

The study used purposive sampling methods to collect information from respondents of diverse occupational categories spread across locations in Delhi. Intercept survey technique was used to select respondents - women and men in public places. The respondent's willingness was taken into consideration before administering questions.

Survey area and survey sites:

The common public places in Delhi were divided into 23 survey areas. Specific sites were identified in those survey areas. In total the study covered around 50 sites.

1.3.2 Sample size

Total sample size was 5000 and the target respondents included women, men and common witnesses. In all the three categories, only men and women above 16 years of age were considered in the sample. Common witnesses included both men and women who by virtue of their work or occupation are situated near public places and have a high probability of being witnesses to acts of sexual harassment on women.

The sample size for the above mentioned categories is as below.

Table 2: Sample size

Women Sample Proposed	Women Sample Achieved	Men Sample Proposed	Men Sample Achieved	Common witness (Men/ Women) Sample Proposed	Sample Achieved	Total Sample Proposed	Total Sample Achieved
3800	3816	950	944	250	250	5000	5010

During the survey it was planned that samples of each of the respondent categories women, men and common witnesses would be spread across each of the locations. At the time of actual survey, some additional women respondents were interviewed and the sample size increased to 3816¹. In some locations, some men who first agreed to give responses did not wait to complete the interview and left half way while others expressed their unwillingness. This also affected the distribution across districts. The number of men respondents in the actual survey turned out to be 944. For common witnesses, the stipulated number of 250 was achieved.

1.3.3 Sample distribution

Each respondent category was further sub divided into various occupational categories and specific sample sizes allotted to each category. The categorization was done to get a varied representation of respondents from diverse occupational and social groups across locations. However, it may be noted that in South Delhi, the number of sites was relatively more when compared to other districts. Therefore while a quota sampling approach was adopted, the numbers in South and South West Delhi turned out to be much larger than in the other districts. The sample distribution by occupational categories is presented below.

¹ NCIS has retained the additional responses. 10.4 percent of the interviews were conducted after dark.

Table 3: Sample distribution (occupational category wise)

Female			Male			Common Witness		
Occupational categories	Sample Proposed	Sample achieved	Occupational categories	No	Sample achieved	Occupational categories	Sample Proposed	6
Working office- High Level- Executives/ MGRs/ TL/ HM, Senior Teachers	475	478	Working office- High Level-Executives/ MGRs/ TL/ HM, Senior Teachers	136	136	Bus conductors, Auto drivers, Parking lot care-takers etc	125	125
Working Office - Mid Level/ Junior Level/ Receptionists, Sales Girls	475	480	Working Office - Mid Level/ Junior Level/ Receptionists, Sales Girls	136	107	Shopkeepers etc	125	125
Factory Workers	475	470	Factory Workers	136	142		NA	NA
Other Workers - Construction site/ Street working/ domestic help	475	470	Other Workers - Construction site/ Street working/ domestic help	136	144		NA	NA
Home maker	475	486		136	NA		NA	NA
Students- School going (16 to 18 years- XI to XII standards)	475	483	Students- School going (16 to 18 years- XI to XII standards)	136	144		NA	NA
Students College going (18 years & above)	475	481	Students College going (18 years & above)	136	127		NA	NA
Others **	475	468	Others	136	144		NA	NA
Total	3800	3816		950	944		250	

** - Respondents who have completed their education and are unemployed and not falling under any of the above categories are classified as "others".

Table 4: District wise sample distribution

District	Women	Men	Common witness
Central Delhi	145	27	11
East Delhi	179	38	16
New Delhi	241	51	10
North Delhi	172	50	16
North-East Delhi	96	14	10
North-West Delhi	386	25	13
South Delhi	1284	308	111
South-West Delhi	1153	398	46
West Delhi	160	33	17
Total	3816	944	250

1.3.4 Scope & coverage

Two to three key locations, in each district and spread across all nine districts of Delhi, were selected as the most representative samples of the city. Survey areas from each district were later identified and public places selected to meet the required sample size. A total of 23 survey areas and 50 interview sites were chosen across these nine districts. However, South Delhi ended up with a larger number of sites than other districts, as a result, the number of respondents in South and South West Delhi ended up being higher.

Again, considering the types of settlement areas based on socio-economic background, and the likelihood of finding people from certain socio-economic categories in certain places, a tentative sample size for each particular occupational category was allotted in relevant interview site. For example, for the occupational category High Level, one of the survey areas was M & N Block markets in Greater Kailash I, while for other sector; one of the target areas was Jamia Nagar. Women home makers were interviewed at all sites. The survey plan was executed on these lines. It must be noted that the survey did not include those geographic areas where Jagori had conducted a 1000 respondent survey in 2009.

Table 5: Survey area & survey site

District	Area	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
Central	Chandini Chowk	Nai Sadak	Chandni Chowk Market	Lajpat Rai Market + Lal Quila (outside)	Jama Masjid
	Karol Bagh	Ajmal Khan Market	Arya Samaj Road-Market	Gaffar Market	
East	Mandaoli	Mandaoli Gaon-slum area			
	Anand Vihar	Anand Vihar ISBT	EDM Mall	Anand Vihar Metro Station	
New Delhi	Connaught Place	Near Plaza, Regal, Rivoli, Odeon Cinemas	Metro stations, Four wheeler parkings & two- wheeler parkings	Barakhamba Road	
	Lodi Gardens	Parks	Boating Area		
North Delhi	Azadpur	Azadpur Sabzi Mandi			
	Sadar Bazaar	Sadar Bazaar			
North East Delhi	Shahdara	Metro Station	Bus Terminal		
North West Delhi	Rohini	Rohini East Metro Station	Rohini West Metro Station	Adventure	Rithala Metro Station
South	Okhla Industrial Area	Industrial Area I	Industrial Area II	Industrial Area III	
	Greater Kailash	GKI- M & N Block Markets			
	Siri Fort Area	Gargi College	Motilal Nehru College	PG DAV College	
	New Friends Colony	New Friends Colony Market			

District	Area	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
	Sarojini Nagar	Sarojini Nagar Market			
	Jamia Nagar	Jamia Nagar Market Area			
South West	South Campus	Shantiniketan Market area	Sadu Vasvani Girls school area	Kamla Nehru College	Spring Dale School
	Dwarka	Dwarka Mor	School Near Metro station	Metro stations- Sector 9 Sector 10 Sector 11 Sector 12, Sector 13, Sector 14 [each includes separate interview sites]	
West	Anand Parbat	Anand Parbat Chowk, near Police station			
	Punjabi Bagh	Punjabi Bagh Central Market			

1.3.5 Research tools

1. Recruitment Questionnaire: This questionnaire was administered in the very beginning of the interview to recruit eligible and willing respondents in the sample
2. Women Questionnaire: This questionnaire was administered to women above 16 years of age
3. Men Questionnaire: This questionnaire was administered to men above 16 years of age.
4. Common Witness Questionnaire: These questionnaires were for men and women who because of their work location and/or occupation are likely witness to sexual harassment in their space of work, such as bus conductors, auto rickshaw drivers, shopkeepers, vendors, etc.

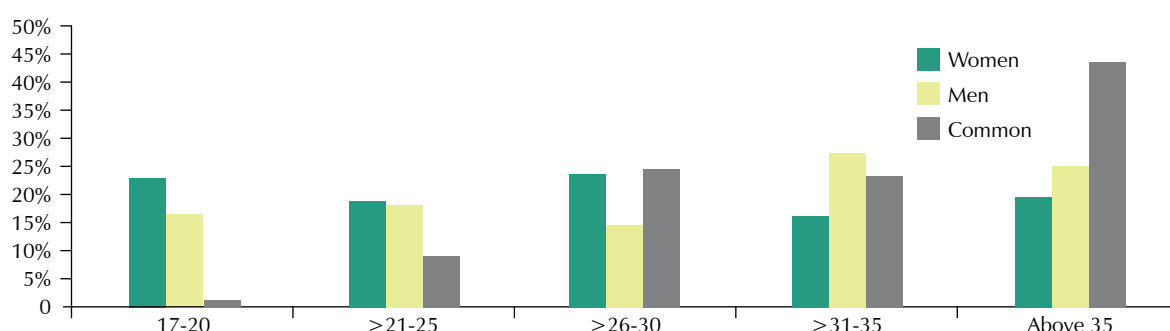
The questionnaires were prepared in a manner to elicit answers about perceptions of threats/risks of sexual harassment and actual experiences of harassment.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

2.1 Age

23.4 percent of women respondents belonged to the 26-30 age-group. 16 percent of them were in the 31-35 age-group. 27 percent of men respondents were from the 31-35 age-groups, and a much lower number from the 26-30 age-groups. Majority of common witnesses (43.5) belonged to the 35 above age-group. A much smaller number (8.8 percent and 1.2 percent) were in the 21-25 and 17-20 age-groups respectively. (See Fig 7)

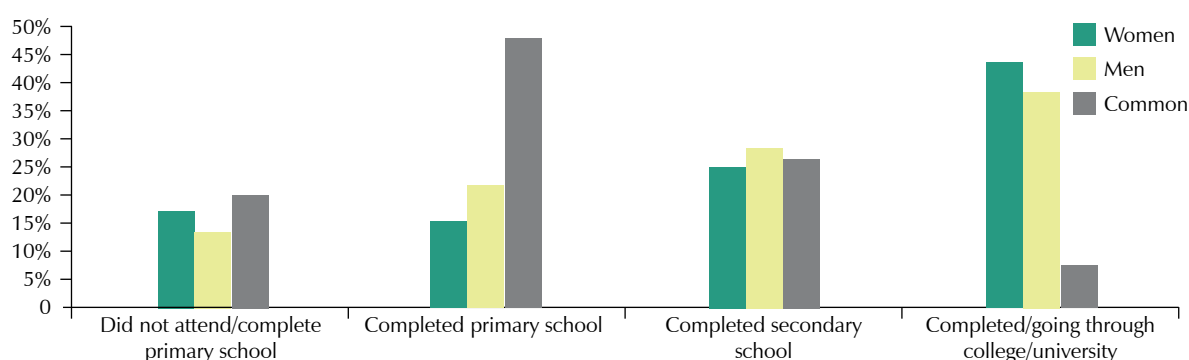
Figure 7: Percentage distribution of respondents by age group



2.2 Education

Majority of respondents among both men and women were found to be well educated and are either going through college or university or had completed their college or university education. In fact, 43.4 percent of women and 38 percent of men had either graduation or university degrees. 25 percent of women and 28 percent of men had completed their secondary school education. There was a gendered pattern: fewer women completed primary school and more women did not attend school in comparison to men. However, among the common witnesses category, most of the respondents were not well educated. 7.2 percent of common witnesses had not completed college/university education. 47.2 percent among them had finished primary education. (See Fig 8)

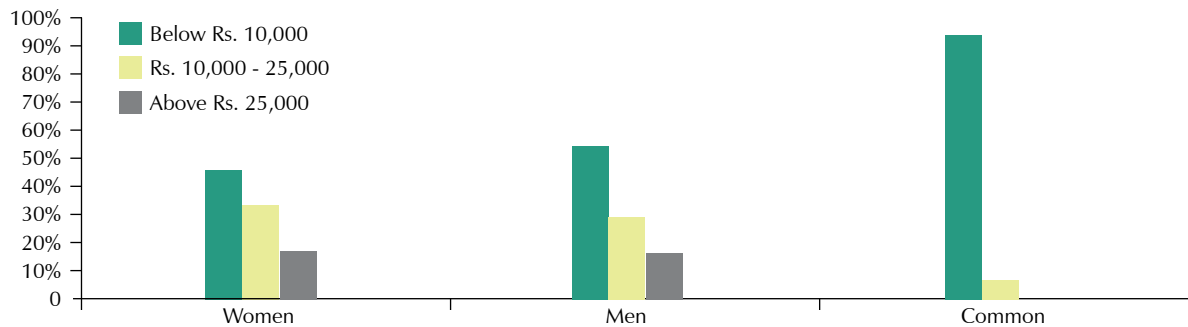
Figure 8: Percentage distribution of education level of respondents



2.3 Income

Majority of respondents (45.7 percent of men, 54.3 percent of women and 92.8 percent of common witnesses) had a monthly family income of less than Rs. 10,000. 16.5 percent of women and 16.1 percent of men and only 0.4 percent of common witnesses had a monthly income of more than Rs. 25000. As is observed, low income category is the highest among common witnesses. The percentage of respondents gradually decline as we move higher up the income ladder. Common witnesses in the same income bracket are negligible at 0.4 percent. (See Fig 9)

Figure 9: Percentage distribution of Income range of respondents



3. GENERAL SAFETY CONCERNS FOR WOMEN IN PUBLIC PLACES: FAMILIARITY WITH THE LOCALITY

3.1 How long the respondent has lived in the city

A majority of respondents (74 percent each of women and men and 80.4 percent of common witnesses) have lived in Delhi for more than 5 years. 20 percent women and men, and 17 percent among common witnesses have been in Delhi for 1-5 years, while a much lesser number of respondents have lived in the city for less than a year. (See Fig 10A & 10B)

Figure 10A: How long have the women respondents lived in the city?

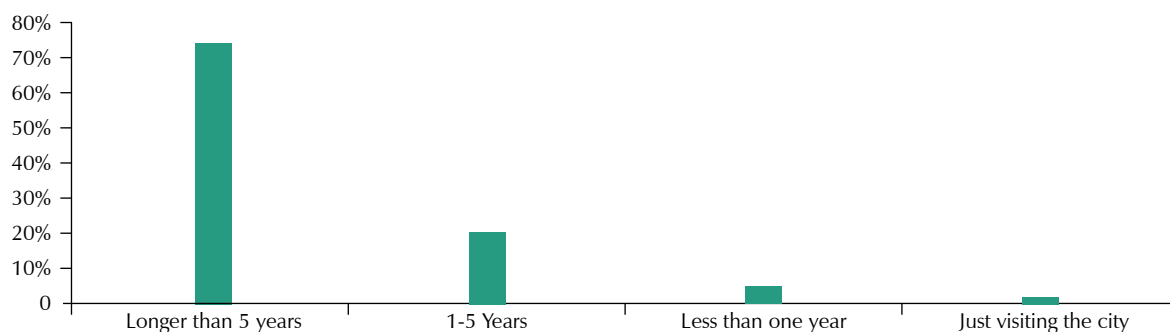
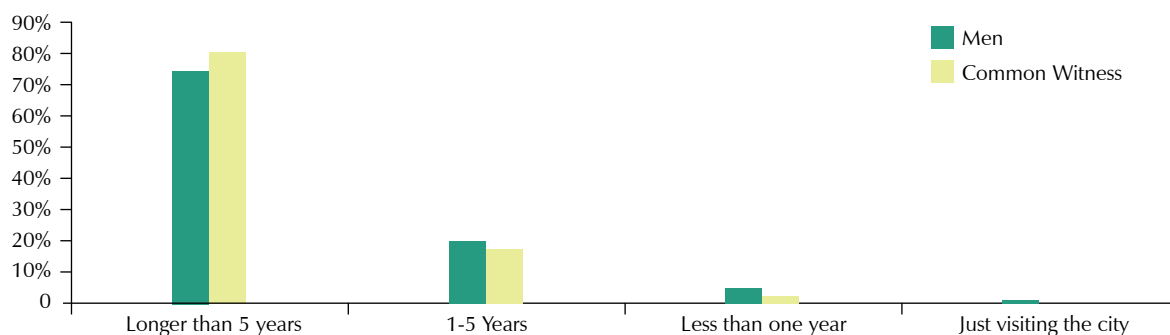
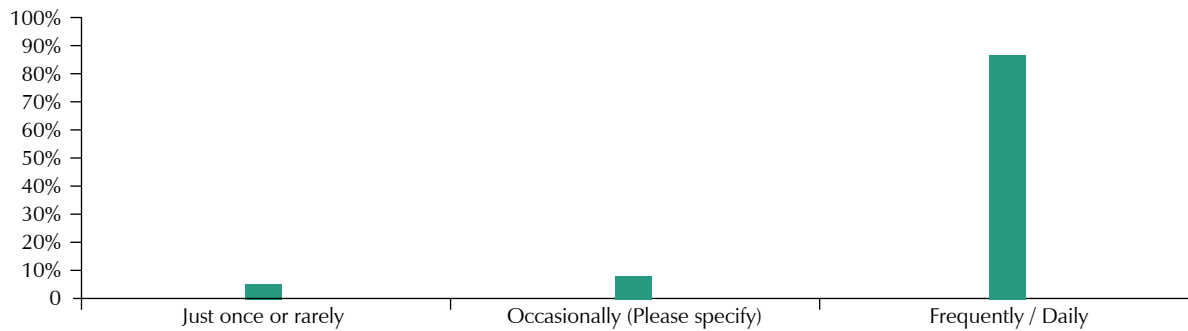
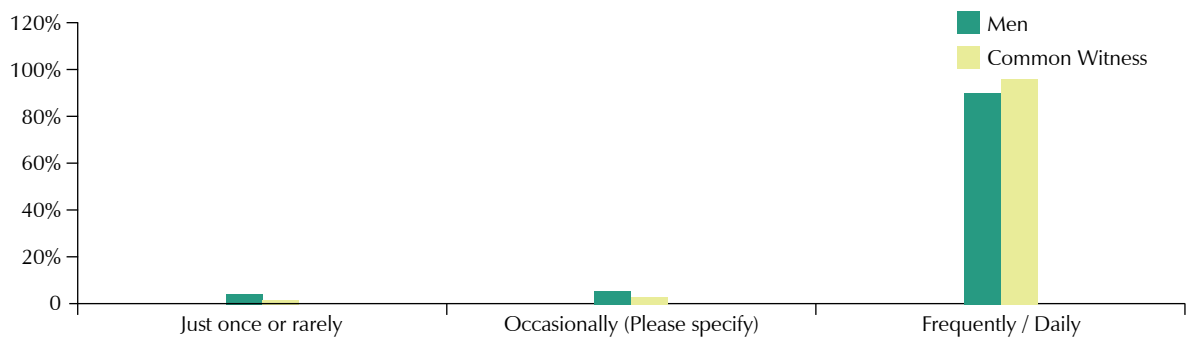


Figure 10B: How long have the male respondent & witnesses lived in the city?



3.2 How often has the respondent been to the particular area

Questions were asked to find out how often the respondents visit the particular area in which they were interviewed. Most of the respondents reported that they had visited the interview sites quite often, almost frequently or daily. The percentage of respondents varied between 86 to 96 percent. Though the overall percentage is found to be high, among these, relatively lesser percentage of women, i.e., around 86 percent were frequent visitors in the area as compared to a higher percentage of 90 and 96 for men and common witness respectively. (See Fig 11A & 11B)

Figure 11A: How often the women respondents have been to the particular area?**Figure 11B: How often have the male respondent & witness been to the particular area?**

3.3 Purpose of visit

As mentioned above, the respondents visit these sites regularly if not daily because these locations have educational, professional institutions where they study, or offices where they work. (See Fig 12A & 12B)

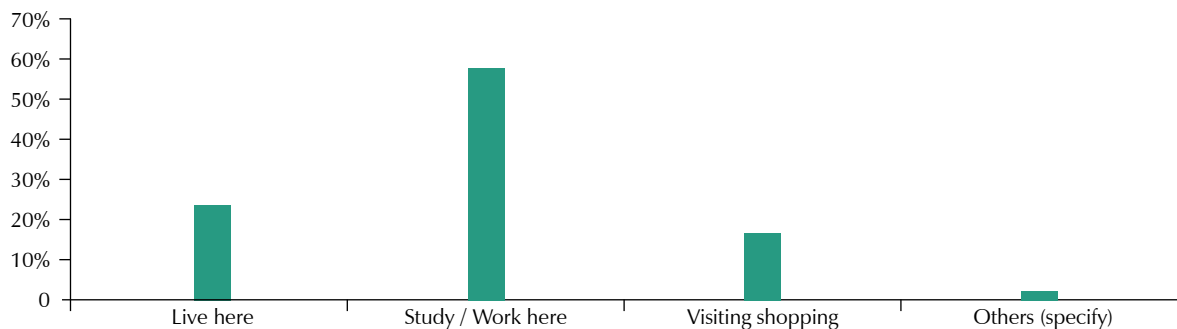
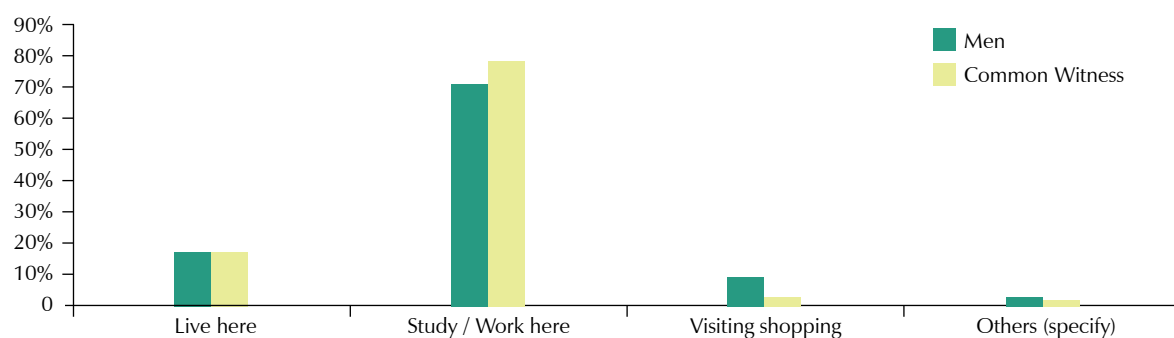
Figure 12A: Why are you in this area today?

Figure12B: Why are you in this area today?

4. PERCEPTION OF WOMEN'S SAFETY IN THE AREA - factors that contribute to public spaces being unsafe for women

4.1 Key factors include

Public transport: Nearly 54 percent of women feel unsafe and vulnerable inside crowded public transport and at bus stops. 47 percent of men and 57 percent of common witnesses too find public transport, bus-stops/ stations to be unsafe for women.

Use of alcohol, drugs in the vicinity: The next important contributing factor to women's insecurity in public places was reported in the vicinity of men dealing with or taking alcohol or drugs. 49 percent of women, 57.5 percent of men and 56.8 percent of common witnesses find such actions in public adding to a sense of insecurity.

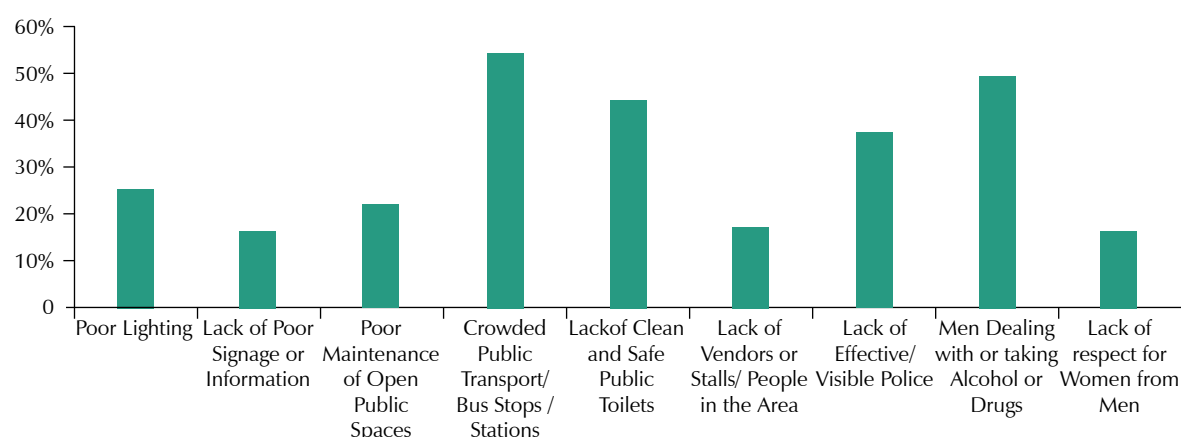
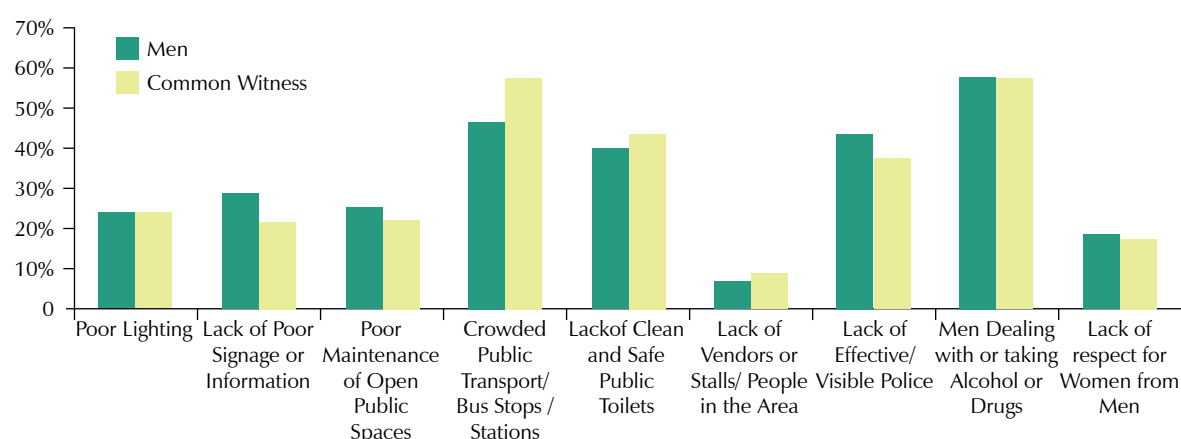
Poor infrastructure: 44 percent of women, 40 percent of men and 43.2 percent of common witnesses find the lack of clean and safe public toilets to be a major hindrance in the way of women accessing these public spaces. More than men and common witnesses, women respondents complained of the absence of clean and safe public toilet facilities.

Other infrastructure such as non-functioning street lights, rutted pavements, poorly maintained public spaces like parks heighten feelings of insecurity.

Lack of policing: The absence of effective policing is another major reason for insecurity in accessing public spaces. 37.1 percent of women, 43.1 percent of men and 37.2 percent of common witnesses underline the inefficacy of the police and their negative and unresponsive attitude towards women as important contributors to making public spaces unsafe.

Societal attitudes: Cutting across gender, occupation and age the respondents believe that societal attitude and general lack of respect for women are major factors contributing to the wide-spread and sexual harassment in Delhi's public spaces.

Presence of vendors: 17 percent of women respondents associate notions of safety due to the presence of vendors and stalls on the streets. Men and common witnesses, however, gave less importance to this aspect. (See Fig 13A & 13B)

Figure 13A: Percentage distribution of factors that contribute to unsafe conditions**Figure 13B: Percentage distribution of factors that contribute to unsafe condition (men and common witnesses)**

Feeling unsafe in public transport and at the bus stops seems the highest 70 percent (N=145) in Central Delhi. More than 70 percent women in North-East Delhi (N= 96) and in West Delhi (N=159) feel that public usage of alcohol and/or drugs contributes to making the space unsafe. And that lack of clean and secure public toilets is an obstacle and impedes women's access to such spaces. (Table-6

Table 6: Factors contributing to unsafe conditions (district wise)

(All figures in percentage)

District	Poor lighting	Lack of/poor signage or information	Poor maintenance of open public spaces	Crowded public transport/bus stops /Stations	Lack of clean and safe public toilets	Lack of vendors or stalls /people in the area	Lack of effective /visible police	Men dealing with or taking alcohol/ drugs	Lack of respect for women from men
Central Delhi	26.9	26.9	19.3	69.7	51.0	10.3	23.4	51.0	20.0
East Delhi	12.3	6.7	29.1	57.5	62.6	8.9	22.3	54.2	20.7
New Delhi	25.3	27.0	19.5	49.8	44.8	10.4	35.3	62.2	17.0
North Delhi	44.2	7.0	15.1	56.4	25.0	8.1	47.7	67.4	18.6

District	Poor lighting	Lack of/poor signage or information	Poor maintenance of open public spaces	Crowded public transport/bus stops/Stations	Lack of clean and safe public toilets	Lack of vendors or stalls/people in the area	Lack of effective/visible police	Men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs	Lack of respect for women from men
North-East Delhi	21.9	15.6	24.0	47.9	49.0	9.4	35.4	76.0	9.4
North-West Delhi	15.1	7.6	29.2	55.5	60.7	11.5	40.9	51.3	15.9
South Delhi	25.8	22.2	19.4	54.7	41.2	14.6	40.0	44.0	18.0
South-West Delhi	26.3	13.5	23.4	51.0	41.6	28.4	36.5	42.6	14.4
West Delhi	37.7	16.4	15.7	56.0	31.4	16.4	30.2	70.4	11.3
Total	25.5	16.7	21.8	54.0	44.0	17.4	37.1	49.2	16.4

A fairly high percent, 62.5 percent (N=483) of college and 56 percent (N=481), of school students, find the public transport and at bus stops as unsafe for them; this is largely due to the fact that this younger group of women are the most frequent users of public transport and therefore very vulnerable. Mid level women professionals - 56 percent (N=478) and unorganized sector workers - 55.3 percent (N=470), feel unsafe in

presence of drunken men, alcohol and drug dealers. High and mid level professional women 50 percent (N=474) and 47 percent (N=478) respectively, consider the lack of clean and safe public toilets a hindrance to their accessing these spaces. A sizeable portion of women cited lack of effective police force as major cause of women being unsafe in public places: 49 percent (N=483) of college students believe the absence of visible policing is a major contributor to making the city's public spaces unsafe. (Table 7)

Table 7: Factors as major safety threat according to women (occupation wise).

(All figures in percentage)

Factors	High Level category N= 474	mid & junior Level category N= 478	Factory workers N= 467	Other workers N=470	Home maker N= 486	College Students N= 483	School Students N= 481	Others N= 462
Poor lighting	22.4	26.8	30.4	29.8	24.7	10.8	29.3	30.3
Lack of/poor signage or information	17.7	17.6	17.3	12.8	21.4	18.2	16.0	12.3
Poor maintenance of open public spaces	22.6	24.5	21.2	21.3	19.1	17.4	25.4	23.2
Crowded public transport/bus stops/Stations	49.8	53.3	43.7	53.4	58.2	62.5	56.5	53.9
Lack of clean and safe public toilets	50.2	47.1	38.8	41.7	47.1	47.4	37.0	42.2
Lack of vendors or stalls/people in the area	11.6	14.0	12.6	12.6	17.3	36.6	20.2	13.9

Factors	High Level category N= 474	mid & junior Level category N= 478	Factory workers N= 467	Other workers N=470	Home maker N= 486	College Students N= 483	School Students N= 481	Others N= 462
Lack of effective/ visible police	43.2	37.9	37.3	31.1	37.2	49.1	33.3	27.3
Men dealing with or taking alcohol or drugs	49.4	56.7	53.5	55.3	46.5	28.6	47.8	56.5
Lack of respect for women from men	13.1	14.9	19.5	19.4	13.4	14.7	15.8	20.6
Other	0.8	0.4	0.9	2.1	1.2	0.4	0.8	1.5

58.6 percent women in the 21-25 age-groups find crowded public transport, bus stops and stations unsafe. 55.6 percent of women above 35 years of age (N=734), and those in the 26-30 age-group (N=891) feel threatened by men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs. (Table 8)

Table 8: Factors constituting major safety threats according to women (age group wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Poor lighting	Lack of /poor signage or information	Poor maintenance of open public spaces	Crowded public transport /bus stops /Stations	Lack of clean and safe public toilets	Lack of vendors or stalls /people in the area	Lack of effective /visible police	Men dealing with or taking alcohol/ drugs	Lack of respect for women from men
upto 20	23.4	16.6	22.1	57.2	38.0	25.9	39.4	42.3	16.4
21-25	27.1	18.4	20.7	58.6	39.7	18.9	39.7	47.7	16.2
26-30	24.9	16.0	21.2	53.0	49.5	14.3	35.8	51.5	16.3
31-35	26.0	13.7	20.8	52.7	48.8	14.2	34.7	49.8	19.5
above 35	26.7	18.4	24.1	48.1	44.4	12.5	35.4	55.6	14.0
Total	25.5	16.7	21.8	54.0	44.0	17.4	37.1	49.2	16.4

57.4 percent of men said that open usage of drugs and alcohol pose a threat to women's personal safety. Mid-level professionals - 57 percent (N=107) and factory workers 53 percent (N=142), perceive public transport and bus stops to be one of the most unsafe public spaces. Around 70 percent (N=144) men working in the Other sector considered places where men take alcohol or dealt with alcohol and drugs unsafe for women. 50 percent (N=144) of factory workers and 47 percent (N=127) of unorganized sector workers believe that the lack of clean and safe public toilets affects the personal safety of women. (Table 9)

Table 9: Factors constituting major safety threats as perceived by men (occupation wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Factors	HP N=136	M/JP N=107	FW N=142	OW N=144	S-Coll N=144	S-Sch N=127	Others N=144
Poor lighting	16.2	19.6	38.0	30.6	15.3	18.9	27.1
Lack of/poor signage or information	35.3	29.0	20.4	21.5	26.4	42.5	26.4
Poor maintenance of open public spaces	25.0	26.2	25.4	14.6	45.8	16.5	22.9
Crowded public transport/bus stops/Stations	36.0	57.0	53.5	41.0	53.5	41.7	45.1
Lack of clean and safe public toilets	33.1	40.2	50.7	47.2	29.9	33.9	41.7
Lack of vendors or stalls/people in the area	4.4	4.7	4.9	2.8	9.0	12.6	9.0
Lack of effective/visible police	47.1	35.5	31.7	50.0	43.8	49.6	43.1
Men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs	57.4	59.8	54.9	70.1	50.0	55.1	55.6
Lack of respect for women from men	27.9	16.8	11.3	16.7	15.3	22.8	17.4
Others (Specify)	1.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7

Nearly 60 percent of men, above 30 years of age, perceive public usage of alcohol and drugs to be a major factor affecting women's safety. Another 50 percent believe crowded bus stops and public transport to be an important factor contributing to women's insecurity. (Table 10)

Table 10: Factors constituting major safety threats as perceived by men (age wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Poor lighting	Lack of/poor signage or information	Poor maintenance of open public spaces	Crowded public transport/bus stops/Stations	Lack of clean and safe public toilets	Lack of vendors or stalls/people in the area	Lack of effective/visible police	Men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs	Lack of respect for women from men
upto 20	17.9	37.0	27.2	43.4	34.0	10.2	45.5	55.3	21.7
21-25	28.9	19.1	27.0	40.8	38.8	7.2	50.7	57.9	23.7
26-30	22.0	28.6	26.8	42.9	43.5	6.0	45.2	56.5	15.5
31-35	27.6	25.4	30.6	48.5	45.5	6.0	37.3	58.2	10.4
above 35	25.9	27.8	18.8	54.5	39.6	4.3	38.0	59.6	17.6
Total	23.9	28.5	25.3	46.6	39.6	6.8	43.1	57.5	18.2

4.2 Factors that heighten safety risks and make Delhi's public spaces unsafe

An overwhelming high percentage of respondents 85.4 percent of women (N=3814), 87 percent of men and 93 percent of common witnesses, cutting across socio-economic categories, believe sexual harassment is one of the main concerns affecting the personal safety of women. Interestingly, this

perception is shared by a larger percentage of men and common witnesses. Along with sexual harassment, another major concern relates to the high incidence of robbery in the Capital. Approximately 50 percent of women, 60 percent of men and 69 percent of common witnesses consider robbery, followed by the threat of physical/sexual attack and rape to be high risks. Women felt more threatened by the risk of physical attack rather than sexual assault, while men and common witnesses considered sexual assault to be a greater risk. 7.8 percent of women, 5.6 percent of men and 2.8 percent of common witnesses had no concerns about safety. (See Fig 14A & 14B)

Figure 14 A: Safety risks as perceived by women

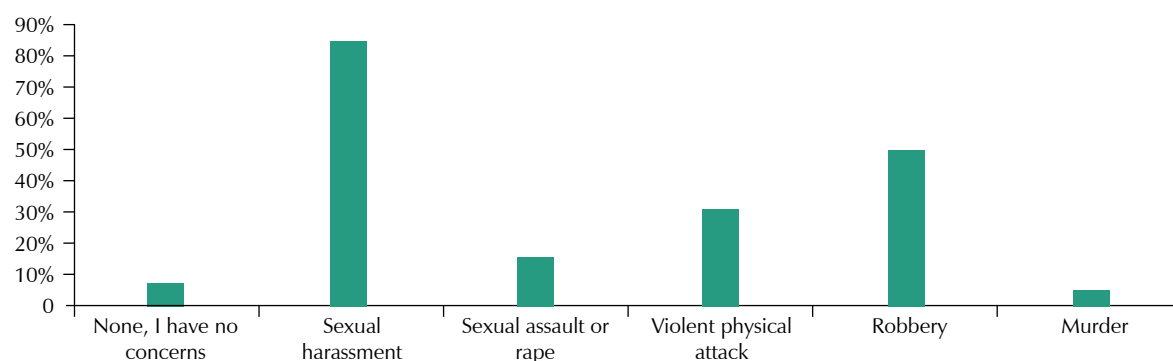
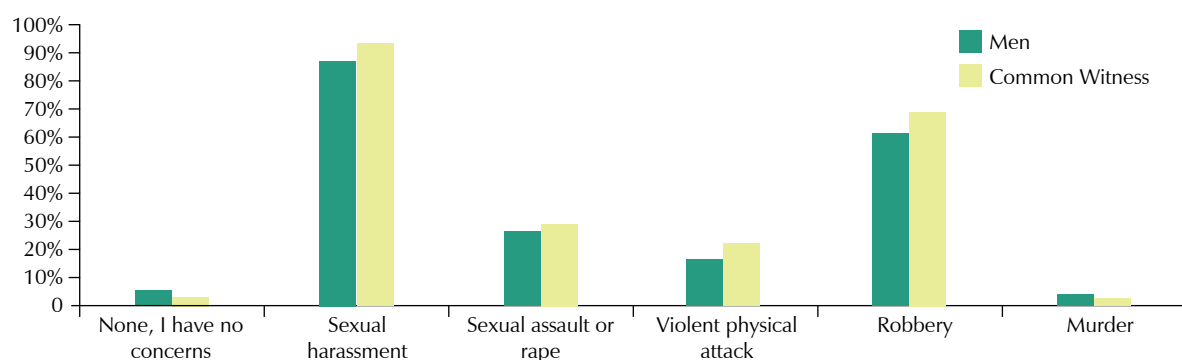


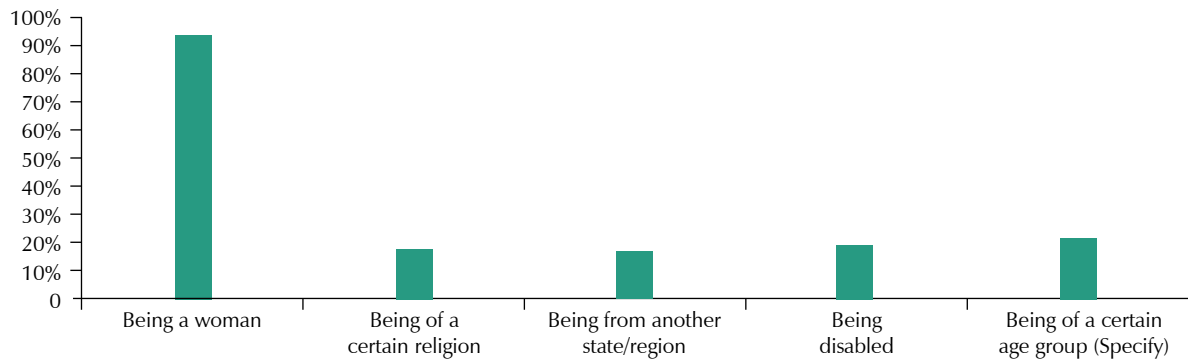
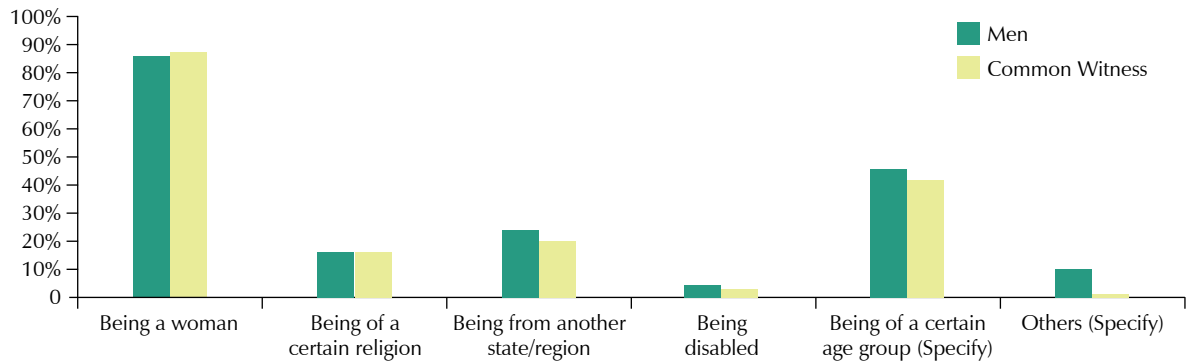
Figure 14B: Safety risk as perceived by men and common witness



4.3 Factors affecting women's personal safety in select areas

All responses in this category are from particular areas where the respondents were interviewed.

A high of 93 percent (N=3508) of women attribute their sense of insecurity to simply 'being a woman'. Significantly, 86 percent (N=891) of men and 87 percent (N=243) of common witnesses share this perception. The level of risk a woman faces is linked to her age. 22 percent of women, 46 percent of men and 42 percent of common witnesses believe girls and women in the 15-30 age-groups, particularly school/college students, are more vulnerable to sexual harassment. More women (nearly 19 percent) than men consider disability to be a risk, while only 4.6 percent of men and 2.5 percent of common witnesses share this opinion. Approximately 18 percent of women, 24 percent of men and 20 percent of common witnesses consider being from other regions an additional factor that heightens risks to their personal safety. (See Fig 15A & 15B)

Figure 15A: Factors women identify as affecting their personal safety**Figure 15B: Perception of factors affecting women's personal safety (according to men and common witnesses)**

5. EXPERIENCES OF HARASSMENT FACED BY WOMEN IN PUBLIC PLACES

5.1 Forms of sexual harassment

All the responses herein pertain to the particular area where respondents were interviewed, the recall period being one year.

District wise analysis shows that verbal harassment - nearly 89 percent (N=141)) to be highest in Central Delhi, followed by 85.6 percent (N=1057) in South West Delhi. At 77.6 percent (N=232), visual harassment is highest in New Delhi, followed by 76.9 percent (N=156) in West Delhi. Stalking is highest (56.7 percent) in Central Delhi, followed by 54.7 percent in New Delhi, while flashing at 32.1 percent (N=162) is highest in East Delhi, and violent physical attacks 22.5 percent (N=89) highest in North East Delhi. (Table 11)

Table 11: Kind of sexual harassment faced by women (district wise)

(All figures in percentage)

District	Verbal	Visual	Physical	Flashing	Stalking	Violent physical attack	Sexual assault or Rape	None	Others
Central Delhi	88.7	73.0	29.1	19.9	56.7	9.9	3.5	1.4	0.7
East Delhi	80.2	64.2	48.8	32.1	43.8	14.2	5.6	1.2	0.0
New Delhi	77.6	77.6	31.5	20.7	54.7	7.3	0.9	2.6	0.0
North Delhi	83.8	73.1	16.2	19.4	41.2	13.1	9.4	8.1	0.6
North-East Delhi	66.3	46.1	32.6	22.5	46.1	22.5	10.1	10.1	0.0
North-West Delhi	73.9	65.2	33.9	19.5	46.0	12.6	7.2	2.3	0.3
South Delhi	79.6	68.7	20.8	19.6	44.1	9.3	3.3	4.7	0.2
South-West Delhi	85.6	70.3	42.7	20.4	43.5	8.9	1.4	1.6	0.7
West Delhi	76.3	76.9	19.2	24.4	49.4	13.5	9.6	7.7	0.0
Total	80.8	69.4	31.0	20.8	45.4	10.3	3.8	3.5	0.3

What kinds of harassment have male respondents and common witnesses witnessed?

93.80 percent of men in West Delhi (N=32) reported witnessing verbal harassment of women, followed by 92.3 percent in North East Delhi (N=13). Stalking was witnessed by 80 percent men in East Delhi (N=35). (Table 12)

Table 12: Kind of sexual harassment faced by women according to men (district wise)

(All figures in percentage)

District	Verbal	Visual	Physical	Flashing	Stalking	Violent physical attack	Sexual assault or Rape	None
Central Delhi	70.40	25.90	48.10	7.40	33.30	33.30	29.60	3.70
East Delhi	91.40	37.10	22.90	8.60	80.00	11.40	5.70	2.90
New Delhi	77.60	51.00	61.20	24.50	40.80	14.30	2.00	8.20
North Delhi	80.90	38.30	34.00	23.40	51.10	27.70	2.10	4.30
North-East Delhi	92.30	30.80	30.80	46.20	30.80	0.00	7.70	0.00
North-West Delhi	70.80	41.70	54.20	8.30	33.30	12.50	8.30	20.80
South Delhi	82.00	41.80	42.50	17.30	50.00	7.50	3.70	4.80
South-West Delhi	84.60	35.10	35.90	14.90	54.30	5.90	3.80	4.30
West Delhi	93.80	40.60	34.40	43.80	40.60	9.40	6.20	0.00
Total	83.10	38.50	39.60	17.50	51.00	9.30	4.70	4.80

92.7 percent of common witnesses in South-West Delhi (N=41) and 90 percent in North East Delhi (N=10) reported witnessing verbal harassment. 76 percent in North West Delhi, 56.2 percent in East Delhi have been witness to visual harassment while 51.4 percent in South Delhi and 60 percent in New Delhi had witnessed physical harassment. Stalking was reported the highest at 50 percent in New Delhi (N=10). (Table 13)

Table 13: Kind of sexual harassment faced by women witnessed by common witnesses (district wise)

(All figures in percentage)

District	Verbal	Visual	Physical	Flashing	Stalking	Violent physical attack	Sexual assault or Rape	None
Central Delhi	81.8	45.5	63.6	9.1	27.3	36.4	18.2	0.0
East Delhi	68.8	56.2	6.2	31.2	75.0	6.2	6.2	6.2
New Delhi	80.0	40.0	60.0	20.0	40.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
North Delhi	50.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	43.8	0.0	0.0
North East Delhi	90.0	20.0	20.0	60.0	30.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
North- West Delhi	84.6	76.9	46.2	7.7	53.8	15.4	0.0	7.7
South Delhi	80.7	41.3	51.4	9.2	49.5	15.6	3.7	1.8
South-West Delhi	92.7	36.6	56.1	0.0	58.5	14.6	2.4	4.9
West Delhi	88.2	47.1	41.2	58.8	17.6	17.6	0.0	0.0
Total	81.1	43.6	46.1	17.7	48.6	18.9	3.3	2.5

College and school students 87 percent (N=454) and 86 percent (N=455) respectively, are most at risk from verbal harassment. 73 percent of college and 75 percent of school students are also most vulnerable to visual harassment. Of all the categories 41 percent of school students and 36.2 percent of high-level professional women are most vulnerable to physical harassment, while 51 percent of college students have been stalked. (Table 14)

Although it is evident that women of all categories face sexual harassment in small or great measure, school and college going students appear to be the most vulnerable in public places. (Table 14)

Table 14: Kind of sexual harassment faced by women (occupation wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Occupation	Verbal	Visual	Physical	Flashing	Stalking	Violent Physical Attack	Sexual assault or Rape	None
High Level category N= 437	81.2	65.9	36.2	21.1	42.8	7.6	3.2	3.2
Mid & Junior Level category N= 445	81.1	69.0	29.9	22.2	49.4	10.8	4.3	2.9
Factory workers N= 413	77.6	63.7	25.3	17.7	50.0	11.9	4.0	2.2
Other workers	77.7	67.3	39.5	24.9	40.9	14.3	3.1	4.4
Home maker N= 455	78.2	71.2	19.8	20.4	44.8	11.6	6.6	6.6
College Students N= 454	87.0	75.1	29.5	20.3	50.9	8.4	0.9	1.3
School Students N= 455	85.9	72.5	40.9	16.9	41.8	6.6	2.2	2.9
Others N= 411	76.9	69.8	27.5	23.4	42.3	11.9	6.3	4.9

From the table below, verbal harassment is highest among girls and women 86.5 percent (N=820) up to 20 years of age, followed by 83.2 percent (N=665) in the 21-25 age-group. Visual harassment is highest among girls and women (74.1 percent) up to 20 years of age (Table 15).

Table 15: Kind of sexual harassment faced by women (age group wise)

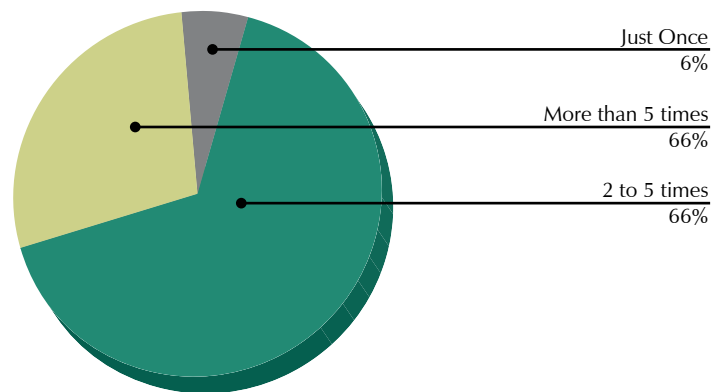
(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Verbal	Visual	Physical	Flashing	Stalking	Violent physical attack	Sexual assault or Rape	None
upto 20	86.5	74.1	33.2	17.3	44.0	7.4	2.0	2.6
21-25	83.2	69.0	26.3	22.1	49.9	11.1	3.9	2.1
26-30	78.7	71.0	30.9	23.3	46.4	10.4	4.3	3.1
31-35	77.7	66.0	31.5	20.9	47.7	11.0	3.2	4.7
above 35	76.5	64.4	32.8	20.5	39.5	12.5	6.0	5.8
Total	80.8	69.4	31.0	20.8	45.4	10.3	3.8	3.5

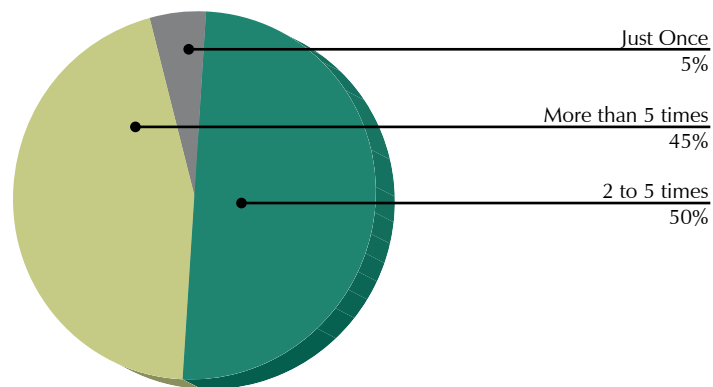
5.2 Frequency of sexual harassment faced in the past year

All the responses here pertain to the particular area respondents were interviewed, the recall period being one year.

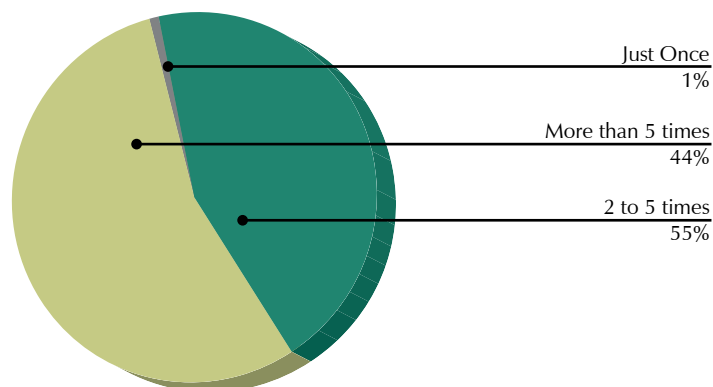
Most of the women who responded, reported to having faced sexual harassment 2 to 5 times in the past year. 66 percent (N=3367) women reported so. (See Fig 16)

Figure 16: Frequency of sexual harassment faced in the past year-women

50 percent men too reported having witnessed harassment of women 2 to 5 times in the same period and in the same area, while another 45 percent reported having witnessed harassment of women more than 5 times. (See Fig 17)

Figure 17: Frequency of sexual harassment witnessed in the past year-men

55 percent of common witnesses had witnessed sexual harassment more than 5 times in the past one year. 44 percent of common witnesses had witnessed harassment 2 to 5 times in the same period, in that area. (See Fig 18)

Figure18: Frequency of sexual harassment witnessed in the past year - common witness

Out of those women who did not face sexual harassment in the select interview area, 27.3 percent (N=428) reported to having experienced it in other areas during the past year.

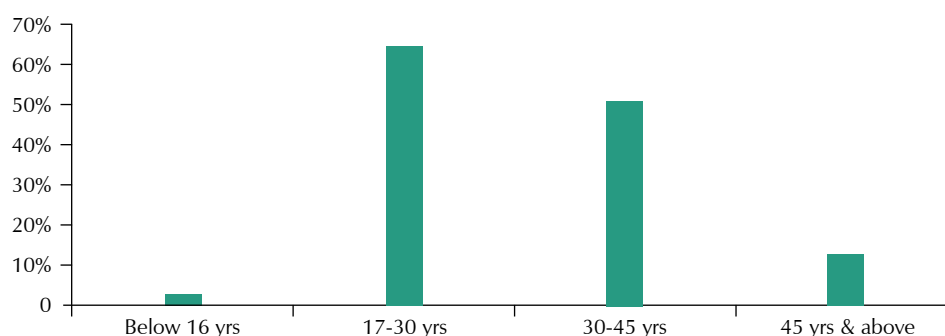
Some incidents of harassment as narrated by women respondents:

- Mujhe ek aadmi isharae kar raha tha , toh maine usko daant lagayi
- ek 30-35 saal ka aadmi mere peeche khada ho kar mujhe haath laga raha tha, achanak maine uska haath pakda aur uske mu par do thappad mare
- Main market mein saaman lene ja rahi thi toh ek aadmi ne zor se dhakka diya toh mainee usko ulta seedha suna diya
- Bus mein baithi thi aur ek aadmi paas mein khada tha aur chipak raha tha. Main pareshan ho kar aage chali gayi
- Siti (whistle) bajai aur comment kiya tha
- Ek baar ek aadmi sharabpee kar bus mein baitha tha aur mere ko paer (foot) mare jaa raha tha
- Mujhe kuch ladke ghur rahe the sadak pe
- kuch log humara peeche kar rahe the toh humne apne ghar walo ko phone kiya aur humare ghar walo ne usko pakad ke peeta
- Main bus mein bhathe hui the aur ek 20-25 saal ka aadmi bar bar mere kandhe pe haath phair raha tha
- Sadak par ek ladke ke saath ched chad kar rahe the

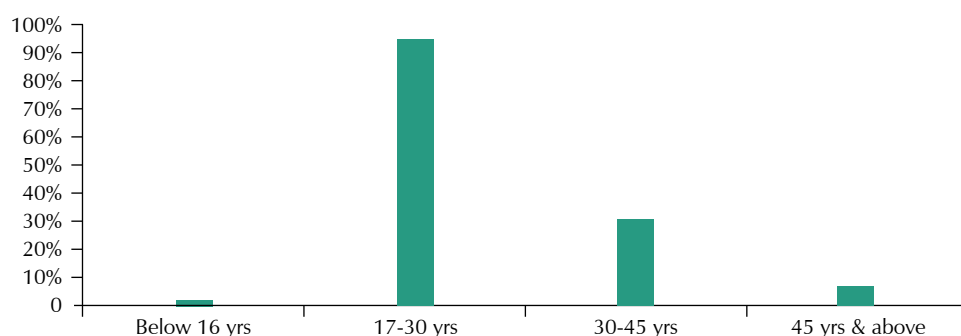
5.3 Details about perpetrators and their surroundings

When asked about the profile of perpetrators, 64.8 percent of women (N=3388) believed the perpetrator to be in the age-group 17-30 years, whereas around 51 percent women believed that it is in the range of 30-45 years, and another 12.3 percent factored it above 45 years. (See Fig 19)

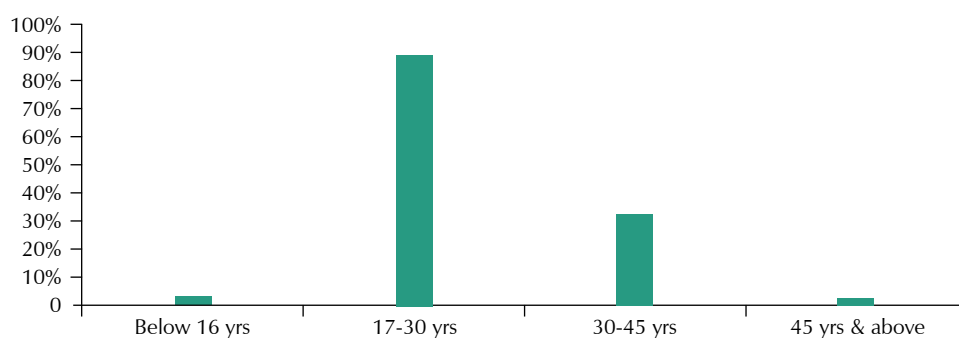
Figure 19: Age of perpetrator- as perceived by women



Interestingly, 95 percent of men (N=847) believed the perpetrators to be in the 17-30 age-group, while a lesser 31 percent considered them in the age bracket of 30-45 years. Only 6.8 percent men respondents claimed that they were older - above 45 years. (See Fig 20)

Figure 20: Age of perpetrator-as perceived by men

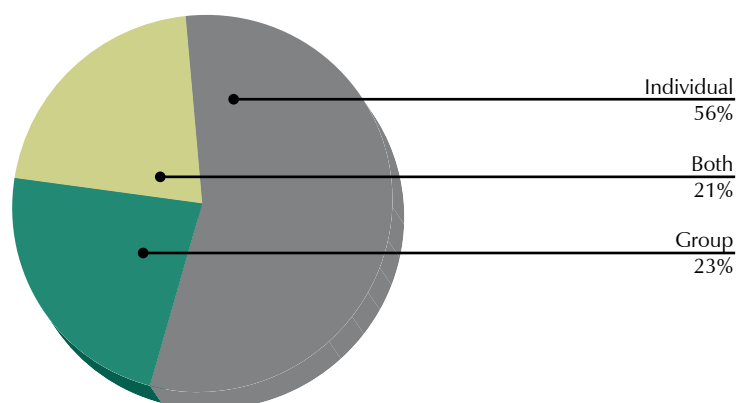
89 percent of common witnesses (N=237) considered perpetrators to be in the 17-30 years category while 32.5 percent considered them in the 30-45 age-group. (See Fig 21)

Figure 21: Age of perpetrator-as perceived by common witness

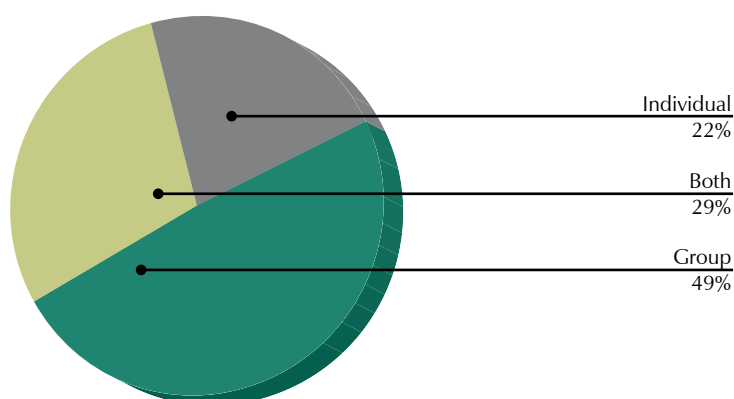
Patterns of harassment: Single and/or in a group

According to women respondents 56 percent of perpetrators (N=3388) acted individually while 23 percent operated in groups. (See Fig 22)

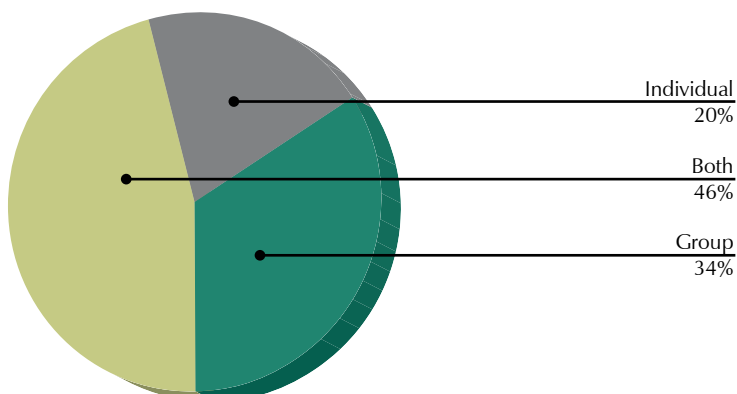
21 percent referred to both patterns of harassment.

Figure 22: Perpetrator was single or in group-according to women

According to 49 percent of men (N=848) most perpetrators moved in groups, whereas 29 percent pointed to individual form of harassment. (See Fig-23)

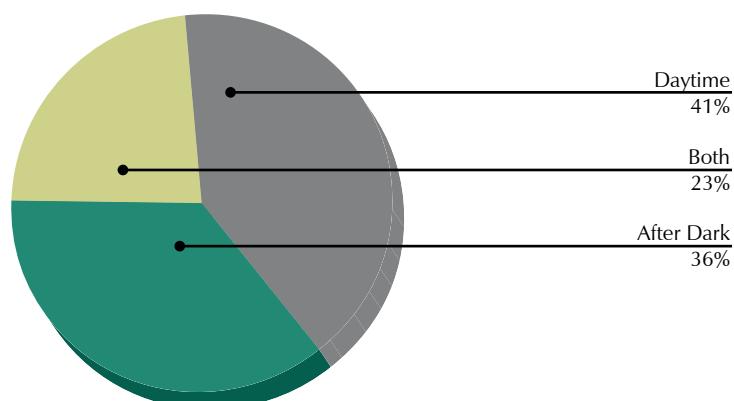
Figure 23: Perpetrator was single or in group-according to men

46 percent of common witnesses said the perpetrators were both individuals and in groups. 34 percent (N=237) mentioned that they had witnessed harassment on women by groups of men. (See Fig-24)

Figure 24: Perpetrator was single or in group-according to common witness

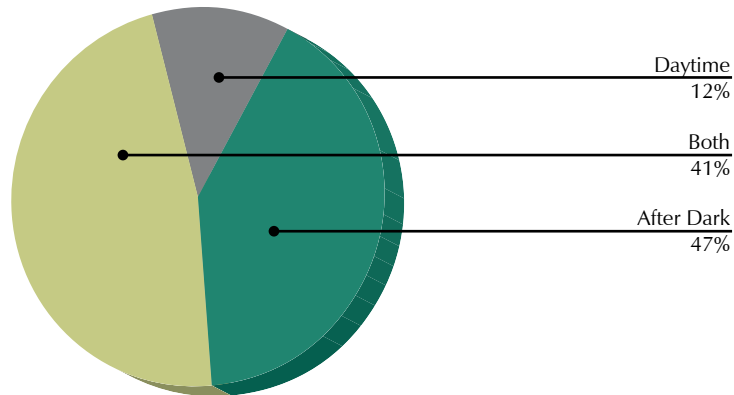
5.4 Unsafe times

A higher percent of women, 41 percent (N=3371) had experienced harassment during the day, while 36 percent faced it after dark. A significant percent of women 23 percent faced harassment both during the daytime and after dark. (See Fig 25)

Figure 25: Unsafe timings-according to women

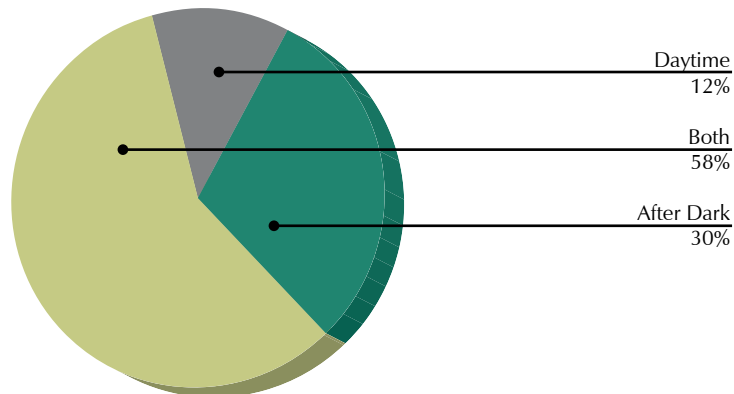
A greater percentage of men 41 percent (N=848) had witnessed more incidents of harassment after dark than during daytime, while 47 witnessed it both during daytime and after dark. (See Fig 26)

Figure 26: Unsafe timings-according to men



A smaller number - 30 percent of common witnesses (N=237) - reported witnessing more incidents of sexual harassment after dark, whereas 58 percent said they witnessed such harassment both after dark as well as during the day. (See Fig 27)

Figure 27: Unsafe timings-according to common witness



5.5 Unsafe public spaces in women's experience

It is quite clear that the roadside and public transportation are considered as highly vulnerable for women. 70 percent of women (N=3388) said they were harassed by the roadside. More than 50 percent women had faced harassment in public transport while 42 percent had been harassed while waiting for public transport.

In terms of specific sites, 80.7 percent of women (N=1039) were harassed in South-West Delhi, followed by 77.5 percent in East Delhi (N=160). 67.4 percent (N=144) were more harassed in public transport in West Delhi followed by 62.6 percent (N=139) in Central Delhi. (Table 16)

Table 16: Public places where women faced harassment

(All figures in percentage)

District	Roadside	Using public transport	Waiting for public transport	Market place	Park	Public toilets
Central Delhi	58.3	62.6	32.4	64.7	28.8	2.2
East Delhi	77.5	55.0	56.2	47.5	13.1	3.1
New Delhi	60.2	56.2	42.5	47.3	31.4	4.9
North Delhi	74.8	44.9	29.3	79.6	10.9	6.8
North-East Delhi	52.5	60.0	56.2	51.2	21.2	2.5
North-West Delhi	65.7	59.2	44.1	45.3	22.2	4.7
South Delhi	63.6	41.9	36.1	44.1	18.3	4.2
South-West Delhi	80.7	54.2	47.6	46.4	15.2	4.2
West Delhi	66.7	67.4	44.4	61.8	27.8	2.8
Total	69.6	51.4	42.2	48.6	18.9	4.2

Approximately 60 percent men (N=846) had witnessed women being harassed at the roadside, while around 49 percent had witnessed incidents of harassment in public transport. Nearly 77 percent of men (N=26) in Central Delhi, followed by 68.4 percent (N=19) in North West Delhi had witnessed roadside harassment. 75.6 percent in New Delhi (N=45) and 68.8 percent of men (N=32) in West Delhi had witnessed harassment in public transport. (Table 17)

Table 17: Public spaces where men witnessed women facing harassment

(All figures in percentage)

District	Roadside	Using public transport	Waiting for public transport	Market place	Park	Public toilets
Central Delhi	76.9	50.0	26.9	42.3	42.3	7.7
East Delhi	61.8	32.4	52.9	26.5	67.6	0.0
New Delhi	42.2	75.6	62.2	55.6	71.1	0.0
North Delhi	62.2	28.9	64.4	55.6	44.4	0.0
North-East Delhi	7.7	53.8	61.5	30.8	76.9	0.0
North-West Delhi	68.4	63.2	42.1	26.3	26.3	0.0
South Delhi	64.3	57.9	37.5	37.5	38.6	1.4
South-West Delhi	61.6	38.6	37.5	35.8	45.7	1.1
West Delhi	21.9	68.8	62.5	28.1	81.2	6.2
Total	59.8	48.5	42.0	37.7	46.8	1.4

71 percent (N=236) of common witnesses had seen women experience harassment at the roadside, while nearly 52 percent had seen them also being harassed while waiting for the public transport. Close to 92 percent common witnesses in North-West Delhi, followed by 90 percent in South-West Delhi witnessed such roadside harassment. (Table 18)

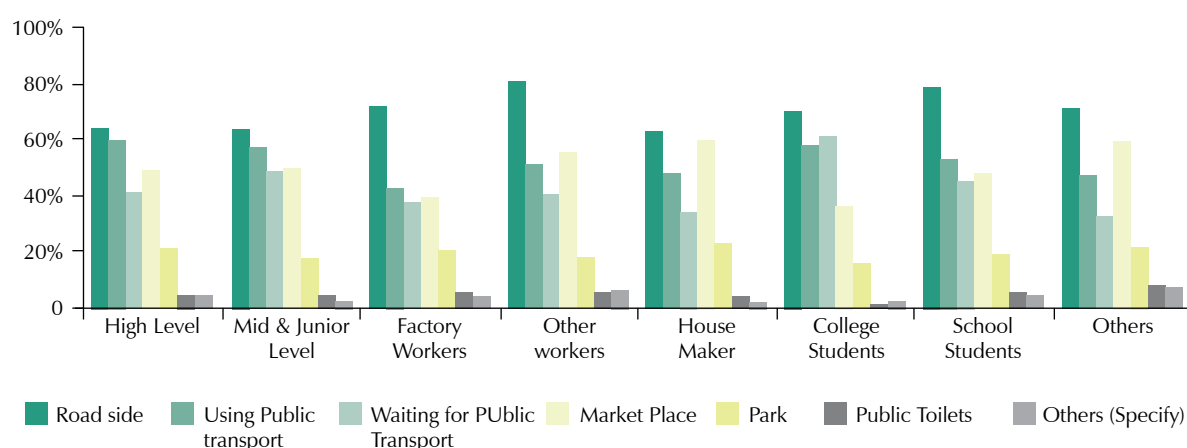
Table 18: Public spaces where women faced sexual harassment witnessed by common witness

(All figures in percentage)

District	Roadside	Using public transport	Waiting for public transport	Market place	Park	Public toilets
Central Delhi	81.8	36.4	63.6	9.1	54.5	0.0
East Delhi	86.7	13.3	66.7	46.7	26.7	13.3
New Delhi	80.0	60.0	20.0	90.0	80.0	0.0
North Delhi	25.0	50.0	62.5	81.2	56.2	0.0
North East Delhi	20.0	30.0	70.0	20.0	90.0	0.0
North- West Delhi	91.7	58.3	0.0	16.7	66.7	0.0
South Delhi	73.6	42.5	54.7	50.0	33.0	7.5
South-West Delhi	89.7	25.6	41.0	35.9	30.8	5.1
West Delhi	41.2	70.6	70.6	35.3	70.6	5.9
Total	70.80	41.10	51.70	45.30	43.60	5.50

Occupation details indicate that of all categories of respondents, those that were unorganized workers - 79 percent (N=395) and those that were school students (70 percent) - faced the maximum harassment at the roadside. As well, women from all occupational categories, faced harassment in the markets. (See Fig 28)

Figure 28: Public spaces where women faced sexual harassment in the past year- occupation wise



73.5 percent of women (N=799) that were in the age group (upto) 20 years and less faced the maximum harassment by the roadside, and this was closely followed by 70 percent experiencing such harassment in the age-groups spanning 21-35 years. (Table 19)

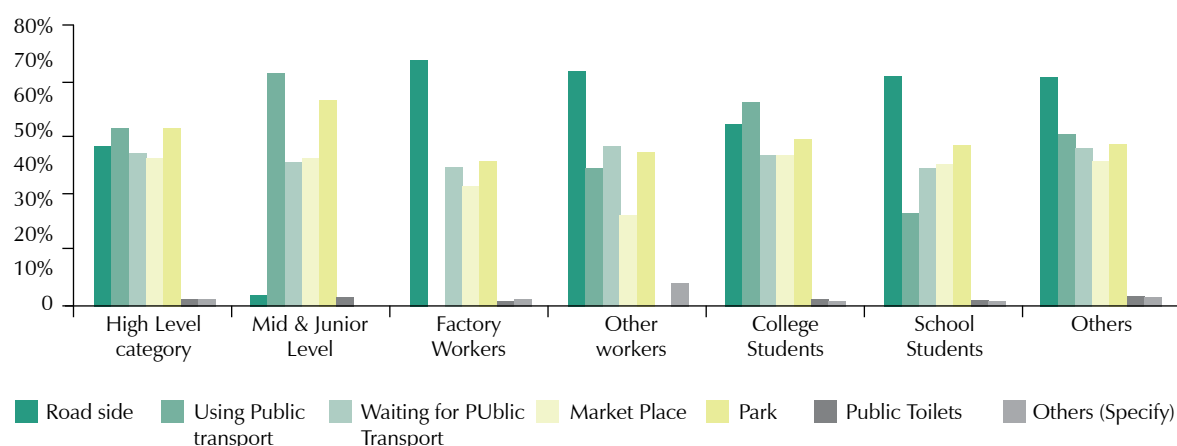
Table 19: Public spaces where women faced sexual harassment in the past year-age group wise

(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Roadside	Using public transport	Waiting for public transport	Market place	Park	Public toilets
upto 20	73.5	54.8	49.9	42.3	17.1	4.1
21-25	69.0	53.0	43.3	50.5	18.1	2.8
26-30	69.5	50.7	43.2	50.3	18.1	3.7
31-35	71.5	52.1	37.9	51.1	21.5	4.3
above 35	63.5	45.7	33.2	50.4	21.1	6.4
Total	69.6	51.4	42.2	48.6	18.9	4.2

69 percent of male respondents, followed by 69.6 percent of factory workers (N=125) and 66.4 percent of unorganized workers (N=134) had witnessed roadside harassment. 65.5 percent of mid level category men (N=96) also witnessed sexual harassment against women in public transport. (Fig 28, 29)

Figure 29: Public spaces where women faced sexual harassment in the past year-occupation wise (men)



Among men, the highest percentage, 63.2 percent, among the age-group 'up to 20 year' reported to be witnessing sexual harassment of women by the roadside. (Table 20)

Table 20: Public spaces where women faced sexual harassment in the past year-age group wise (witnessed by men)

(All figures in percentage)

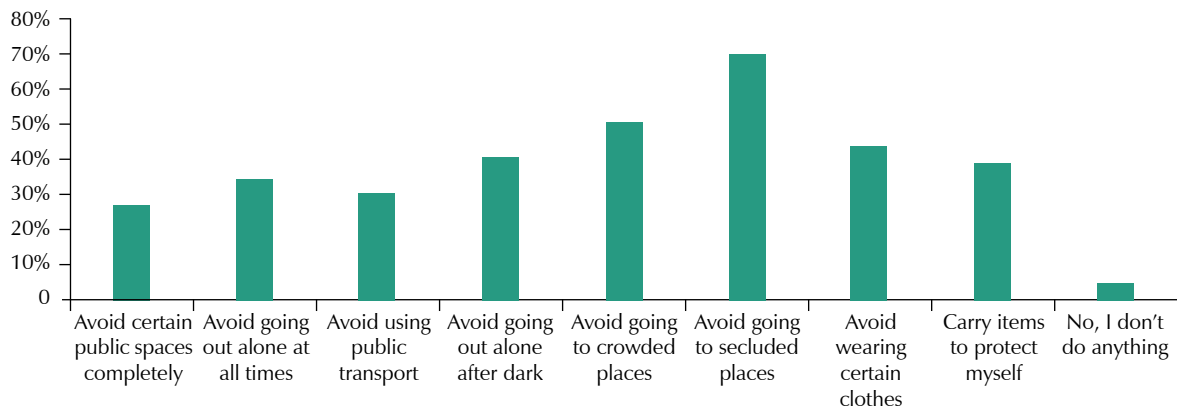
Age Group	Roadside	Using public transport	Waiting for public transport	Market place	Park	Public toilets	Others
upto 20	63.2	37.7	37.3	41.5	43.9	1.4	0.5
21-25	59.6	54.4	40.4	34.6	36.8	0.0	5.1
26-30	55.3	56.7	48.0	34.7	53.3	0.7	1.3
31-35	62.7	49.2	44.1	41.5	46.6	1.7	1.7
above 35	58.3	49.1	42.2	36.1	51.3	2.6	2.2
Total	59.8	48.5	42.0	37.7	46.8	1.4	2.0

5.6 Strategies used by women to avoid/deal with sexual harassment

Women are forced to adopt their own protection strategies which include self-imposition of curfew hours, observing some form of dress code and restricting their mobility. This is due to their lack of trust in police and other support systems, thus indicating that the onus of safety and protection continues to be on the women.

Out of 3813 women, 70 percent of the women reported that they avoided going to secluded places, another 50 percent keep away from crowded places, while 43.5 percent avoid wearing 'certain kinds' of clothing. 40 percent avoid going out alone after dark. (See Fig 30)

Figure 30: What women do to avoid sexual harassment?



As for district specific data in Delhi it can be seen that almost 78 percent women respondents (N=96) in North-East Delhi followed by around 70 percent (N=172) in North Delhi avoid going to secluded places. 65.7 percent of women in North Delhi, followed by 57.7 percent (N=241) in New Delhi stay away from crowded places.

As for dress codes, around 60 percent of women in the New Delhi area, followed by 50 percent in North Delhi prefer not to wear certain kinds of clothes. The highest percentage of women, around 58 percent in the North Delhi area reported avoiding going out alone after dark. (Table 21)

Table 21: Steps taken by women to avoid sexual harassment (district wise)

(All figures in percentage)

District	Avoid certain public spaces completely	Avoid going out alone at all times	Avoid using public transport	Avoid going out alone after dark	Avoid going to crowded places	Avoid going to secluded places	Avoid wearing certain clothes	Carry items to protect myself	No, I don't do anything
Central Delhi	31.7	35.2	27.6	38.6	55.2	73.8	42.8	37.9	2.1
East Delhi	41.3	21.2	14.0	21.8	45.8	72.1	32.4	28.5	1.7
New Delhi	19.5	50.2	46.5	54.4	57.7	77.6	59.8	56.8	1.7
North Delhi	30.8	51.7	45.3	58.1	65.7	69.8	49.4	50.0	1.7
North-East Delhi	8.3	37.5	37.5	37.5	50.0	78.1	47.9	44.8	3.1

District	Avoid certain public spaces completely	Avoid going out alone at all times	Avoid using public transport	Avoid going out alone after dark	Avoid going to crowded places	Avoid going to secluded places	Avoid wearing certain clothes	Carry items to protect myself	No, I don't do anything
North-West Delhi	27.2	30.6	28.2	33.2	47.2	75.9	40.9	40.9	3.4
South Delhi	17.3	32.9	31.9	38.1	50.7	67.1	44.8	38.6	4.0
South-West Delhi	34.2	29.9	26.4	41.4	46.6	68.3	41.5	33.7	4.1
West Delhi	38.1	35.6	25.6	41.9	44.4	59.4	33.1	31.9	3.1
Total	26.5	33.5	30.3	39.9	49.9	69.6	43.5	38.4	3.5

Further, over 75 percent of home makers (N=486) and college students avoid going to secluded places. 60 percent of home makers stay away from crowded places, while 49 percent avoid going out alone after dark. 38 percent do not use crowded public transport, while nearly 52 percent of mid-level women professionals avoid wearing certain kinds of clothes. (Table 22)

It appears that women home makers practice the utmost restraint in their mobility, as compared to other categories of women working outside their homes. (Table 22)

Table 22: Steps taken by women to avoid sexual harassment (occupation wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Occupation	Avoid certain public spaces completely	Avoid going out alone at all times	Avoid using public transport	Avoid going out alone after dark	Avoid going to crowded places	Avoid going to secluded places	Avoid wearing certain clothes	Carry items to protect myself	No, I don't do anything
High Level category	24.1	28.0	27.8	32.4	47.3	68.4	40.0	33.5	3.6
Mid & Junior Level	23.1	39.0	34.0	39.0	51.5	72.7	51.7	43.3	2.6
Factory workers	13.6	34.5	33.0	37.9	48.9	64.5	48.3	47.9	4.9
Other workers	35.3	27.8	25.7	39.6	46.0	68.7	33.6	33.4	3.6
Home Makers	25.1	45.7	0.4	49.0	59.9	75.7	46.1	41.4	2.1
College Students	28.8	29.0	26.1	37.2	54.2	76.2	44.1	33.7	1.7
School Students	32.4	35.3	31.6	47.4	47.8	66.9	47.2	35.3	3.5

Age-wise analysis shows that the highest percent in the age-groups 31-35 years more than around 72 percent (N=605) avoid going out to secluded places. More than 30 percent of girls and women of all ages avoid going out alone at all times, while more than 40 percent avoid crowded places. More than 30 percent of women of all age groups carry some items to protect themselves. (Table 23)

Table 23: Steps taken by women to avoid sexual harassment (age group wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Avoid certain public spaces completely	Avoid going out alone at all times	Avoid using public transport	Avoid going out alone after dark	Avoid going to crowded places	Avoid going to secluded places	Avoid wearing certain clothes	Carry items to protect myself	No, I don't do anything
upto 20	29.8	34.4	31.6	45.3	51.5	69.9	48.8	37.8	2.7
21-25	23.9	37.5	34.0	44.5	55.2	71.2	47.2	41.8	1.1
26-30	28.0	31.7	28.6	35.7	48.8	69.2	42.0	38.5	2.5
31-35	24.3	31.9	29.8	38.2	47.6	71.9	41.2	39.2	3.5
above 35	24.9	32.0	27.6	35.8	46.0	66.1	37.4	35.3	7.8
Total	26.5	33.5	30.3	39.9	49.9	69.6	43.5	38.4	3.5

6. RESPONSES TO INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT FACED BY WOMEN

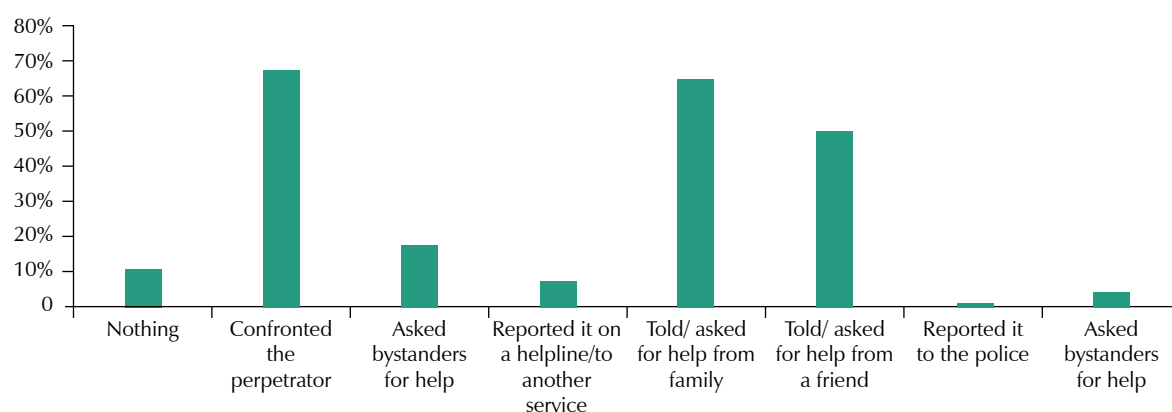
6.1 Actions taken against sexual harassment

An effort was made to understand the forms of actions taken by women when faced with sexual harassment. On an average, a significantly large number of women – 68 percent of respondents (N=3493) - had confronted the perpetrators in some form or the other. Given the trust deficit in the police, women in times of crisis, turned mostly to their families and friends for help. 65 percent of respondents had sought help from their families while 50 percent had approached friends. 17 percent had asked bystanders for help and 6.6 percent had accessed helplines, while 10 percent took no actions.

The survey reveals an acute lack of trust in the police by women respondents in all categories. A mere 0.8 percent of respondents had reported incidents of harassment to the police. They feared trivialization of the incident/issue as well some form of token actions only rather than an active response to their violations.

While it is disconcerting to note the rampant nature of sexual harassment in public places, some comfort can be gained from the fact that nearly 70 percent of the women have stood up, resisted and confronted the perpetrator. (See Fig 31)

Figure 31: Actions taken by women against sexual harassment



District wise data indicates that a high of 88.7 percent of women (N=141) in Central Delhi had confronted the perpetrator, followed by 82.6 percent (N=161) in East Delhi and around 80 percent (N=84) in North East Delhi. Majority of the women - 75 percent (N=154) in West Delhi, followed by 74 percent (N=1066) in South-West Delhi had sought help from their families and 57.6 percent in South West Delhi had turned to friends. (Table 24)

Table 24: Reactions by women to sexual harassment (district wise)

(All figures in percentage)

District	Nothing	Confronted the perpetrator	Asked bystanders for help	Reported it on a helpline/ to another service	Told/ asked for help from family	Told/ asked for help from a friend	Reported it to the police	Other
Central Delhi	4.3	88.7	24.8	9.9	63.8	44.7	0.0	4.3
East Delhi	5.0	82.6	20.5	5.0	69.6	50.9	0.6	3.7
New Delhi	13.2	73.7	16.7	10.5	58.3	48.2	0.4	3.5
North Delhi	17.4	65.8	20.0	1.3	66.5	39.4	0.6	7.1
North-East Delhi	6.0	79.8	14.3	11.9	66.7	48.8	0.0	0.0
North-West Delhi	8.5	75.9	16.2	8.5	55.6	40.6	1.2	2.4
South Delhi	11.6	58.4	19.7	8.0	57.8	48.4	1.3	3.2
South-West Delhi	8.6	67.3	12.9	4.3	73.7	57.6	0.6	3.2
West Delhi	8.4	72.7	16.9	3.9	74.7	47.4	0.0	7.1
Total	9.9	67.6	17.1	6.6	64.6	50.0	0.8	3.5

High level professional women around 75 percent (N=431) closely followed by 72 percent (N=442) of mid-level professional women and 71 percent (N=414) of unorganized workers were most vocal in protesting harassment and confronting the perpetrator. In contrast, 59.2 percent of school and 59.5 percent of college students however chose not to confront the perpetrators. This clearly indicates the greater vulnerability of younger who are unable to assert themselves and break the silence around their violence. They may also not be aware of their legal rights and fear speaking out in public. (Table 25)

Table 25: Reactions of women to sexual harassment (occupation wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Occupation profile	HL N=431	M/JL N=448	FW N=439	OW N=414	HM N=442	S-Coll N=458	S-Sch N=451	Other N=409
Nothing	8.6	12.3	10.0	11.8	9.5	6.3	9.7	11.0
Confronted the perpetrator	74.7	72.1	67.4	70.5	69.5	59.2	59.5	68.9
Asked bystanders for help	13.9	16.1	18.2	14.3	21.9	17.2	11.7	23.7
Reported it on a helpline/ to another service	7.7	8.3	9.8	3.1	7.9	9.2	1.8	5.1
Told/asked for help from family	61.3	54.9	59.5	67.4	65.8	65.1	77.0	66.0
Told/asked for help from a friend	46.6	48.2	43.7	40.1	37.8	71.4	64.4	45.2
Reported it to the police	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.6	1.5	0.2	0.2
Other	1.6	3.8	1.8	8.2	4.1	3.7	1.6	3.2

On the basis of age-groupings, 73.3 percent of women (N=546) in the 31-35 year age-group were most vocal in confronting the perpetrators, closely followed by 72.1 percent of women (N=674) in the 21-25 year age-group. Majority of girls and women up to the age of 20 years sought help from their families. (Table 26)

Table 26: Reactions of women to sexual harassment (age group wise)

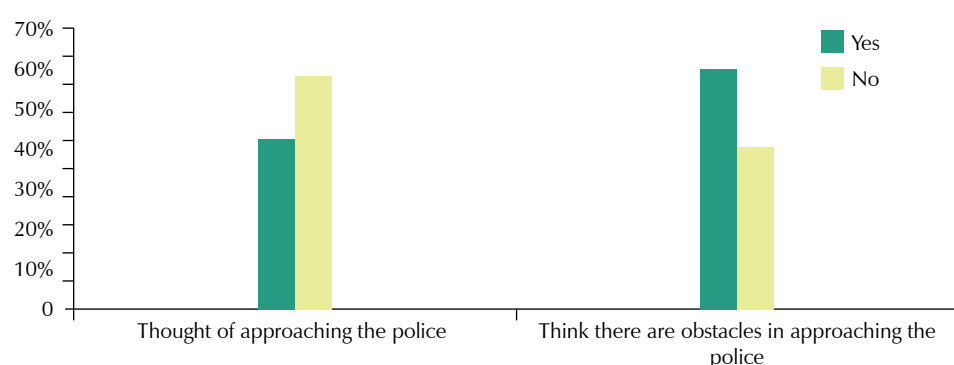
(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Nothing	Confronted the perpetrator	Asked bystanders for help	Reported it on a helpline/to another service	Told/asked for help from family	Told/asked for help from a friend	Reported it to the police	Other
upto 20	9.3	60.9	15.4	5.9	68.4	64.2	1.0	2.8
21-25	12.0	63.8	17.5	6.4	61.1	52.8	0.3	5.0
26-30	7.5	72.1	16.9	8.6	65.5	45.6	0.4	4.1
31-35	9.0	73.3	17.9	6.2	68.1	46.3	0.4	2.4
above 35	12.2	69.7	18.3	5.7	59.2	37.3	2.1	2.7
Total	9.9	67.6	17.1	6.6	64.6	50.0	0.8	3.5

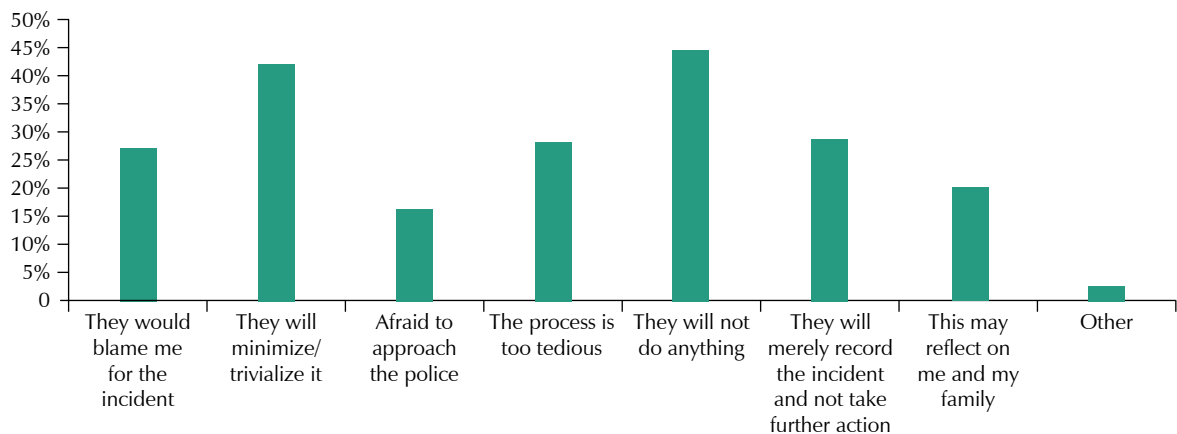
6.2 Image of Police in public eye

Most women respondents pointed to the number of obstacles that come in their way in approaching the police in times of crises. Merely 0.8 percent of women respondents had reported sexual harassment to the police, while around 58 percent (N=3571) said that they would not even think of doing so. 60 percent (N=3596) of the women felt there were many obstacles which hinder them in approaching the police. (See Fig 32)

Figure 32: Approaching the police & obstacles faced —as perceived by women



44.6 percent (N=2149) of respondents believed the police would not prosecute the perpetrators. 42 percent felt the police would attempt to trivialize these incidents, and around 29 percent said they would merely perform a token service by recording the incident with no further action. 27.3 percent of women believed that the police would blame them rather than focus on and prosecute the perpetrator. (See Fig 33)

Figure 33: Obstacles faced in approaching the Police

Taking in account the occupational profiles, all categories of respondents revealed an acute lack of trust in the police. Around 50 percent of unorganized sector workers and 46 percent of factory workers believed that the police would not take any action against the perpetrators. 31 percent of High Level professional women and 35 percent of Mid Level professionals believed that the police would merely record the incidents of sexual harassment. (Table 27)

Table 27: Obstacles faced in approaching the Police (occupation wise)

(All figures in percentage)

The obstacles faced in approaching the police	HL (N=223)	M/JP (N=277)	FW (N=301)	OW (N=273)	HM (N=260)	S-Coll (N=305)	S-Sch (N=255)	Other (N=255)
They would blame me for the incident	24.20	29.60	25.20	31.10	29.20	28.90	25.50	23.90
They will minimize/trivialize it	44.40	43.30	42.50	42.50	45.40	40.30	40.80	40.80
Afraid to approach the police	5.80	9.70	23.30	20.50	16.50	12.50	20.40	20.80
The process is too tedious	35.40	28.20	22.60	17.60	26.90	45.60	24.30	25.50
They will not do anything	44.40	44.40	45.80	49.10	39.60	39.00	45.90	49.40
They will merely record the incident and not take further action	30.90	34.30	25.60	22.30	25.40	31.10	28.60	32.50
This may reflect on me and my family	18.80	20.60	13.30	18.70	23.50	25.60	20.40	20.80
Other	5.80	1.40	1.00	4.40	1.90	1.60	1.20	3.90

In the age-group categories, around 50 percent of women above 35 years (N=393) believed that the police would not take any action against the perpetrators. Nearly 45.5 percent of women in this category were apprehensive that the police would trivialize the incidents of harassment. (Table 28)

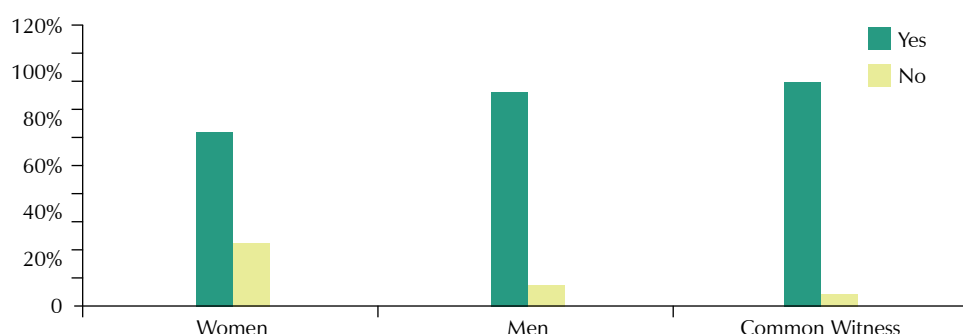
Table 28: Obstacles faced in approaching the Police (age group wise)

(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	They would blame me for the incident	They will minimize/trivialize it	Afraid to approach the police	The process is too tedious	They will not do anything	They will merely record the incident and not take further action	This may reflect on me and my family	Other
Up to 20	27.6	40.4	15.2	33.3	41.3	30.9	23.4	1.8
21-25	32.	43.4	14.8	29.1	42.5	25.5	23.9	2.1
26-30	28.1	41.9	17.4	26.9	44.7	25.7	19.2	2.6
31-35	25.6	41.3	16.6	26.2	46.5	32.0	20.9	1.5
above 35	21.6	45.5	18.1	24.9	49.4	30.8	13.0	4.8
Total	27.3	42.4	16.4	28.3	44.6	28.8	20.2	2.6

6.3 Public reactions to sexual harassment

A large percentage of women 73.5 percent (N=3789) reported to have witnessed other women or girls being harassed in public. The corresponding percentage is considerably higher for men and common witness categories at 91.5 percent (N=928) and 95.5 percent respectively. (See Fig 34)

Figure 34: Have you witnessed women/girls being harassed in public over the past year?

Out of 73.5 percent (N=3789), 37 percent of women (N=2784) said they support the victim, 22 percent said that they gathered public support while just 7.1 percent said they would approach the police. However, a fairly large percent - 54 percent - preferred not to get involved. 26.4 percent of men and 23.4 percent of common witnesses said they supported the victim, while 69 percent of men and 66.4 percent of common witnesses preferred not to get involved. (See

To a similar question, 26.4 percent men and 23.4 percent common witnesses reported that they supported the victim, while 69 percent (N=928) men and 66.4 percent common witnesses preferred not to get involved in such situations. (See Fig 35A & 35B)

Figure 35A: What is your reaction when you see other women or girls being harassed?

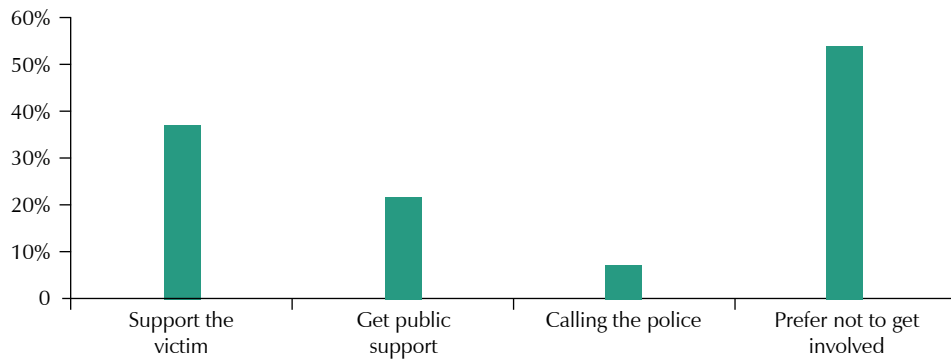
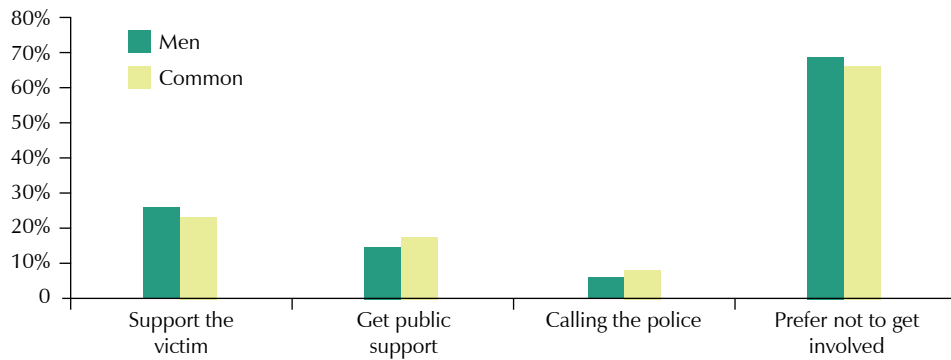


Figure 35B: What is your reaction when you see women or girls being harassed?



From the district wise data, it has been noted that 55 percent (N=60) of respondents in North East Delhi, followed by 43.7 percent (N=190) in New Delhi as well as 43.7 percent in North-west Delhi come to the support of the victim (Table 31). The highest percentage of women in North Delhi around 74 percent (N=115) followed by West Delhi 64.5 percent (N=124), reported that they do not prefer to get involved. (Table 29)

Table 29: Reaction of women to sexual harassment of other women (district wise)

(All figures in percentage)

District	Support the victim	Get public support	Calling the police	Prefer not to get involved	Other
Central Delhi	36.6	26.8	19.6	49.1	4.5
East Delhi	31.8	27.3	5.5	55.5	6.4
New Delhi	43.7	22.6	8.4	51.1	0.0
North Delhi	21.7	4.3	0.9	73.9	2.6
North-East Delhi	55.0	11.7	1.7	38.3	1.7
North-West Delhi	43.7	24.1	13.2	45.4	3.4
South Delhi	39.3	27.1	7.8	49.6	1.1
South-West Delhi	33.5	18.8	4.4	58.5	1.4
West Delhi	27.4	8.9	3.2	64.5	2.4
Total	37.0	21.8	7.1	53.7	1.8

When asked, if actually the respondents intervened when faced with such situation, majority of the respondents said that they did not intervene. Around 55 percent (N=2784) women, 68 percent (N=854) men and 73.6 percent (N=184) common witnesses answered in the negative. (See Fig 36A & 36B)

Figure 36A: Intervened or taken any action witnessing harassment of other women

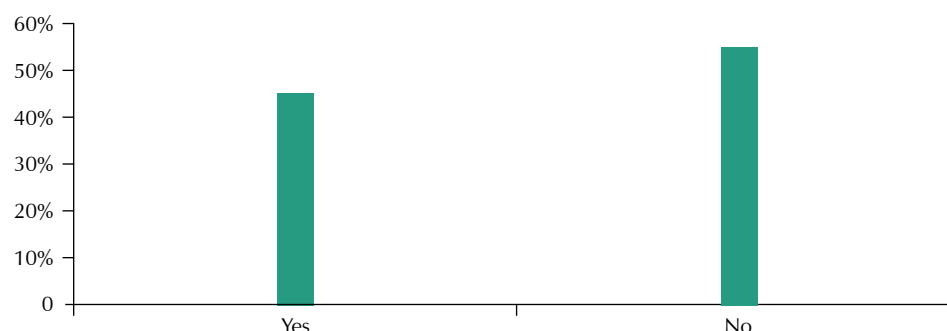
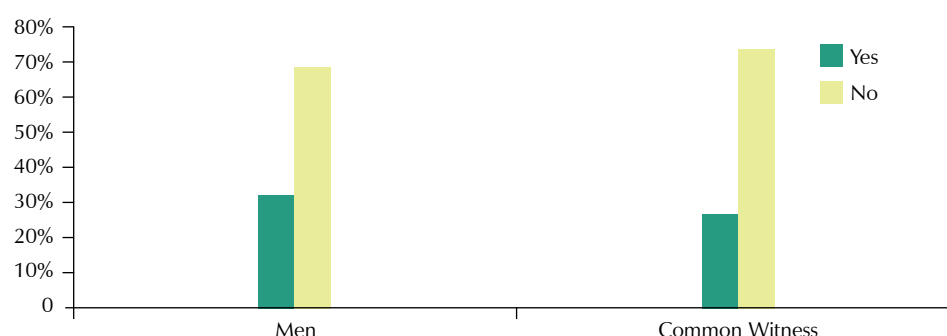
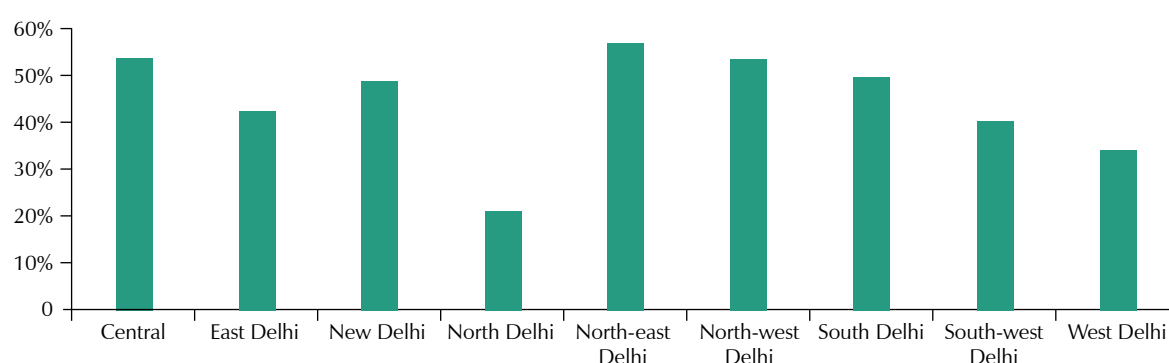


Figure 36B: Intervened or taken any action witnessing harassment of women



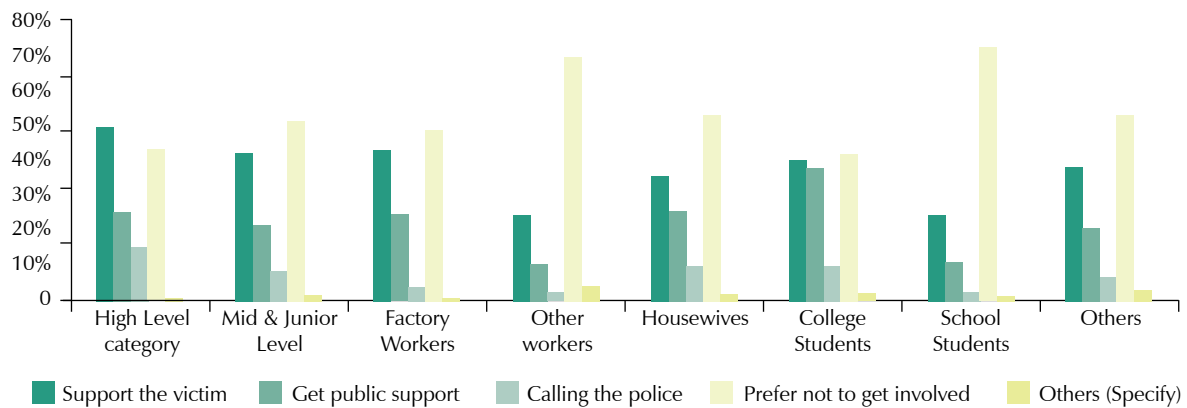
On a district-wise basis, 56.7 percent (N=60) in North East Delhi, 53.6 percent (N=112) in Central Delhi and 53.2 percent in North-west Delhi (N=295) reported that they actually supported the victim. (See Fig 37)

Figure 37: Intervened or taken any action witnessing harassment of other women (district wise)



Based on occupation category, the highest percentage of women among High Level category - nearly 50 percent - support the victim while 69 percent of unorganized women workers prefer not to get involved. (See Fig 38)

Figure 38: Intervened or taken any action witnessing harassment of other women (occupation wise)



Based on the age group, a high of 61.8 percent (N=638) of girls up to the age of 20 prefer not to get involved in cases of sexual harassment. 44.3 percent of women (N=533) above 35 years however said they would support the victim (Table 30)

Table 30: Took action witnessing harassment of other women

(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Yes	No
upto 20	37.3	62.7
21-25	43.5	56.5
26-30	46.4	53.6
31-35	51.0	49.0
above 35	49.5	50.5
Total	45.2	54.8

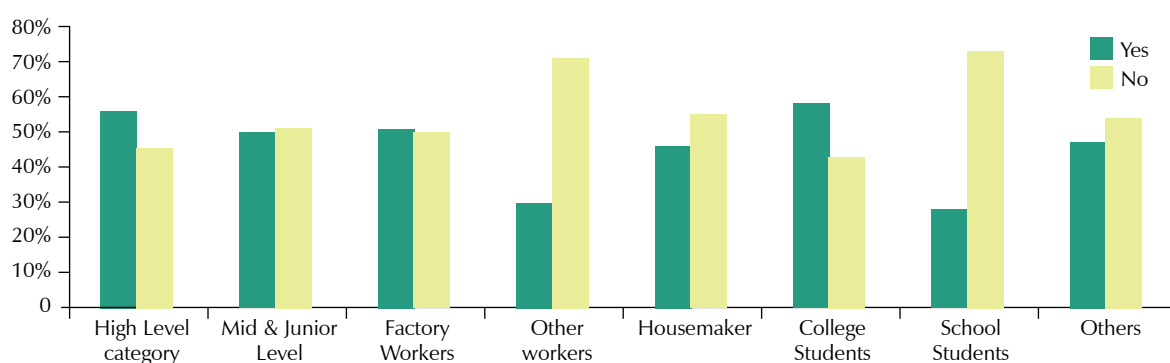
Table 31: Type of action taken when witnessed harassment of other women

(All figures in percentage)

Age Group	Support the victim	Get public support	Calling the police	Prefer not to get involved	Other
upto 20	29.2	20.4	4.4	61.8	1.4
21-25	32.4	25.4	6.0	55.5	2.0
26-30	39.2	24.0	9.2	52.4	1.7
31-35	41.0	23.5	9.3	47.9	2.6
above 35	44.3	15.9	6.9	48.8	1.7
Total	37.0	21.8	7.1	53.7	1.8

In analyzing the age-group data, the highest percentage of women 51 percent (N=463) who chose to support the victim were between 31-35 years of age, while the lowest 37.3 percent (N=638) were from among those up to 20 years of age (Table 31)

In terms of real actions taken, 55.2 percent (N=35) of High-Level professional women reported having intervened in support of the victim, while a much lesser percentage —29.6 percent (N=33) of unorganized women workers and 27.6 percent (N=362) of school students had done so (See Fig 39)

Figure 39: Taken action witnessing harassment of other women (occupation wise)

Women's responses to Sexual Harassment: Women used a variety of strategies to put the perpetrator on the mat and to help the victim. Some of these strategies include mobilizing public opinion, admonishing and shaming the perpetrator, chasing him away, summoning the police to the spot, ensuring the victim's safe return home.

What women had to say?

- Us aadmi ko daanta tha
- Us aadmi ka collar pakad kar usko bus se utar diya
- Ek bar ek mahila ke saath kuch bura hua tha toh who kafi ghabara gayi thi, toh maine usko ghar tak choda tha.
- Maine us aadmi ko dhakka mara aur usko wahan se hata diya
- Maine ek aadmi ko daant kar bhagaya tha
- Main us ladke ko police station tak le kar gayi thi
- ek ladka bahut samay se ghur raha that toh maine usko bola yeh kya kar rahe ho, toh who sharma ke bhag gaya
- police sahayeta li thi, maine us larki ke liye

6.4 Responses of the family

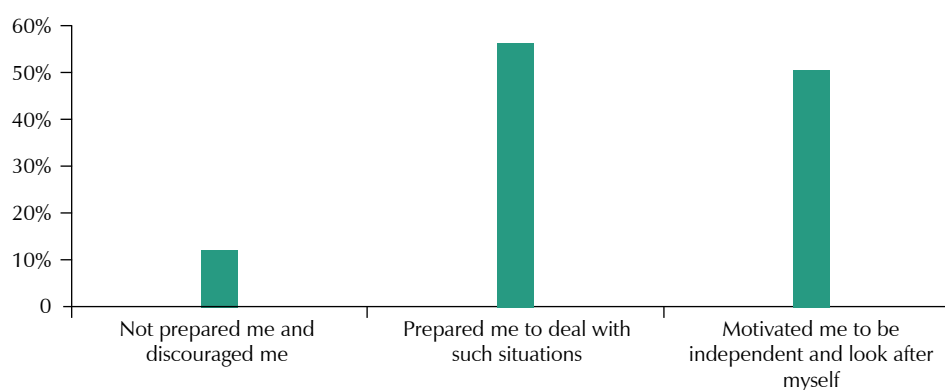
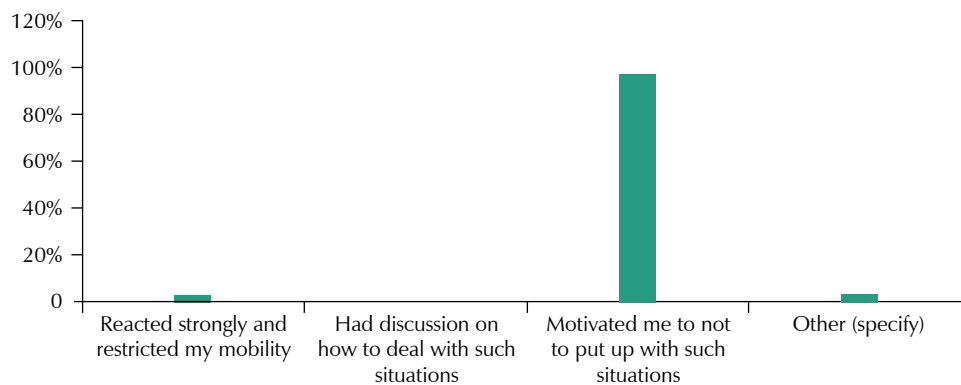
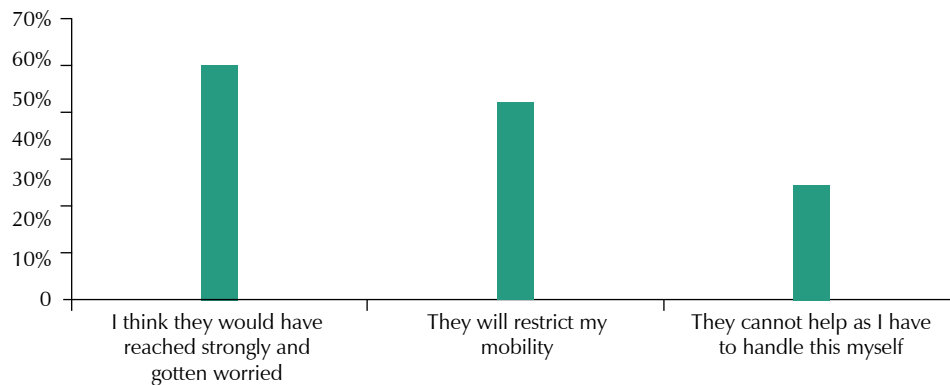
Figure 40: How has your family prepared you to respond to sexual harassment?

Figure 41: Sharing about the sexual harassment faced with family-women**Figure 42: Reaction of Family to the sexual harassment-women****Figure 43: Why did you not share with the family?**

A majority of respondents - 56 percent of women - reported that their families were prepared to deal with situations of sexual harassment. Around 51 percent said that their families motivated them to be independent and look after themselves while around 12 percent admitted that their families did not prepare them to face such situations, and even discouraged them to stand up to harassment. (Figure 41). Maximum numbers of women who were not prepared by their families to deal with harassment were from among home makers 14.8 percent (N=486) and unorganized sector workers 22.6 percent (N=470). A large percentage of College and school students 65.2 percent (N=483) and 63.8 percent (N=481) respectively, however were prepared well by their families to deal with harassment. Most High and Mid Level professional women 61.7 percent (N=478) and 64.2 percent (N=480) respectively reported that their families had motivated them to be more assertive and look after themselves.

6.5 Need for Interventions

The respondents from all categories were asked what kinds of redressal mechanisms they think of in effectively curbing instances of sexual harassment.

Some suggestions include

- Carrying items (like pepper spray, safety pins) for self protection
- Introducing women's special buses and metros
- Increasing the police force
- Recruiting more women police
- Deploying plain-clothes police men and women in public places so that offenders can immediately be brought to book,
- Putting up photographs and posters of the offenders to publicly shame as exemplary punishment
- Publicizing helpline numbers
- Installing CCTV cameras in public places
- Ensuring clean and safe public toilets for women
- Restricting drinking in public places
- Launching awareness campaigns against sexual harassment.

Other responses (verbatim) included

- *es tarah ki samasayaon ki aur dhayan dene ke liye jagah jagah police booth hone chahiye*
- *jo log batamizi karte hain, unke liye sakath se sakath kanoon hona chahiye*
- *buso mein civil dress mein police aur ladies police ka hona*
- *alag bus honi chahiye mahilao ke liye*
- *har jagah police camp aur helpline number ke saath saath mahilao ko apne bachav kudh karna chaheye - pin, mirch saath lakar chalna chahiye*
- *ladkiyon ko dar kar ke nahi rehna chaheye aur puri tarah se mukabalah karna chaheye*
- *school mein bhi karate sikhana chahiye*
- *sarkar ko sharab ke theke (shops) band karva dene chahiye*
- *humare liye ek sanstha honi chahiye jo turant ghatna sthal par aa jaaye*
- *har taraf camera lagaye jane chahiye, jisse sabhi ghatnao ka pata chale aur karavahi ki ja sake*
- *buson mein bhi ladies police honi chahiye*

7. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

While all the groups, cutting across class and profession, shared a common perception of Delhi as a city of exclusion, poverty clearly emerged as an important axis sharpening this vulnerability. There is an alarming level of 'normalization' of violence which threatens public spaces. The experience of violence and fear of violence at all times of the day and night, and virtually in all kinds of public spaces, underlines the flawed architecture of the city spaces and the gender insensitive attitude of the institutions that govern.

It is worth noting that the women reported feeling unsafe in both secluded and crowded places, as well as during day and the night. While they are afraid of being physically hurt, harassed, molested or raped in deserted spaces, they also fear harassment in crowded spaces, most commonly in crowded public transport. What emerges from the experiences of the women is the fear of violence, feelings of exclusion, and lack of confidence in the agencies which are supposed to ensure their safety. Though the perception of Delhi as an intimidating city is shared by all sections of women, the research indicates that certain groups of women feel more insecure such as younger women, women from the northeastern states and women from poorer communities. For the latter especially, the development of Delhi as a "world class city" has made their lives more insecure. While all public spaces were seen as unsafe, women reported the highest number of incidents within buses and other public transportation, and on the streets.

The research has also brought to the fore a number of factors that play a role in creating safer spaces for women and girls. These include better planning and design of public spaces such as roads, bus stops, parks and public toilets. Some recommendations included lighting, design of pavements, presence of vendors and designated spaces and better design of male and female public toilets. The glaring lack of public toilets for women is a strong indictment of the state of services. A second important factor is way that public spaces are used. The presence of a multitude of users made a space more amenable to inclusion and safety. Thus parks that had a range of users including older people, young, children etc were safer.

A third factor that came up consistently through the survey and other methods of data collection such as FGD's and safety audits conducted prior to this study was the lack of public support to women and girls in the city.² This lack of any response from bystanders in public spaces has been identified as one of the main reasons for women's lack of safety and impunity of the perpetrators. This combined with the attitude of the police has led to an ethos of "getting away" with sexual harassment. Thus the response of agencies has also not been very positive with many women reporting experiences of harassment and questioning by the police themselves. The survey also showed less than 1 percent of the women reported cases to the police. Factors for this included fear of the police, fear of going to a police station and fear of the issue being trivialized.

The research findings have also made clear that a comprehensive set of interventions and programs are needed to address the issue of safety and inclusion such as urban design and planning, provision

² Jagori, 2007 "Is This Our City? :Mapping Safety for Women in Delhi.

Jagori 2009. "Understanding Women's Safety: Towards a gender Inclusive City.

of services, policing and law enforcement, community involvement and awareness building for men, women and youth. Creating safer cities for women and girls needs to be put firmly on the agenda of a wide range of stakeholders including local and national governments, service providers, police, educators and communities. What the research has demonstrated is the wide range of issues involved and the need for a multi strategic and multi stakeholder approach. The seven areas that have been identified for planning interventions are:

- Urban planning and design of public spaces
- Provision and maintenance of public infrastructure and services
- Public transport
- Policing
- Legislation, justice and support to victims
- Education
- Civic awareness and participation,

The strategic framework draft explicates in some detail how and why these seven areas need to be addressed, as also the range of stakeholders who need to be involved in creating a safer and more inclusive city for women and girls.

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