"Public Place Sexual Harassment Experiences Faced By Karachi Women"

Saba Ghizali[1] , Dr. Naila Usman[2]

[1]*Ph.D. Fellow: Department of Sociology, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.*
[2]*Associate Professor, Chairperson: Department of Sociology, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.*

Abstract

The research article titled "Public Place Sexual Harassment Experiences Encountered by Women in Karachi" aims to provide insight into a significant concern, namely, the occurrence of sexual harassment in public environments. The primary objective of this study is to examine and gain insight into the prevailing condition of this phenomenon within the specific setting of Karachi, a vibrant urban centre in Pakistan. Sexual harassment is a form of undesirable behaviour that specifically targets persons based on their gender. It encompasses several acts, including looking, honking, whistling, taunting, and passing explicit comments (Calogero, 2012).it is important to highlight that sexual harassment is a matter of great concern in Pakistani culture. However, the current body of research on this topic is limited and insufficient in effectively addressing the seriousness of the issue. This study aims to narrow this divide by examining three crucial research inquiries: Firstly, the objective is to define a complete definition of public place sexual harassment, which includes the diverse range of forms and manifestations it might assume. Additionally, this research delves into many social frameworks in order to offer a comprehensive analysis of the intricate processes surrounding sexual harassment. Finally, this study examines the present state of Karachi, critically analysing the city's position and reaction to instances of sexual harassment in public spaces. The results of this study unveil a concerning reality. The incidence of sexual harassment in Karachi has escalated to concerning proportions, since a significant proportion of participants have shared personal accounts of experiencing such harassment. These results underscore the imperative of tackling this matter at both the societal and policy levels. The study not only emphasises the magnitude of the issue but also emphasises the significance of effectively addressing it. The study titled 'Incidents of Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces: Through a comprehensive analysis of the present conditions prevailing in Karachi and the lived experiences of its female population, this study provides significant and noteworthy perspectives on a subject matter that necessitates much scholarly consideration. The results of this study provide a significant reminder to both society and governing bodies to collaboratively acknowledge and mitigate the extensive occurrence of sexual harassment, thereby promoting the creation of safer and more inclusive public environments for all members of society.

Keywords: Sexual harassment , public place harassment , Gender equality , Gender discrimination, Empowerment.

Introduction

The research titled "Public Place Sexual Harassment Experiences Encountered by Women in Karachi" aims to gain insight into the occurrence of public place sexual harassment, analyse various perspectives on this significant social issue, and assess the present situation of this phenomenon in the city of Karachi. Given the escalating nature of this issue, it is imperative to do research in order to provide a comprehensive

analysis of the present situation. This paper will examine the conceptualization of sexual harassment, with a particular focus on instances occurring in public spaces. It will explore the various manifestations of public place harassment, as well as the varied viewpoints offered by sociological frameworks in understanding this phenomenon.

Statement of the problem:

Women in Karachi have experienced public sexual harassment, highlighting a chronic cultural issue that demands quick action and inquiry. Urban Karachi women are often stared, insulted, groped, and stalked. Regular harassment violates their rights to safety and dignity and limits their participation in public life without prejudice. Effective countermeasures and prevention strategies have been hampered by a lack of in-depth research on this issue. Women's reports of public sexual harassment are still rejected, making cities hazardous and hostile. A detailed examination into Karachi's public sexual harassment of women is needed to discover effective answers. This research is essential to guide targeted actions, promote awareness, and build a city where women may walk freely without harassment.

Research question of the study :

The research is addressing the three research questions.
•   What is public place sexual harassment?
•   How different sociological perspectives view sexual harassment?
•   What is the current state of public place sexual harassment experiences in Karachi city?

Background of the study:

Defining Sex:

Sex categories individuals into various groups based on their physical, genetic, or biological disparities between women and men. It might be argued that sex is a biological construct, but gender is a social construct. According to Esplen and Jolly (2006), Sex is a biological phenomenon that manifests the inherent biological and genetic attributes distinguishing individuals as male, female, or intersex. According to the definition provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2017), "Sex pertains to the biological attributes that distinguish individuals as either female or male." Although there are individuals who exhibit both sets of biological features, it is generally observed that these characteristics tend to classify humans into distinct categories of males and females. The acknowledgment of biological distinctions is frequently fundamental in conversations pertaining to diverse facets of human growth, well-being, and societal matters. It is crucial to acknowledge, nonetheless, that the notion of gender is multidimensional and extends beyond mere biological distinctions, embracing social, cultural, and psychological aspects as well. A comprehensive comprehension of gender is important in order to effectively tackle issues pertaining to equality, representation, and diversity.

Harassment:

Harassment is a phrase that encompasses various forms of personal torment, which can manifest as either physical or psychological in nature. The act involves the utilisation of intimidation tactics towards an individual. For instance, when an individual utters the phrase, "I will incinerate your residence," it might be classified as an act of harassment. This encompasses several forms of criminal activities, such as theft, robbery, abduction, and sexual violence. This entails a series of activities that elicit fear in others. Harassment can alternatively be characterised as follows: "Harassment encompasses actions such as making threatening, insulting, or dehumanising gestures, employing data or computer software, or engaging in written, verbal, or physical behaviour that is directed

towards an individual or an organisation. Such actions are deemed harassing when they cause a person or organisation to reasonably fear harm to their person or damage to their property." The aforementioned phenomenon has the capacity to significantly impede an individual's professional productivity, prospects, and advantages, while also significantly interrupting the smooth functioning of an entity. The sources cited in the text include the Code of Conduct Schools, L.P. (2008) and Costello et al. (2016). According to Brodsky's (1976) perspective, harassment is characterised by the repetitive and persistent nature of actions that aim to irritate or annoy an individual. The author additionally asserts that harassment encompasses actions that persistently incite, coerce, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to an individual.

Sexual Harassment:

Sexual harassment refers to the infliction of physical, verbal, or nonverbal harm against an individual, resulting in their experience of dread and distress. In contemporary society, there is typically a preoccupation with matters pertaining to women. Various forms of physical and verbal interactions can be employed to do this, including physical contact such as touching, kissing, and hugging, as well as the use of abusive language, making inappropriate sexual remarks, and employing gestures. The phrase "sexual harassment" has been subject to numerous meanings over an extended period of time. However, it remains unclear as specialists have not yet reached a consensus on a singular definition. The word has been assigned many interpretations by empirical researchers studying the phenomenon (Fitzgerald & Hesson-McInnis, 1989; Kearney, 2004). However, it is important to note that within the literature, two distinct meanings can be found: legal definitions and empirical definitions (Fitzgerald, 1990; 1997). The legal definitions employed by authoritative bodies like the Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission (EEOC) or the Office for Civil Rights are mostly conceptual in essence, offering a broad depiction of harassment behaviour (Paludi & Barickman, 1991). The legal requirements for establishing sexual harassment have been subject to ongoing revisions resulting from appellate rulings, regulatory definitions, and case law developments (Fitzgerald, Gelfand, & Drasgow, 1995). Presently, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) offers two distinct legal classifications for instances of sexual harassment: quid pro quo harassment and hostile environment harassment. In instances of quid pro quo harassment, the perpetrator engages in a behaviour where they either provide a form of advantage in exchange for a sexual favour or pledge to alleviate a potential harm or threat (Thacker & Gohmann, 1996). On the other hand, a hostile atmosphere encompasses any form of sexually oriented conduct, such as sexual humour, that is both undesirable and recurrent (Thacker & Gohmann, 1996). On the other hand, empirical definitions have been derived through the systematic classification of qualitative data as reported by individuals who have experienced harassment. The aforementioned statements pertain to delineations of distinct patterns of conduct that possess the capacity to satisfy legal standards, contingent upon specific contextual elements (Fitzgerald, 1990; Fitzgerald et. al., 1995). Till's (1980) work stands as the most thorough empirical definition of sexual harassment to date. Prior to the establishment of legal definitions for harassment, Till (1980) classified the reported encounters of individuals who experienced harassment into five distinct types. These categories varied in terms of their intensity and included gender harassment, alluring behaviour, sexual bribery, sexual coercion, and sexual imposition. Gender harassment is considered the mildest kind of harassment, encompassing verbal comments such as crude jokes, sexist remarks, subjective objectification, sexual posturing, or

the distribution of sexual materials. Seductive behaviour encompasses several forms of verbal communication, including but not limited to sexual advances, subtle coercion, advances, or physical contact of a sexual nature. Sexual bribery refers to instances where sexual advances are accompanied by a promise of reward, while sexual coercion involves sexual advances accompanied by a threat of punishment. In essence, sexual imposition is seen as the most egregious manifestation of harassment, encompassing acts such as sexual assault or physical contact (Till, 1980).

According to Wall (1991), there is a contention that sexual harassment can be viewed as a type of intrusive communication that infringes upon the privacy rights of the victim.

Public Place Sexual Harassment:

According to Hepple (2010), the Equality Act defines public place sexual harassment as the occurrence of "unwanted conduct of a sexual nature" that aims to or results in the creation of an environment that is intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive. However, it should be noted that laws may not always encompass the complete scope of the issue at hand. Women and girls experience a wide array of behaviours categorised as sexual harassment, encompassing both undesired yet non-illegal conduct, as well as sexual assault and other criminal acts. Numerous instances of inappropriate conduct have been reported, encompassing unwelcome sexual remarks in public spaces, instances of making rape threats while using public transportation, incidents of sexual assault occurring within bars and clubs, instances of racial abuse directed towards individuals who reject sexual advances, occurrences of indecent exposure in public, instances of being subjected to public masturbation, and incidents of sexual touching in crowded train compartments. Additio

According to Lord (2009), public harassment encompasses both verbal and nonverbal forms, and refers to instances of harassment that take place in public settings. It may occur in densely populated areas, such as roads, streets, parks, lanes, and semi-public establishments like restaurants or movie theatres. Instances of harassment commonly involve sexual content, including rhetoric that is demeaning, objectifying, and potentially menacing (Bowman, 1993; Gardner, 1995). The issue of public harassment is widespread, affecting individuals of diverse age groups, racial backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, and sexual orientations (Lord, 2009). The individuals responsible for committing the acts are predominantly male, while the individuals who experience the acts are predominantly female. According to Gardner (1995), public harassment refers to a set of abusive behaviours, persistent disturbances, and bothersome actions that are commonly observed in public spaces and are particularly enabled by public communication. Public harassment encompasses a range of behaviours such as pinching, shouting, hitting, shouted remarks, vulgarity, insults, sly innuendo, ogling, and stalking. These behaviours exist on a spectrum, commencing when the expected norms of civility between unfamiliar individuals are violated and culminating in the progression towards more severe criminal acts, namely assault, rape, or murder. (Page 4), (Logan, 2013, p. 27).

Forms and kinds of sexual harassment:

Sexual harassment comes in a wide variety of presentations, including verbal, visual, nonverbal, and physical harassment (Kahsay et al., 2020). Let's take them in order and talk about them:

The Verbal Conduct:

The verbal conduct includes using sexual abusive language for instance "Baby, Darling, Honey" these are unacceptable words in the society while

interacting with respect. These include all other words which are not accepted in the formal interaction. It also includes, passing sexual comments, for example, "Oh looking hot, what a girl, how much beautiful figure she has!" All other comments which should not be used while admiring someone respectively. Other kinds of verbal conduct include singing songs (which have sexually abusive language), passing sexual jokes on woman's physical appearance (Kahsay et al. 2020).

Nonverbal conduct:

Sexual symbols and gestures, as well as unwanted eye contact, constitute this type of harassment. Technology-based forms of discrimination against women, such as cyberbullying, are also included. Inappropriate or sexually explicit text messages or emails; unwanted or unpleasant content on a website or in a chat room; and so on are all examples of cyberbullying (Kahsay et al., 2020).

Physical conduct:

The description highlights a deeply distressing and invasive category of sexual harassment involving direct physical actions. This includes various forms of unwanted physical contact such as touching, pushing, hugging, kissing, fondling, and brushing against a person's body. Such actions are not only embarrassing but also demeaning, causing significant emotional and psychological harm to the victims. The reference to Kahsay et al. (2020) underlines the scholarly acknowledgment of this type of harassment and the importance of addressing it comprehensively. Another facet of sexual harassment is highlighted here: inappropriate physical contact. Displaying drawings, pornography, obscene presents, sexually suggestive photographs, or any sort of sexually explicit textual materials falls under this category. Harassment of this nature can lead to an unwelcoming atmosphere and reinforces stereotypes that women are to be treated as

objects. Kahsay et al. (2020) shows that this form of harassment has been acknowledged in the academic community.

The more people are made aware of the myriad ways in which people might be subjected to sexual harassment, the better off society as a whole will be. Promoting a safer and more respectful workplace for everybody requires talks and interventions that address both physical and visual behaviour.

The Sociological Perspectives to Sexual harassment:

The functionalist, conflict, interaction, and feminist viewpoints are only a few of the many in sociology. Sociologists examine societies through the lens of their culturally constructed environments. Gender roles in our society are artificial constructs. Gender roles play a role in explaining why the causes of arguments between men and women are likely to be different. According to gender role theory, women are often expected to care for their homes and families first and foremost. Women are statistically more prone to have problems in this capacity. Women are expected to take a backseat in sexual interactions, while males are expected to take the initiative. Unwanted sexual attention is classified as sexual harassment and is more common for women than males in the workplace (MacKinnon, 1979; Stanko, 1985). Harassment in the workplace leads to workplace rape and other types of workplace violence. Let's go down each point of view now and see how they compare.

The Functionalist School of Thought & Sexual harassment:

Dougherty (2001) conducted discussion groups and triggered recollection interviews inside a sizable healthcare organisation. The present study employed theme analysis to investigate sexual harassment as a dysfunctional process. Sexual behaviour was shown to function as a coping

technique for stress among male participants, serving as a kind of therapeutic care and facilitating the establishment and display of camaraderie. The sexual behaviour of females commonly exhibited either no functionality or malfunction. Societal dysfunction leads to a situation in which women are compelled to rely on men for support. According to the functional viewpoint, sexual harassment is considered detrimental to the well-being of the victims, while simultaneously fulfilling distinct purposes for the individuals perpetrating the behaviour.

Sexual Harassment & the conflict view:

Conflict theory, which centers around the concept of class struggle, is observable in several facets of human existence. According to McKinney, Olson, and Satterfield (1988), a crucial element in the phenomenon of sexual harassment is its forceful and non-consensual character. Coercion frequently arises from disparities in authority or power dynamics between the victim and perpetrator, as well as the victim's dependence on the perpetrator. The use of conflict theory (Vold, 1958) is better suitable for analysing the dynamics underlying instances of sexual harassment, since it emphasises the importance of power disparities among the different parties involved. According to conflict theorists, instances of sexual harassment can be attributed to power differentials, struggles for authority, and class conflicts. Public place harassment can be understood as a manifestation of social dynamics related to status, power, authority, and perceptions of gender superiority.

The interactionist view & Phenomena of Sexual Harassment:

Everyday interactions are the focus of the sociological approach known as symbolic interactionism. Moloney and Love (2018) argue that a person's physical appearance, tone of voice, and other indicators of social standing play a significant role in structuring interactions in everyday life. However, interactionist researchers acknowledge that an actor's bodily traits may be communicated even in the absence of in-person contacts (Berger, Cohen, & Zelditch Jr., 1972; Berger & Fişek, 2006; Ridgeway, 1991). From an interactionist point of view, simple things like males being treated as superior to women add up to a system that keeps women in their place. The phenomena of interest for VMA, as emphasised by Moloney and Love (2017), are the qualities and results of behaviours, rather than the characteristics of actors, and they used the interactionist paradigm to do so. To put it another way, "all actors engaging in manhood acts are 'men,' and all masculine selves are essentially virtual" (2017, p. 4).

The Feminist Paradigm & Sexual Harassment:

Some sociologists have proposed this as the discipline's fourth viewpoint. Humans, according to this philosophical school of thought, are the only truly knowable thing in the universe. This contributes to the general perception that women are treated as second-class citizens in both the home and wider community (Nehere, 2016). This mental make-up was the seedbed for feminism's inception (Kajiwara, 1968; Nowka, 2007). Feminist research is defined as studies conducted by female researchers with a focus on female participants or outcomes (Cosgrove & McHugh, 2000; Hans, 2013).

Ghosh (2007) states that feminism is the study of "women's lives, equality, empowerment, socialisations, and improved status." Many different schools of thought inform this perspective; for example, there are many different schools of feminism that address the issue of sexual harassment from different angles. Blackburn (1995) and Nehere (2016) both note that socialist feminism shed light on the gendered elements of the welfare state. Socialist feminists advocated for better working conditions and more legal rights for women (Bressey, 2010). Since sexual harassment is most common in the

workplace or in public spaces, feminism's focus on these areas is crucial to ensuring women may fully participate in society. Liberal feminists focused on achieving gender equality via legal procedures and policy reforms in order to support women's empowerment and public participation (Nehere, 2016). This is because the public engagement of women is a contentious issue owing to sexual harassment. Liberal feminists pushed for new laws, rules, and regulations to be implemented in public institutions to ensure that women and men had equal rights (Waterman, 1993; Code, 2000; Enslin & Tjiattas, 2004). They campaign for laws that safeguard women's rights and guarantee the safety of all citizens. Liberal feminists typically engage in activism, awareness-raising, and education in an effort to affect social change and combat discriminatory practises. In addition to this, radical feminism seeks to address sexual harassment in public spaces as one of the core causes of patriarchy and gender-based violence. One of the main ways males maintain women's subjugation is through the employment of sexism. For radical feminists, males are the enemy because they dominate in all areas of life, including the workplace, the home, sexual relationships, and social standing. Women are the most oppressed, marginalised, and disadvantaged members of society. According to Nehere (2016), sexual oppression is the primary means through which women are subjugated. Together with other forms of feminism, they help bring attention to the issue of sexual harassment in public spaces, alter people's perspectives on the issue, and encourage the implementation of policy and procedural reforms that will make everyone safer.

Methodology:

The present state of the phenomena of Public Place Sexual Harassment Experiences Faced by Karachiite Women inside the city was extensively investigated through a study. A precise and succinct questionnaire was developed to aid in this investigation. The purpose of the study was to collect accurate data on the frequency and severity of sexual harassment incidents in Karachi's public spaces. A total of 256 respondents from various backgrounds provided the data used for this analysis. Careful study of the collected data led to the visualization of patterns using eye-opening charts and graphs. Due to the lack of a fixed sample frame, the researchers elected to use purposive sampling in their investigation. While thoughtful and specific, this method does not pretend to have a logical ordering of how participants are chosen.

Data Analysis:

The selection of the six issues was to assess the prevailing conditions of the observed phenomena within the urban setting. These variables encompassed activities such as looking, taunting, listening, unwelcome touching, unwanted comments, as well as instances of path obstruction and following. This section presents the figures pertaining to the data.

1. I have suffered from gazing.
256 responses
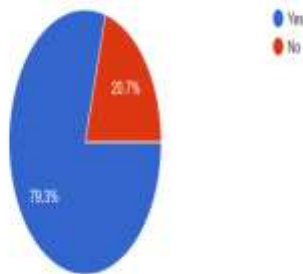
Out of the entire sample size of 256 individuals, a significant proportion of 203 respondents indicated occurrences of staring, constituting nearly 79% of the overall population. This considerable proportion highlights the pervasiveness of this alarming situation, indicating that a noteworthy segment of individuals have disclosed their firsthand encounters with harassment in the public areas of Karachi city. This discovery underscores the pressing necessity for increased awareness, preventative strategies, and treatments to effectively tackle this widespread problem.

2. I have faced taunting and whistling.
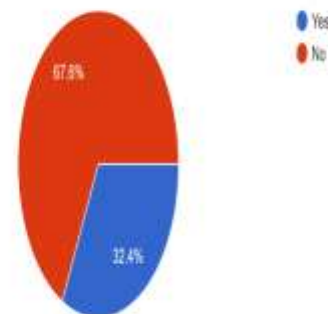256 responses
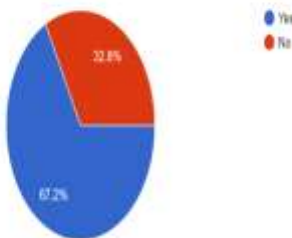
Among the total sample size of 256 participants, a significant proportion of 172 individuals reported instances of both taunting and listening. Indeed, a notable proportion of participants, namely 67.2%, said that they experienced instances of mocking and whistling directed at them.

3. I had been the victim of unwanted touching.
256 responses
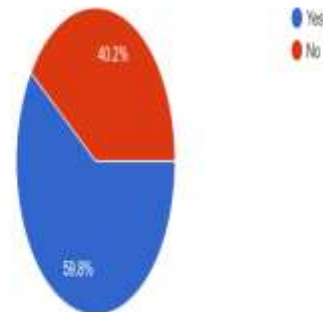
A cohort of 153 individuals from the questioned population reported instances of non-consensual physical contact in public areas inside the city of Karachi. This discovery reveals the alarming fact that a considerable proportion of individuals have experienced such intrusive conduct. This statement underscores the need of implementing comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing and preventing incidents of sexual harassment in public spaces, with the ultimate goal of safeguarding the well-being and preserving the respect and honor of all persons present in such settings.

**4. I have heard sexual comments on me.**
256 responses

From the pool of 256 respondents, a concerning 68% participants disclosed instances of experiencing unwanted comments directed at them. This statistic underscores the distressing

reality that a notable proportion of individuals have been subjected to unwelcome and inappropriate remarks in public spaces. These findings emphasize the urgency of addressing and eradicating such behavior to create safer and more respectful environments for all individuals within Karachi city.

5. I have suffered from way blockage.
256 responses
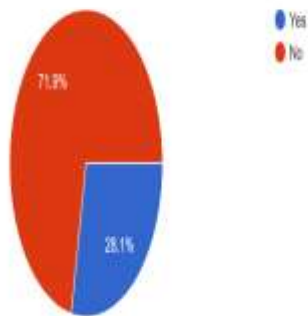
Seventy-two people out of the total sample reported experiencing incidences of route blockage, showing that a sizable percentage of people have been in circumstances when their movement or path was blocked. This statistic emphasises the unsettling truth that many respondents have had their freedom of movement and privacy invaded in public areas. These incidents emphasise the need to encourage courteous conduct and guarantee that everyone in public places is safe and unrestricted.

6. It happened with me that somebody followed me on my way.
256 responses
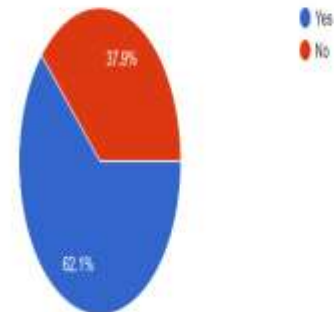
Sixteen percent of the 256 research participants who reported being followed in Karachi gave specific locations. This figure sheds disturbing light on the fact that many respondents have experienced this disturbing behaviour firsthand. It highlights the need of addressing and preventing similar instances to keep people safe in public areas. Building a community where people don't have to worry about being harassed or stalked is crucial to their safety and well-being.

Findings :

The examination of the gathered data has resulted in numerous noteworthy discoveries, providing insight into the frequency and characteristics of incidents of sexual harassment in public spaces as reported by persons residing in the city of Karachi. The aforementioned findings offer significant insights into the magnitude of the problem and emphasise the pressing necessity for raising awareness, providing education, and implementing strategies to address this behaviour.

Gazing:

A large majority of the sample (79%) reported staring events out of a total of 256 individuals. This refers to instances where people have experienced lengthy and intense gazing or leering from strangers in public places, without their

consent. Given the size of the number given, it's safe to assume that the vast majority of people have been the target of this form of harassment, which highlights the need of creating spaces where people may go about their day without being followed or harassed.

Taunting and Whistling:

Almost two-thirds of the participants (172 out of 256) reported being the target of verbal harassment. This statistic highlights the widespread nature of verbal harassment in public places, where people have been targets of insults and other forms of degrading treatment. Fixing this problem is crucial for encouraging civil behaviour in public.

Unwanted Touching:

A total of 153 respondents experienced unwanted touching in Karachi's public spaces. It's important to provide safe and secure settings, and this disturbing number shows that many people have experienced unwanted physical contact without their consent.

Unwanted Commenting:

Among the 256 responders, 83 reported experiencing inappropriate comments themselves. This suggests that a sizable percentage of people have heard unpleasant or improper comments while out in public. Promoting a culture of respect and tolerance requires fixing this problem.

Way Blockage:

Seventy-two people reported being physically or verbally blocked in public places. This data implies that many people have experienced situations that limited their freedom of movement, highlighting the need for heightened vigilance and measures to prevent such occurrences.

Following:

Out of a total of 256 individuals, 159 reported being followed at some point while in Karachi. The significance of making people feel safe and secure is highlighted by this result, which sheds light on the troubling problem of stalking and invasive surveillance.

Discussion:

The problems and concerns that exist in Karachi's public places are depicted in a bleak light by the research. The high rates of all types of harassment show how urgent it is to find a holistic solution to this problem. Governments, nonprofits, and individuals must all work together to end sexual harassment in public spaces. It is essential to establish strong awareness campaigns and educational programmes, in addition to strictly enforcing current regulations and legislation pertaining to sexual harassment. The importance of these issues cannot be overstated, and it is critical to build a community where people of all genders feel secure, respected, and empowered. A group of women who had experienced sexual harassment in prison and other settings in the criminal justice system recount their experiences with a wide range of unwanted sexual comments and advances, including those made on the street, on public transportation, in bars and clubs, when sexual propositions were rejected, when men exposed themselves in public, when they were masturbated at, when they rubbed themselves against other people in a crowded train car and when they were raped (Miller, 2Sexually explicit jokes are only one example of the kinds of inappropriate and pervasive sexual behaviour that constitute a hostile work environment (Thacker & Gohmann, 1996). Empirical definitions, on the other hand, have been created through the classification of qualitative data gathered from harassment victims. Almost two-thirds of the participants (67.2%) reported experiencing some form of verbal abuse, such as mocking or whistling. This kind of conduct may lower the morale of a group and make members feel

insecure and humiliated. In order to foster more civility and respect in public settings, this issue must be resolved.Gender roles play a role in explaining why the causes of arguments between men and women are likely to be different. According to gender role theory, women often play the primary carer role at home and in the family (Stockard & Johnson, 1992). The processes of sexual harassment are better explained by conflict theory (Vold, 1958), which emphasises the importance of different forms of power differentials between the parties in question. Conflict theorists argue that power and authority disparities and class struggle are the root causes of sexual harassment.

According to Moloney and Love (2017), who draw on the interactionist viewpoint, the phenomena of interest for VMA are the qualities and effects of behaviours, rather than the attributes of actors. In this view, "all actors engaging in manhood acts are 'men,' and all masculine selves are essentially virtual" (2017, p. 4). These sorts of things might make you feel helpless and confined. Creating public spaces that are welcoming to all requires eliminating obstacles to free mobility.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Karachi's public areas are heavily affected by sexual harassment. The findings indicate a gloomy reality of public space difficulties and worries. Initial observations showed 79% of participants reported unwanted visual intrusion. For public safety and comfort, such wrongdoing must be addressed due to its increased frequency. 67.2% of subjects reported public verbal abuse, mostly mockery and whistling. This shows the importance of tackling this issue. Due to the prevalence of this issue, civic conversation is crucial. The finding that a total of 153 persons experienced unsolicited interactions highlights the alarming violation of personal boundaries that numerous individuals are subjected to. Establishing safe and courteous settings is crucial. The fourth conclusion that 83 participants reported inappropriate comments emphasises the need to promote respect and protect verbal abuse. The study's sixth conclusion shows that 72 respondents experienced way blocking, highlighting some people's difficulties using public areas. This acknowledges the necessity for safe, unrestricted mobility for everybody. Firstly, 159 people were monitored, emphasizing the need to address stalking and improve public safety. The findings show that Karachi's public spaces need more safety and respect. This study shows that various factors affect public space sexual harassment, require government involvement, awareness campaigns, and educational measures. These challenges may create a safe, cherished, and empowered city for all citizens. According to findings, many women are victims of this issue. Current laws and legislation on sexual harassment must be enforced. Public sexual harassment is a growing social issue that is treated seriously.

References

Berger, J., Cohen, B. P., & Zelditch, M. Jr. (1972). Status characteristics and social interaction. American Sociological Review, 37, 241–255.

Berger, J., & Fişek, M. H. (2006). Diffuse status characteristics and the spread of status value: A formal theory 1. American Journal of Sociology, 111(4), 1038–1079.

Blackburn, S., 1995. How useful are feminist theories of the welfare state?, Women's History Review, 4(3), 369-394.

Bowman, C. G. (1993). Street harassment and the informal ghettoization of women. Harvard Law Review, 517-580.

Bressey, C., 2010. Victorian 'Anti-racism' and feminism in Britain, Women: A Cultural Review, 21(3), 279-291.

Brodsky, C. (1976). The harassed worker. Toronto, Canada: Lexington Books/D.C, Health & Co.

Calogero, R. M.(2012) . Objectification theory, self-objectification, and body image. 574-580.

Code, L., 2000. Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories, Routledge, 15-40.

Cosgrove, L. and McHugh, M. C., 2000. Speaking for ourselves: Feminist methods and community psychology, American Journal of Community Psychology, 28(6), 815-838.

Costello, M. L., Cuthbert, M. L., Hill, J., & Russell, M. J. T. (2016) VISION STATEMENT.

Dougherty, D. (2001). Sexual harassment as [dys] functional process: A feminist standpoint analysis. Journal of Applied Communication Research, 29(4), 372-402.

Enslin, P. and Tjiattas, M., 2004. Liberal feminism, cultural diversity and comparative education, Comparative Education, 40(4), 503-516.

Esplen, E., & Jolly, S. (2006). Gender and sex. A sample of definitions. BRIDGE (gender and development), Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK. Cross Ref: Google Scholar.

European Commission (1998). Sexual harassment in the workplace in the European Union Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, Unit V/D.5. evidence on their relative frequency and potential causes. Aggressive Behavior 22, 161-173.

Fitzgerald, L. F. (1990). Sexual harassment: The definition and measurement of a construct. Ivory power: Sexual harassment on campus, 21(22), 24-30.

Fitzgerald, L. F., & Hesson-McInnis, M. (1989). The dimensions of sexual harassment: A structural analysis. Journal of Vocational Behavior, 35(3), 309-326.

Fitzgerald, L. F., Gelfand, M. J., & Drasgow, F. (1995). Measuring sexual harassment: Theoretical and psychometric advances. Basic and applied social psychology, 17(4), 425-445. Cross Ref: Google Scholar.

Fitzgerald, L. F., Swan, S., & Magley, V. J. (1997). But was it really sexual harassment? Legal, behavioral, and psychological definitions of the workplace victimization of women. In W. O'Donohue (Ed.), Sexual harassment: Theory, research, and treatment (pp. 5–28). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Gardner, C. B. (1995). Passing by: Gender and public harassment. Univ of California Press.

Ghosh, S., 2007. Feminism in India, Maitrayee Chaudhuri (Ed.), Zed Books, 33-39.

Hans, A., 2013. Feminism as a literary movement in India, International Research Journal of Applied and Basic Sciences, 4(7), 1762-1767.

Hepple, B. (2010). The new single equality act in Britain. The Equal Rights Review, 5(1), 11-24. Cross Ref: Google Scholar.

Kahsay, W. G., Negarandeh, R., Dehghan Nayeri, N., & Hasanpour, M. (2020). Sexual harassment against female nurses: a systematic review. BMC nursing, 19, 1-12. Cross Ref: Google Scholar.

Kajiwara, K., 1968. The "Materialists" of Virginia Woolf, Bulletin of the Kyoto University of Education, Ser. A, Education, social sciences, literature and arts, 33, 147-160.

Kearney, L. K. (2004). Mexican American and Caucasian university students' experience of sexual harassment: the intertwining of power and culture. The

University of Texas at Austin. Cross Ref: Google Scholar.

Logan, L. S. (2013). Fear of Violence and Street Harassment: Accountability at the intersections. Kansas State University (P27).

Lord, T. L. (2009). The relationship of gender-based public harassment to body image, self-esteem, and avoidance behavior (Doctoral dissertation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania). Cross ref: Google Scholar.

MacKinnon, C. A., & MacKinnon, C. A. (1979). Sexual harassment of working women: A case of sex discrimination (Vol. 19). Yale University Press.

Miller, M. (2016). House of Commons: Women and Equalities Committee: Sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools: Third Report of Session 2016–17: 13 September 2016.

McKinney, K., Olson, C. V., & Satterfield, A. (1988). Graduate Students' Experiences with and Responses to Sexual Harassment: A Research Note1. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 3(3), 319-325.

Moloney, M. E., & Love, T. (2017). #TheFappening: Virtual manhood acts in (homo) social media. Men and Masculinities. Prepublished March 9, 2017.

https://doi.org/10.1177/1097184X17696170

Moloney, M. E., & Love, T. P. (2018). Assessing online misogyny: Perspectives from sociology and feminist media studies. Sociology compass, 12(5), e12577.

Nehere, K. (2016). The feminist views: A review. Feminist Research, 1(1), 3-20.

Nowka, S., 2007. Materialism and Feminism in Mary Hays's Memoirs of Emma Courtney, European Romantic Review, 18(4), 521-540.

Paludi, M. A., & Barickman, R. B. (1991). Academic and workplace sexual harassment: A resource manual. State University of New York Press. Cross Ref: Google Scholar.

Ridgeway, C. (1991). The social construction of status value: Gender and other nominal characteristics. Social Forces, 70(2), 367–386.

Schools, L. P. (2008). Code of Conduct. Group, 1, 13. Cross Ref: Google Scholar.

Stanko, E. A. (1985). Intimate intrusions: Women's experience of male violence. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Stockard, J. & Johnson, M. M. (1992). Sex and gender in society. (2nd ed.) Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Till, F. J. (1980). Sexual harassment: A report on the sexual harassment of students. US Department of Education.

Vold, G. B. (1958). Theoretical criminology.

Waterman, P., 1993. Hidden from Herstory women, feminism and new global solidarity, Economic and Political Weekly, 28(44), 83-100.

aWorld Health Organization. (2017). Sexual health and its linkages to reproductive health: an operational approach. Cross ref: Google Scholar.