

Baseline report for Internal Complaints Committee
Aryabhata college
University of Delhi.

December 22, 2019

1 Introduction

This is a brief baseline report for the project collaboration with Internal Complaints Committee at Aryabhata college and Karmini Sharma, a PhD scholar at University of Warwick (United Kingdom). This project is also supported by JPAL (Lateef Poverty Action Lab at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)). The research collaboration aims to understand tools to tackle sexual harassment and aims to undertake surveys with students in the age group of 18 to 21 years of age to understand prevalence rates, correlates of sexual harassment and impact of sexual harassment awareness. In this report we present basic summary statistics using the data from surveys undertaken with students over the period September to October 2019. This is an ongoing research collaboration and aims to aid policy makers at the college, other educational institutions globally and locally in reducing sexual harassment by understanding its causes and consequences.

Goal 5 of the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women in public and private spheres and to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and access to ownership of property. Government of India has identified ending sexual violence as a key national priority too. A UN women's study showed that 92% of women surveyed in Delhi had suffered from either sexual, visual or verbal harassment. Pervasive sexual harassment can have debilitating impacts on psychological, economic and social lives of the harassed. In this project we aim to aid these objectives by undertaking surveys with both male and female students in understanding causes and consequences of sexual harassment.

A total of 1334 students were covered in the baseline survey, with 849 men and 485 women. All 13 courses spread over 39 classes were covered under the survey between September 2nd, 2019 until 31st October 2019. Sexual harassment awareness and training was provided to a total of 870 students in collaboration with an internationally recognized NGO, Safecity. The surveys were undertaken after obtaining informed consent from each student. Less than 2% of the students refused to do the surveys. Finally, only those students were covered who were present in the class at the time of the unannounced surveys. This was to ensure there was no endogenous selection of students who are surveyed for the project. This will ensure a more representative sample of students being selected for the survey. Below we present, main summaries of important variables collected in the survey.

2 Baseline Summary statistics

We show here a basic summary of demographic characteristics of the students covered under the survey. This will give an idea for background of students. The table shows that majority of the students surveyed were from Delhi. Many more male students are likely to be from

outside Delhi than female students. First year students are more likely to be a part of the survey which may be due to the fact that second and third years are less likely to be present in the classes on the day of the surveys and in general.

Table 1: Summary statistics by gender of students from baseline

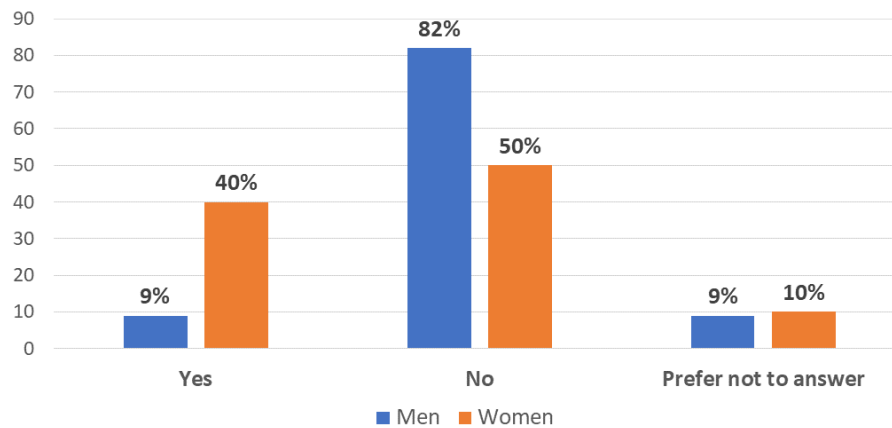
	Male students	Female students
From outside Delhi	0.40	0.25
First years	0.39	0.35
Second year	0.32	0.30
Third year	0.29	0.35
N	849	485

Notes: Table shows descriptive statistics (in percentages) of basic demographics collected separately for male and female students

2.1 Sexual harassment prevalence

The figure below provides with sexual harassment prevalence amongst men and women separately.

Figure 1: Sexual harassment prevalence over two months preceding the survey



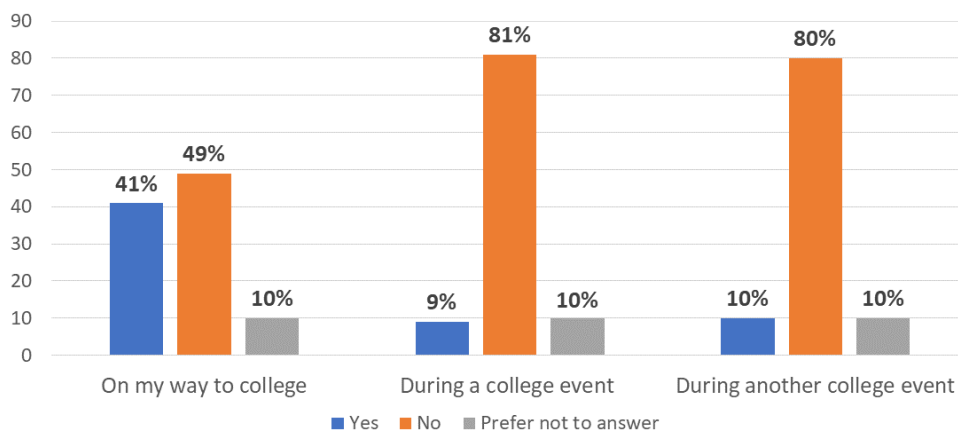
Notes: The histograms show the distribution of students who reportedly faced sexual harassment of some type over the two months preceding the survey.

As expected for this age group, prevalence rates are much higher for women (40%) than men (9%). Nearly 10% of the students preferred not to answer the question which suggests that there is room to do surveys on sexual harassment without privacy or hesitation being the biggest impediment or worry for policymakers/researchers. 40% women report being harassed over a period of two months which is a high if we take into account the fact that a semester constitutes of nearly 3.5 months of regular classes and college visits.

2.1.1 Sexual harassment prevalence by location

Below we show the prevalence rate as reported by women over different locations or events to inform ICC about the necessary safety measures for different geographies or locations.

Figure 2: Sexual harassment prevalence by location two months preceding the survey



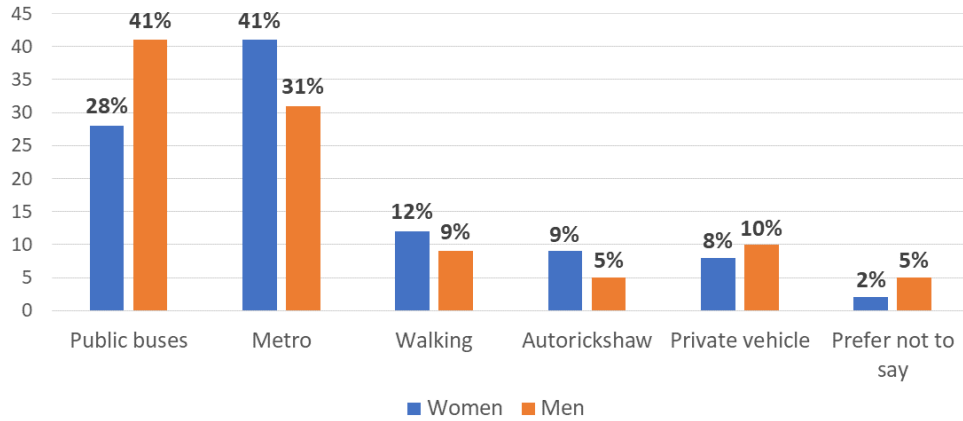
Notes: The histograms show the distribution of female students who report sexual harassment over different locations or events.

Majority of the students report facing sexual harassment on their way to college. This is much higher than prevalence during college events for own or other colleges.

2.1.2 Transportation mode for students

This section shows the major modes of transportation used by male and female students in the college. This will help shed light on figures obtained above and whether public or private mode of transportation is being used more heavily by students.

Figure 3: Transportation modes used by male and female students



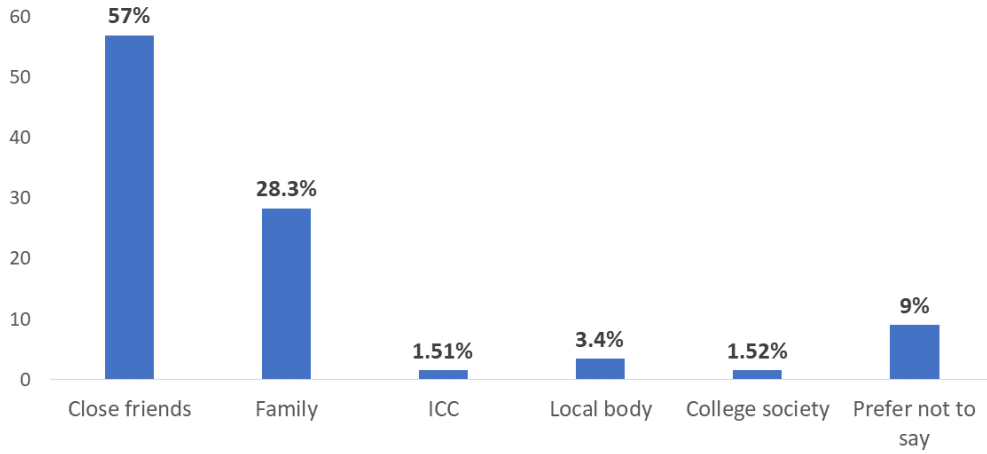
Notes: The histograms show the distribution of different transportation modes used by male and female students.

One major feature is in the usage of public transportation. Majority of the students report using public buses or the metro in getting to and from the college. One major difference between male and female students is that female students are most likely to use the metro while male students are more likely to use public buses instead. It is important to note that since female students report harassment mostly on their way to college, it may be important to think about safer means of public transportation for female students.

2.1.3 Reporting behaviour of students

In this section our aim is to understand what are the avenues available for students to report about sexual harassment. Presence of an ICC does not guarantee that students will be forthcoming in sharing incidents. Students may feel much better when they talk about it with their friends instead. The figure below shows that this is indeed the case. Majority of the students report sharing incidents with their close family or friends (57%) while only 5% share with any formal authority. This shows that having informal support networks may be particularly important for students to share sexual harassment incidents. This is more important given that nearly 40% male students and 25% female students come from outside Delhi without family support.

Figure 4: Formal and informal reporting behaviour of students

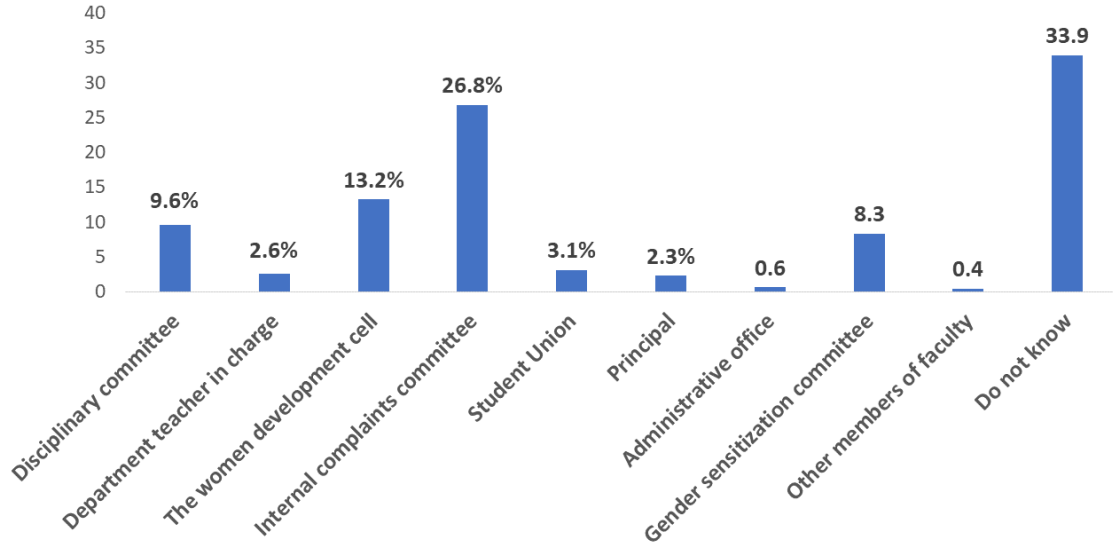


Notes: The histograms show distribution of reporting of sexual harassment incidents formally or informally.

2.1.4 Awareness about ICC

Greater reliance on informal rather than formal reporting can also be a manifestation of the fact that these students are not aware about formal channels of reporting. This indeed seems to be the case. We see that around 27% of the students were able to identify ICC as the formal authority for redressal of sexual harassment complaints. However the rest, nearly 70% of the students, we see report women development cell or the gender sensitization committee as the formal authority. This clearly indicates a greater need for awareness amongst the student population of the college.

Figure 5: Histogram for awareness about ICC



Notes: The histograms show what students report to be the formal authority set up for sexual harassment related grievances in college.

3 Discussion and conclusion

The brief summary from baseline survey done with students in the college shows that sexual harassment prevalence may be high even over a short period of time (two months in this case). Majority of the prevalence comes from students' time on their way to college. Sexual harassment is shown to have effects on students mental health, labour supply, and educational aspirations. It signifies the need for policy makers to pay special attention to public transportation. Another important observation is the need for greater awareness amongst students about ICC and related redressal mechanisms. This project hopes to fill this gap as well.

Planned surveys in the future will shed light on what tools are effective in reducing sexual harassment for students and will be used to help ICC and other stakeholders in undertaking appropriate steps towards the same.