

Sexual Harassment through Teasing of the Adolescent Girls: A Study on Jhenidah Municipality of Bangladesh

Tunvir Ahamed Shohel¹, Md. Tanvir Hossain¹, Nusrat Jahan², and Laila Siddiqua³

¹Assistant Professor, Sociology Discipline
Khulna University, Khulna-9208, Bangladesh

²Lecturer, Sociology Discipline
Khulna University, Khulna-9208, Bangladesh

³Assistant Professor, Architecture Discipline
Khulna University, Khulna-9208, Bangladesh

Copyright © 2014 ISSR Journals. This is an open access article distributed under the *Creative Commons Attribution License*, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ABSTRACT: This study was designed to find out the nature and extent of sexual harassment among the adolescent girls in two wards of Jhenidah Municipality, Bangladesh. Following survey research design, data were collected (During 2008-2009) from randomly selected 110 adolescent girls (aged between 13-19 years) exposed to eve-teasing for last 6 months or more. Findings suggest that female adolescents, irrespective of age and education, were sexually harassed frequently, either by classmates or by roadside womanizers through obscene languages, physical harassment, and ugly sexual expression and so on. However, young school going girls were more often the victims of such atrocity. But, in response, most often the victims and their families were reluctant to protest or to report to the law enforcement agencies. Because, the respondents were frequently stigmatized and blamed the conservative patriarchal society as it takes no initiative to stop such inhumane behavior. The study is descriptive in nature, and basically explores the nature and general aspect related to sexual harassment in the study area.

KEYWORDS: Sexual harassment, Violence against women, Gender discrimination, Law enforcement agency, Awareness regarding existing laws.

1 INTRODUCTION

Violence against women¹ has been turned out to be a central concept in the discussion of current development issues, in Bangladesh. Traditionally, Bangladesh is a male dominant society, where the social institutions, at all levels, are controlled by patriarchal creed. The existence of acute gender inequalities, entrenched in the overall structure of Bangladesh, does not allow girls and women to realize their potential. In fact, they are confined within the gender stereotypic expressive roles as daughter, wife and mother, and are kept inside the four walls of home [1], [2].

Hence, women of all economic strata in Bangladesh are vulnerable to maltreatment and abuse by husbands, in-laws and other family members. The rate of reported violence acts against women has risen at an alarming number, especially in rural

¹ Different kinds of female abuse and exploitation activities through oral, physical or mental torture such as, Dowry, sexual harassment, eve-teasing, honor killing, acid throwing, physical torture and so on.

areas of Bangladesh. Among rural married women, as surveyed in 1992 [3] and 1993 [4], 47 percent following 42 percent were reported having experienced physical violence by intimate partners; 43 percent of women in a 1999 study reported having been slapped and beaten [5]. Between 2002 and 2006, analyzing the newspaper and information of media, one study revealed a total of 5128 women and girl children were raped during this period (as published in the paper), one third of which were the victims of dowry related violence and less than one third were the victims of acid violence². Almost two thousands of those rapes were of girl children. In this study, the ratio of rape, dowry and acid violence against women stands for 63 percent, 20 percent and 17 percent, respectively [6], [7]. The daily news reports, now a days, are filled with atrocities including physical and psychological torture, teasing, rape, dowry related violence, trafficking, forced prostitution, coerced suicide and murder.

In recent past, another form of violence, which is fiercer in nature, has evolved widely known as eve-teasing³ (sexual harassment⁴). Eve-teasing, the ruckus and pestering of women, has gradually become brutal form of women suppression and violence often resulting in terrible and sometimes horrifying consequences such as grievous hurt, abduction, acid throwing, rape murder and forced suicide and so forth [8]. It is quite unusual that, 'eve-teasing has nothing to do with any physical harassment' (most of the time) thus law of Bangladesh doesn't 'treat it as violent act' and thus why the legal authority were unable to take the eve-teasing happening so seriously, as a crime [9]. A recent report [10] states that, as many as 12 significant cases found that states teenage girls committed suicide in Bangladesh from 2006 to 2008, and sexual harassment was fueling those incidents, covertly or overtly. They used the data of media coverage, but most of the time frequent cases never get media coverage of eve-teasing cases. Considering the honor of the family or getting scared of the teaser threats, most of the cases never get published or kept hidden.

Evidence of frequent sexual harassment increases girls' dropping out rate from schools, as parents concerned about family honor and dignity more on than daughters' honor or safety [11], [12]. Through the same process, sexual harassment pushes girls into marriage, before they are physically or mentally prepared [13]. And being married at early age, they usually bear their first child while they are still teenagers; therefore, risk the life of both the mother and the children. Because, mothers in aged 15 to 19 years face a 20 to 200 percent greater chance of dying in pregnancy than women aged 20 to 24 years [14], [7]. So it appeared that sexual harassment and its frequent growth caused so many impacts on girls mental, social and political states, and rooted continuous negative effect on their life span. In these circumstances, the study was designed to identify the nature and extent of sexual harassment among the adolescent girls. The research question of the study assessed the basics assumptions/indices like nature, trend, and types of eve-teasing, post action taken after being harassed and so on. The research questions basically seek to explore a general and descriptive outlook of eve-teasing/sexual harassment among the adolescent girls, on that particular municipality (Jhenidah) of Bangladesh.

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted following survey research design in two wards, namely Baparpara and Hamdah, of Jhenidah⁵ Municipality, Bangladesh. Convenience to the researcher to collect information from the field, and as no prior study found in this district about eve-teasing (sexual harassment), the study area was selected purposively, but the two wards are selected randomly. Data were collected from the field, by the researcher himself, during November 2008 to January 2009. Allowing an error tolerance of 7.8 percent and 95 percent confidence level, we chose a sample of 110 adolescent (aged between 13-19 years) girls [15]. Data were collected from these 110 respondents who were randomly selected from 351 census⁶ adolescent

² Throwing acid on person's body or face as a vindictive reaction. Women are the massive victim of this kind of violence activities.

³ In this study, eve-teasing means disturbance or harassment of girls in social atmospheres. Eve-teasing includes bad comments, showing obscene symbol, ugly physical movement of body, obstruction on the way, giving whistle, nasty behavior like pulling lady's gauze scarf, and so on, towards young girls.

⁴ Government of Bangladesh changed the term eve-teasing as sexual harassment category for penal prosecution, thus in this paper the meaning of sexual harassment will be considered as the same with eve-teasing.

⁵ The municipality consists of 9 wards and 33 community area, with the total city boundary of 39.63 sq. km. The total population is 86635, distributed the 52.55 percent of male and 47.45 percent of female [16].

⁶ To identify the sample, a census has been conducted by the researcher among the age group of below 20 years of female, and who are facing eve-teasing experience/s at least for 6 months or more. Small scale census questionnaire (based on teasing experience, address, age and so on) were used to identify those sampling frame (population list), and who willingly wanted to participate for the research. 351 census populations were found in this course and sample of 110 were drawn randomly from the census population.

girls. To find out the objectives of the study, incorporating both open and close ended items in the questionnaire, data about respective concepts were collected through an interview schedule (Printed in Bengali) by face to face interaction between the researcher and the respondents. In addition, secondary data from relevant sources were used to strengthen the rationality of the study and for better comprehensive analysis. Soon after, the data were computerized, analyzed and interpreted using software's like SPSS, MS Word, Excel and so on. Descriptive statistical techniques were used to interpret the variables, and concerned categories of those variables. However, the financial shortage and inadequate time for data collection from the field limited the extensive understanding of the issue. Additionally, the hesitant respondents, unwilling to disclose the awful events of their lives due to social attitude towards female dignity, refused to take part in the primary census. Yet, a handful of them wanted to participate for the census, in order to disclose this dreadful life event, and 110 samples were randomly selected for the face to face interview.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Background Information of the Respondents

In existing social system, younger women are, in general, less powerful since they have fewer resources to mobilize, therefore, they are more at risk of sexual harassment [17], [18]. In fact, the younger women are, evidently, more likely experience sexual harassment, at public or at workplace [19], [20]. The marital status and education of the girls are also found as important factors associated with the incidence of sexual harassment. Studies show that single women, including unmarried, divorced, separated or widowed, have greater chance of experiencing sexual harassment than married women, as married persons tend to have more social capital and protection than singles [21], [19], [22], [23]. Additionally, sexual harassment is evidently found to increase against women with low educational success [22], [24]. In contrast, it also appeared that well-educated women are victimized by the perpetrators, in work-place as well as in educational institutions [25], [26].

Findings (Table 1) reveal that among the respondents, young girls (below 15 years), the unmarried to be specific, were at more risk of sexual harassment than the older and married adolescent girls, as the prior experienced more sexual harassment compare to the later. It is also apparent from the findings that school going girls were more vulnerable to the traumatizing experience of sexual harassment, compared to the girls in colleges and universities.

Table 1. Background Information

Variables	Percentage (%)	Mean/Standard Deviation
Age (in Year)		
14-15	63.6	15.65/1.64
16-17	15.5	
18-19	20.9	
Total	100.0	
Marital Status		
Married	4.0	-
Unmarried	96.0	
Total	100	
Educational Qualification		
Illiterate	0.9	-
Class I – X	65.4	
SSC passed	13.6	
HSC and above	20.0	
Total	100	

3.2 Incidence and Perpetrators of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment, a universal social endemic, is generally meant to reinforce men's higher position and domination over women [27], [28] and to reflect the underlying dynamics of gender based power inequality in social system [29], [30]. Hence, women are consistently subjected to sexual harassment, irrespective of age, color, religion, social status and so on, in different social settings, including public and private spheres [31], [32], [33]. They endure different sexual behaviors, including verbal, visual and physical [34], hassled either by classmates, or colleagues [35], [36] and this traumatizing experience continues for a long period of time, ranging from a year or two and even beyond [37], [38], [39], [40].

Findings (Table 2) show that over 90 percent adolescent girls were exposed to sexual harassment for a year or two, and the most common form of such behavior is explicit language, either in face to face situation or over the phone, and few of them were also physically harassed by the perpetrators. It is also apparent from the findings that adolescent girls are not entirely secured in educational institutions as three-fourth of the interviewees reported of eve-teasing in their respective institutions, mostly by their classmates/seniors and to some extent, by the faculties. The perpetrators often attempted to propose the victims, either for marriage or love affair, some even tried to lure them to have pre-marital intercourse.

Table 2. Nature and Incidence of Sexual Harassment

Variables	Percentage (%)
Extent of Sexual Harassment	
Nearly one year	77.0
1-2 years	18.0
More than 2 years	5.0
Total	100
Type of Sexual Harassment	
Whistling	20.9
Obscene language in the street	60.9
Obscene language in cell phone	13.6
Touching	4.5
Total	100
Sexual Harassment in Educational Institutions	
Yes	75.0
No	25.0
Total	100
Perpetrators of Sexual Harassment in Educational Institutions⁷	
Male Classmates/Seniors	97.0
Male Teachers and stuffs	3.0
Total	100
Nature of Proposals by the Perpetrators in Educational Institutions	
Affair	75.0
Marriage	3.0
Friendship	7.0
Pre-marital Intercourse	15.0
Total	100

3.3 Supports for the Victims

Sexual harassment of women is generally considered as a major crime across the globe, yet it remains undisclosed, especially, in developing countries, due to social stigmas upon the victims. In fact, the victims are often blamed for the assaults, and the acts of the offenders, in most cases, are often overlooked, and only a few are exposed [41], [42]. Additionally, the victims are faced with post-assault hostile environments as families and friends often blame or refuse to support based on disbelief, while the legal systems frequently turn down the complaints on no-confirmation ground [43], [44].

Findings (Table 3) show that the victims were more likely being harassed sexually when escorted by another female (84.5%) than male or parents, especially, father. Nevertheless, people, at the spot of sexual assaults, were evidently more or less compassionate for the victims, and such support helped the victims to protest (75.5%) strongly, verbally in particular, against the vindictive activities of the perpetrators. All the family members, the parents in particular (78%), of nearly 95 percent of victims were ready to lend a hand to their assaulted family members. It is, however, observed that less than one fifth of the victims of sexual harassment reported the heinous acts to the police. Despite strong legal provisions against the crime, the victims and their families were reluctant to report to the police since half of the criminals, of reported incidences,

⁷ A total of 82 adolescent girls condemned their classmates and teachers for sexual harassment.

remained unpunished. Moreover, the burden of being stigmatized by the society left no choice for the victims and the families, but to let the bygones or to forget the incidences. Therefore, majority of the victims found the existing social system⁸ primarily guilty for the increasing rate of sexual harassment in Bangladesh.

It is evident in the study that almost all the victims were unaware of the existing legal provisions against sexual harassment, which explains the minimum police report of the incidences. In addition, the victims were found reluctant to raise social awareness against sexual harassment. The fear of being identified might discourage them to participate in social movements against sexual harassment.

Table 3. Supports for the Victims

Variables	Percentage (%)
Aide during Harassment	
Female	84.5
Male	11.8
Parents	3.7
Total	100
Assistance on the Spot	
Yes	50.9
No	49.1
Total	100
Protest against Harassment	
Yes	75.5
No	24.5
Total	100
Nature of Protest⁹	
Oral	70.9
Physical	2.7
Undisclosed	26.4
Total	100
Supports from Family	
Yes	93.6
No	6.4
Total	100
Supportive Members of Family¹⁰	
Father	26.0
Mother	52.0
Brother	12.0
Sister	10.0
Total	100
Reporting Incidents to Police	
Yes	13.6
No	86.4
Total	100

⁸ By social system the respondents indicated the patriarchal social structure of Bangladesh that differentiates between men and women based on stereotypic social roles and expectations and discriminates against women for social status and personal dignity and neglects women's constitutional rights and freedom of movement.

⁹ More than two-third of the adolescents (83) protested against harassment.

¹⁰ A total of 103 interviewees reported having been supported by their families.

Variables	Percentage (%)
Aftermath of Police Report¹¹	
Arrested/Punished	50.0
Threatened	44.0
None	6.0
Total	100
Condemned for Harassment	
Boys	12.7
Girls	1.8
Social system	85.5
Total	100
Awareness regarding Legal Provisions	
Yes	1.8
No	98.2
Total	100
Participation in Awareness Movement	
Yes	5.0
No	95.0
Total	100

4 DISCUSSION

The findings of the study come up with some descriptive explanation of sexual harassment through teasing, and narrate the general character and extent of it. As the study was conducted among teenager who have faced eve-teasing at least for last six months, and among them the younger girls of 14-15 years are the majority. Respondents character showed up that majority of them are unmarried and have the education level of class of I to X. General depiction of the study showed that, the adolescent female considered teasing as whistling towards them, throwing obscene language at street and in cell phone, physical teasing and so on. Among these, the most common harassment (60.90 percent) they have faced is throwing of bad language or comments towards them. Here to mention that, the bad language consist of sexual comments, slang language, irritating words to stimulate sexually, comments about physical structure and dresses, and so on. Some of the finding of the study indicated that the proposal of affair, sexual union, marriage or force friendship also appeared among this harassment acts. In the study area, respondents were facing this kind of harassing experience about months and to some extent more than a year or couple of years.

All these raise question about why this situation continued against girls for longer duration? And why there is no protest or remedies to stop this kind harassing actions against generation? Asking about these questions, the study result showed us some interesting findings. It is found that after being harassed, the respondents get help from the family in maximum numbers, sometimes they protest by themselves or people on the spot assist them after being harassed. But, when it came about filing legal action against those offenders (harasser), to inform the law enforcing agency or to take legal actions, interestingly, it has been found that only 13.6 percent has done it. This can open another door for further research about why after being harassed, or only by protesting on the spot, most of the victims never filed cases under legal law. Because, the evidence of the study showed that, many of the victims had this harassment experience for long duration. What might be the hidden factor/s behind this can be explored by further research.

Culturally, women in Bangladesh were more subject to sexual harassment as the social structure or its relations are determined by the masculine characteristics or male domination [45]. And, it is the culture that determines the societal attitudes towards the female sex and their protection from awful sexual victimization [46]. Experience about the teasing, most of the respondents claimed that they condemn the boys and mostly the patriarchal social structure as responsible. The patriarchy culture based social structure gave more autonomy and freedom to boys, and confined female into some particular boundaries. Supporting this argument, the study showed that, the respondents have experienced sexual

¹¹ Only 12.5 percent of the interviewees (15) reported to the police.

harassment in social atmosphere and even in their education institution as well. Most of the time, they claimed that boys were doing the teasing. Their experience showed that, they have sexual harassment more frequent when they were along with girls (84.5 percent), which sums up their vulnerability about security at social arena. Regarding the support from the family after being harassed, the study revealed that, female person of the family (Mother: 52 Percent; Sister: 10 percent) accompanied the victims mentally or other ways. So, the results showed that respondents are condemning particularly the boys and patriarchy for sexual harassment, and most of the time they only get shelter of mental support under other female (e.g. mother, sister) supporting person. It raise new dimension of research asking about why males from the family or community are not supporting female exclusively, after being harassed. Or, is it only found on this study area or there can be found similarities to other municipality of Bangladesh as well. As we do not have much study on eve-teasing (sexual harassment) in Bangladesh, further research can explain whether sexual harassment is connected to female culturally and structurally or not.

5 CONCLUSION

Sexual harassment, a deviant act against the honor, dignity and self-respect of the women, is burning issue in Bangladesh, now a day. It is evident that adolescent girls, at all ages, are the victims of sexual harassment or teasing, especially young school going girls, who experience this troublesome incident repeatedly, even for a year or two. This unexpected act takes place more frequently in the road side or on the way to educational institutions, where, most of the time the boys of different age were the involved with. The most interesting fact is that, adolescent girls are experiencing public abuse most often when they are with girls. The patriarchal social system of Bangladesh practiced male supremacy over female in every aspect, and the respondents condemn it in many ways. And it seemed that victims or their families were unwilling to take necessary legal actions by the help of law enforcing agency. The frequent harassment experience of the adolescent girls, and withdrawing to have legal actions actually opened different dimensions of further research. It can be take account, to look forward to see, how the patriarchal social system and culture associated to sexual harassment? Why the victims don't want to take legal charge? In this context, comprehensive social research needed to be done, both from the government policy making level, and non government organizational level, to investigate and further assessment regarding sexual harassment of adolescent girls in Bangladesh.

REFERENCES

- [1] N. Islam, and N. Sultana, "The Status of Women in Bangladesh: Is the Situation Really Encouraging?" *Research Journal of Social Sciences*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 56-65, 2006.
- [2] Jain, Devaki, and Bannerjee, Nirmala (eds.), *Tyranny of the Household*, Shakti Books, 1985.
- [3] S. R. Schuler, S. M. Hashemi, A. P. Riley, and S. Akhter, "Credit Programmes, Patriarchy and Men's Violence against Women in Rural Bangladesh," *Social Science and Medicine*, vol. 43, no. 12, pp. 1729-42, 1996.
- [4] M. A. Koenig, S. Ahmed, M. B. Hossain, and A. B. M. K. A. Mozumder, "Women's Status and Domestic Violence in Rural Bangladesh: Individual and Community Level Effects," *Demography*, vol. 40, no. 2, pp. 269-88, 2003.
- [5] M. E. Khan, U. Rahman, and S. M. Hossain, "Violence against Women and Its Impact on Women's Lives: Some Observations from Bangladesh," *Journal of Family Welfare*, vol. 46, no. 2, pp. 12-24, 2001.
- [6] Fahmina, T, *Violence against Women: Statistics of the Last 5 Years*, 2007. [Online] Available: <http://www.thedailystar.net/law/2007/03/02/investigation.htm> (October 15, 2011)
- [7] E. Weisfeld-Adams, "Harassment: the Effects of "Eve Teasing on Development in Bangladesh", The Hunger Project, New York, 2008.
- [8] Khan, S., Khan, S. I., and Hollerbach, P. E. *On Their Own World: The Formulation of Sexual and Health-related Behavior among Young Men in Bangladesh Summary Report*. Catalyst Consortium, 2005. [Online] Available: [http://www.nfi.net/downloads/knowledge centre/NFI%20publications/Reports/2005_CatalystBangladeshsummaryreport.pdf](http://www.nfi.net/downloads/knowledge%20centre/NFI%20publications/Reports/2005_CatalystBangladeshsummaryreport.pdf) (April 5, 2013)
- [9] Serajul, P, M, *Eve teasing, women rights and our Bangladesh*, 2013. [Online] Available: <http://www.banglanews24.com/Law/English/detailsnews.php?nssl=9fc3d7152ba9336a670e36d0ed79bc43&nttl=133> (June 4, 2013)
- [10] Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association (BNWLA), 81% Girls Fall Victim to Eve Teasing: Study, 2008. [Online] Available: <http://www.bnwla.org.bd/content/view/full/186/lang/en/> (September 23, 2008)
- [11] Rashid, M, *Letting Eve-teasing Go Unpunished*, 2007. [Online] Available: <http://archive.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=5952> (April 7, 2013)
- [12] M. A. Jabbar, S. R. Sultana, M. T. Hossain, and S. Rana, "Dropping Out of Children from Schools in Bangladesh," *Bangladesh Research Publications Journal*, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 320-29, 2010.
- [13] N. Jahan, M. A. Jabbar, and M. T. Hossain, "Factors Affecting Early Marriage of the Women in Bangladesh," *Journal of Socioeconomic Research and Development*, vol. 7, no. 5, 958-63, 2010.

- [14] UNICEF, *Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, Innocenti Report No. 7. 2001.
- [15] Survey System, *Sample Size Calculator*, 2008. [Online] Available: <http://www.surveysystem.com/index.htm> (October 25, 2008)
- [16] Banglapedia, *Jhenidah District*, 2006. [Online] Available: http://www.banglapedia.org/HT/J_0105.HTM (June 4, 2013)
- [17] MacKinnon, Catharine A., *Sexual Harassment of Working Women*, Yale University Press, 1979.
- [18] Schat, A. C. H., Frone, M. R., and Kelloway, E. K., *Prevalence of Workplace Aggression in the U.S. Workforce*, In: E. K. Kelloway, J. Barling and J. J. Burrell (eds.) *Handbook of Workplace Violence*, Sage, 2006.
- [19] J. Lee, S. Gibson, and J. P. Near, "Blowing the whistle on sexual harassment: Test of a model of predictors and outcomes," *Human Relations*, vol. 57, no. 3, pp. 297–322, 2004.
- [20] Y. Stedham, and M. C. Mitchell, "Sexual Harassment in Casinos: Effects on Employee Attitudes and Behaviors," *Journal of Gambling Studies*, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 381-400, 1998.
- [21] E. Lafontain, and L. Tredeau, "The Frequency, Sources, and Correlates of Sexual Harassment among Women in Traditional Male Occupations," *Sex Roles*, vol. 15, no. 7/8, pp. 433–42, 1986.
- [22] T. C. Fain, and D. L. Anderton, "Sexual Harassment: Organizational Context and Diffuse Status," *Sex Roles*, vol. 17, no. 5/6, pp. 291–311, 1987.
- [23] T. Nieminen, T. Martelin, S. Koskinen, J. Simpura, E. Alanen, T. Härkänen and A. Aromaa, "Measurement and Socio-demographic Variation of Social Capital in a Large Population-based Survey," *Social Indicators Research*, vol. 85, no. 3, pp. 405-423, 2008.
- [24] T. W. Dougherty, D. B. Turban, D. E. Olson and P. Dwyer, "Factors Affecting Perceptions of Workplace Harassment," *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, vol. 17, no. 5, pp. 489–501, 1996.
- [25] D. E. Terpstra and S. E. Cook, "Complainant Characteristics and Reported Behaviors and Consequences Associated with Formal Sexual Harassment Charges," *Personnel Psychology*, vol. 38, no. 3, pp. 559-574, 1985.
- [26] V. E. Lee, R. G. Croninger, E. Linn and X. Chen, "The Culture of Sexual Harassment in Secondary Schools," *American Educational Research Journal*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 383-417, 1996.
- [27] I. Padavic and J. D. Orcutt, "Perceptions of sexual harassment in the Florida legal system: A comparison of dominance and spillover explanations," *Gender Sociology*, vol. 11, no. 5, pp. 682-698, 1997.
- [28] L. F. Fitzgerald and S. L. Shullman, "Sexual harassment: A research analysis and agenda for the 1990s," *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, vol. 42, 5-27, 1993.
- [29] S. Estrich, "Sex at work," *Stanford Law Review*, vol. 43, no. 4, pp. 813-861, 1991.
- [30] L. A. Goodman, M. P. Koss, L. F. Fitzgerald, N. F. Russo and G. P. Keita, "Male violence against women: Current research and future directions," *American Psychologist*, vol. 48, no. 10, pp. 1054-1058, 1993.
- [31] J. E. Gruber and S. Fineran, "Comparing the Impact of Bullying and Sexual Harassment Victimization on the Mental and Physical Health of Adolescents," *Sex Roles*, vol. 59, no. 3, pp. 1–13, 2008.
- [32] M. H. Kohlman, "Person or Position? The Demographics of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace," *Equal Opportunities International*, vol. 23, No. 3/4/5, pp. 143 - 161, 2004.
- [33] R. Macmillan, A. Nierobisz and S. Welsh, "Experiencing the streets: Harassment and perceptions of safety among women," *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 306-322, 2000.
- [34] Catharine A. MacKinnon, *Sexual harassment of working women*, Yale University Press, 1979.
- [35] Beverley H. Earle and Gerald A. Madek, *International Perspective on Sexual Harassment Law*, Law and Inequality, 43, 1993.
- [36] T. C. Fain, and D. L. Anderton, "Sexual harassment: Organizational context and diffuse status," *Sex Roles*, vol. 17, no. (5/6), pp. 291–311, 1987.
- [37] Arjun P. Aggarwal, *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace*, 2nd Ed. Butterworths, 1992.
- [38] Barbara A. Gutek, *Sex and the workplace: The impact of sexual behavior and harassment on women, men, and organizations*, Jossey-Bass, 1985.
- [39] Markku Heiskanen and Matti Piispa, *Faith, hope, battering: A survey of men's violence against women in Finland*, Statistics Finland, 1998.
- [40] Linda L. Sabbadini, *Molest and Sexual Violence*, National Institute of Statistics, 1998.
- [41] K. A. Lonsway and L. F. Fitzgerald, "Rape myths: In review," *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 133–164, 1994.
- [42] Burt, M. R., *Rape myths*, In: M. E. Odem and J. Clay-Warner (Eds.), *Confronting rape and sexual assault*, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 129–144, 1998.
- [43] R. Campbell, E. Dworkin and G. Cabral, "An ecological model of the impact of sexual assault on women's mental health," *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 225–246, 2009.
- [44] L. M. Cortina, L. F. Fitzgerald and F. Drasgow, "Contextualizing Latina Experiences of Sexual Harassment: Preliminary Tests of a Structural Model," *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, vol. 24, no. 4, pp. 295–311, 2002.

[45] Hofstede, Geert, *Masculinity and Femininity: The Taboo Dimension of National Cultures*, Sage Publication, 1998.

[46] G. R. Ghassemi, S. Sadeghi, G. A. Asadollahi, A. R. Yousefy, and S. Mallik, "Early experiences of abuse and current depressive disorders in Iranian women," *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*, vol. 16, no. 5, pp. 498-504, 2010.