

DESIGNING SAFE CITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE WORLD

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I. ABSTRACT

Women's security is a deep-seated issue that has constantly demanded political attention and concern. Despite the government's well-meaning response, it has been unable to bring a considerable change in this sphere. Previous studies have focused on the immediate factors such as insufficient street lighting, dense woodlands, and how they contribute to a woman's security. The following study used a questionnaire to collect primary data which was quantitative in nature. The study found that contrary to popular belief, the government ought to bring changes in its policy and move away from immediate solutions and instead focus on long-term goals. It must introduce stricter punishments, increase police patrolling, and use mobile applications working on GPS software to bring a much-needed paradigm change.

II. INTRODUCTION

All of us love to live in a big megacity and the utmost of us are its part. We love these metropolises because we get all the needed effects hard. Our introductory requirements like good

hospitals, seminaries, the plant, and one of the most important effects is security. Either it is a child or a woman we want to ensure security first. Although these big metropolises are developing day by day; but it's also necessary to concentrate on safety majors. People believe that they can have everything in big metropolises, and these metropolises are full of rush and people around us. You no way feel lonely and the study of gender inequality will no way bother you. It's genuine that we expect we will be safe in these metropolises, but the question is are we really safe? Women are a vital part of our society. In the present society, women are playing major places not only in the family but also in the fields of politics, frugality as well as nation-structure. The days of history are long gone now. The so-called 'weak' womanlike race of history is dead. Women of the present society are walking at par with men, challenging them in nearly every field. It won't be wrong to say that they are indeed exceeding men in certain fields. Without their benefactions in society and its affairs, the world wouldn't have been the same. Women are one of the pivotal parts of society. The whole world has revolutionized. But unfortunately, a scrap of our society still relishes in the provincial, misogynistic mindset. They feel that women are a burden on society and the family. They feel that a woman should only remain confined within the boundaries of the kitchen and the home.

➤ **Problem statement**

In consideration of the above information, the problem statement of the study identifies the lack of adequate women's safety. To study the perception of women towards their safety in public areas. This increasing concern for low levels of safety towards women has motivated the researcher to explore the need for proper safety measures within the cities.

➤ **Gap in knowledge**

The research shall fill the gap, which addresses the need for safety controls for women in every city of the world. Additionally, the study shall also focus on finding the need for developing the cities in case of being a safe place overall by training and self-defense-based activities for the betterment of the city.

III. AIM

The research aims to focus on finding solutions for making a city safe enough for a woman. To improve community safety with women in urban environments. To involve women as active participants in the change process. To enable a connection between women and policymakers so that policy is informed by community experience. To train and support women living in communities to engage with community safety issues.

IV. OBJECTIVES

To decrease the incidence (number of experiences) of sexual harassment women and girls experience in a year by **X%**; to increase the public's knowledge of what constitutes sexual harassment, and to increase women's confidence and desire to use public spaces in the city at night (measured by survey responses).

V. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research has been conducted that looks at, how the changing trends of human settlements and urbanization impact the safety of women in the city of Lahore, Punjab. Bajwa et al. (2018) studied the perception of females regarding their safety and the factors contributing to their insecurity. The data was collected via a questionnaire with a sample size of 400 respondents. Bajwa et al. (2018) found that in the age group of 17-25, 29% of the women felt uncomfortable and 39% of the women have been verbally abused while walking down the street. This evidence suggests that when there is poor lighting, unavailability of the public washroom for females, and the unavailability of security guards, it decreases women's safety. This study continues to add to the idea that the presence of undesirable factors impacts a woman's safety in a public place, significantly.

The research that has been conducted shows that the challenge of women's safety in Indian cities. Soni (2016) studied the relationship between liberty and the issue of women's safety. Soni concluded that while technological interventions namely GPS and CCTV facilities would improve their safety but it would enhance surveillance at the same time. The study continues to

add to the idea that Indian public policy requires a shift towards positive liberty from negative liberty.

The findings of the Safe City Delhi Initiative of the government of Delhi, Safe City Delhi Programme (2012) studied the issue of sexual violence in the aftermath of the brutal gang rape and death of a Delhi woman in 2012. The data was collected from a sample size of 2000 female respondents and 1000 male respondents. The study concluded that 63% of the respondents found it uncomfortable to walk alone in the dark and a mere 5% found public spaces in Delhi 'safe'. The study emphasizes that sexual violence cases often go unreported. It also advocates for the discussion of gender equality and its incorporation into the education curriculum. The feeling of insecurity and fear from women's perspectives when they walk in a public space.

Tandogan et al. (2016) studied their perspectives by surveying a questionnaire with a sample size of 300 respondents. Tandogan et al. (2016) found that 62.5% of respondents never walk around alone in a public place, 50% never wear a mini skirt décolleté when they are alone and 37.9% feel safer when accompanied by a man. The evidence suggests that poorly lit streets, dark subways, dense woodlands, and empty parks are considered as urban places where there is a higher fear and possibility of crime.

Research has been conducted that looks at the inclusivity of green spaces to improve women's safety. Kumar (2021) studied the relationship between green spaces and safety in London. Secondary data was collected from the Office for National Statistics and it was found that poorly designed public space can increase the incidence of threats and harassment. The study concluded that 59% of the respondents found that green spaces improved their well-being. However, the pandemic restricted their freedom of movement and freedom from violence. The study also found that 1 in 5 women face sexual harassment in London with 40% of them having experienced it in a public space. The study continues to add to the idea that cities ought to be designed keeping in mind women's safety and health.

VI. METHODOLOGY

Dimension	Chosen Approach	Sentence explanation
Purpose	Basic approach	The basic approach in research refers to the method, wherein the study is conducted based on the fundamental aspects of the study. The current research shall focus on examining the variables in the study and determine the importance of women's safety.
Nature	Descriptive	Descriptive research refers to the method, wherein the different variables of the study are described. The current research shall include a description of the dependent and independent variables to create the basic concept.
Type of Data	Quantitative data	Quantitative data refers to the numerical data that can be measured. The study shall use information from the existing male and females of the society to quantify the responses on the need for women safety
Data Source	Primary	Primary data refers to the first-hand data that is obtained by the researcher, directly from the selected samples. The research shall consider the member of the society, as the samples and will gather information from them, as the primary source of information.
Time Horizon	Longitudinal	The longitudinal study refers to the research design that is conducted over a longer period, sourced through repeated observations. The current research shall include a long-term study, considering the historic and modern periods.

Strategy	Survey Questionnaire	A questionnaire refers to the set of questions that are developed by a researcher to obtain the required information. The researcher shall use the questionnaire on the selected samples of the study.
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➤ **Conceptual measurement framework**

While developing a research strategy, the key components include the research questions, the research objectives, timeline, availability of the resources, and philosophical approach (Mohajan, 2018). The current research strategy is considered quantitative and involves the collection and use of primary data, which is manifested in the numerical form. In this strategy, the researcher is allowed to collect the data by using the tools of surveys, questionnaires, and polls on the selected samples, considered for the study. This strategy is mainly used to find responses to the when, where, what, and how questions of a specific aspect.

The quantitative research strategy helps in finding the impact (*what*) of the safety measures and self-defense training-based activities (*how*) within the society (*where*), specifically in the public places, during the historic and modern period (*when*). The conceptual measurement framework refers to the framework that is used to fill up the gap in the research and investigate the relationship between the dependent and independent variables, considering the quantitative research strategy.

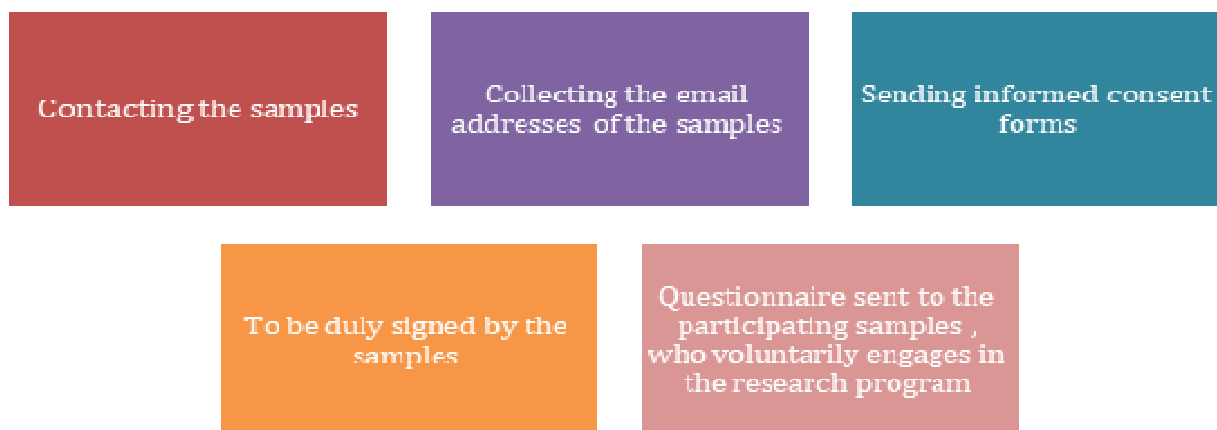
➤ **Operational measurement framework:**

Operational measurement framework refers to the process of structuring the metrics that serve as important key factors and recognizing the key performance indicators. The measurement shall be done by identifying the proxy indicators in the research. The proxy indicators refer to the quantitative indicator that informs about the territorial contextual aspect (Taherdoost, 2016).

➤ **Data collection tools and techniques:**

The data shall be collected through the use of survey questionnaires, which shall be sent to the selected samples of the study, through emails. The informed consent form shall be sent before sending the questionnaires.

➤ **Procedure:**



➤ **Population:**

The population for the current research shall include people from overall the world, including all genders to develop a comparative analysis.

➤ **Sampling technique:**

The convenient sampling process shall be used to collect the data for the research. Considering the lack of contact details of all the possible samples of the research, the use of a convenient sampling method shall be used, as a part of the non-probability method to catch hold of samples, who are close at hand.

➤ **Feasibility:**

The samples shall be contacted by taking due permission from the people. Once, the contact information is gathered, the informed consent forms shall be sent, before sending the questionnaire. Once, the forms are duly signed, the questionnaires will be sent to the willing participants.

VII. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The dignified portrayal of women by media: Despite increasing technological advancement, the Indian mass media refrains from highlighting crucial situations women face and as a matter of fact, old gender stereotypes continue to persist in new forms. According to Ahmad (2014), 75% of the women are commoditized in advertisements where she plays a skimpily dressed, glamorous, sexual object, etc. According to 45% of the respondents, the indecent portrayal of women by the Indian media is one of the most important reasons for the crimes against women. Therefore, it is important to represent women as more than just caregivers but also individuals with social commitments, capable leaders, and policymakers.

Stricter laws and harsher punishments: High incidence of crimes against women is not only due to the patriarchal mindset of the people but also due to no fear of law in the minds of the offenders. As a result of the social stigma, many cases go unreported. Prolonged justice, shoddy investigation, and non-conclusive evidence present further obstacles to this issue. As per 35% of the respondents, speedy and foolproof investigation along with speedy trial and fast track courts would potentially decrease these crimes exponentially. Moreover, capital punishment must be granted wherever justified to instill fear among future perpetrators.

Increased police patrolling on the streets: Police patrolling needs to be introduced in specific streets which are more vulnerable to crimes against women. Since it won't be possible to ensure police patrolling in every street, the public and police both must work collectively to reduce these instances. The public ought to come forward and report any wrongdoing and blind spots which are not monitored by CCTV cameras must be identified and such areas must be illuminated and monitored.

Impart sex education in schools: To control this upward curve in crimes, boys and girls must be taught to respect the opposite sex right from their formative years. The easy access to online pornography leads to the wrongful dissemination of sex-related information. 64% of the respondents believe that imparting sex education in schools would bring a considerable change in society. Therefore, the National Education Policy introduced in 2020 must include a focus on this much-needed issue which it seems to have completely foregone under the umbrella of 'ethical and moral reasoning'.

Install CCTV cameras: The use of cloud computing and artificial intelligence has popularized the use of facial recognition software to track criminals and wrongdoers. They have become crucial to compensate for the understaffed police force in the country. 25% of the respondents are of the idea that installing CCTV cameras would effectively monitor all the vulnerable locations in a city and nab perpetrators.

Use of GPS software to alert emergency services: Geospatial technologies combined with traditional law enforcement can transform information into actionable intelligence. It can also help in specifying the location of the scene of the crime. As per 10% of the respondents, GPS technologies would improve critical decision-making significantly and directly impact the safety of the citizens.

VIII. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The human samples to be considered for the current research would include people from different cities. The people would belong to every gender, the age group would include 12-60 years and the samples shall be willing to take part in the research.

➤ Information:

To make the research authentic and obtain genuine information from the selected samples, the use of the voluntary informed consent form shall be used. The voluntary informed consent form shall be sent to the participants, who are selected for collecting the data. Since the survey shall be obtained through the use of emails, the informed consent form shall be sent to the selected samples, through the emails only.

➤ Comprehension:

These emails shall have voluntary informed consent as attachments within the emails and sent to the samples.

➤ Voluntariness:

Once, the informed consents are sent, they need to be duly signed by the samples and respond to willing participation. After the consent forms are signed, the questionnaires will be sent for the samples to participate.

➤ **For Quantitative data:**

To ensure the confidentiality of the primary data and the responses, obtained from the selected samples, it needs to be stated that the information shall be gathered and stored in a secured format. The steps would include the following:

- ❖ Obtaining the information from the respondents and storing the same in a secured platform, likely the cloud platform.
- ❖ The data shall be password protected and not used for any other purpose, apart from the research content needed.
- ❖ The data sheets will be used to fill the content, but the names and details of the participants shall be removed while including the information on the research work

The participants are not expected to face any risks, as the entire data collection process shall be done through the email platform. It shall be a contactless data collection process, with sufficient time, allowing the respondents to share their views and opinions on the subject. The participants shall also be given the freedom to participate and even withdraw from participating in the data collection process. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the participants do not face any risks in the process. To ensure the integrity and transparency of the research, the researcher shall take steps to avoid any conflict of interest. The employees shall be willing to take part in the research and not participate based on any compulsion of coercion.

IX.CONCLUSION

Women's safety is a serious issue. We all have to work together to solve this problem. Law and police help will have to be taken. The culprits and criminals who persecute the woman will have to be punished. The law will have to punish the culprits severely so that one can think a thousand times before committing misconduct with the woman. Women will have to raise their voices silently against the atrocities being perpetrated on them. Despite the enactment of stringent laws, instead of a reduction in female crime, there is a continuous boom every day.

The security of women in society continues to fall. Women are feeling insecure. The responsibility of changing the dirty environment for women is not only that of the government

but of every common man so that every woman can live her life proudly. Women's safety is a social issue, it needs to be resolved as soon as possible. Women constitute almost half of the country's population, who are physically, mentally, and socially afflicted. It is becoming an obstacle to the development and progress of the country.

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