LIFETIME SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REGARDING GENDER, NATIVE PLACE, RELIGION, CASTE AND ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION

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ABSTRACT

Sexual harassment is a severe problem in society which physically and mentally affects the health of the person. Sexual harassment against women by men or against men by women generally occurs at offices, Schools, colleges, Universities etc. In this paper, we have studied the relationship between the sexual harassment of students and their gender, native place, religion and caste by collecting data on sexual harassment of Central University of South Bihar (CUSB) students through sample surveys. After analysis of the data related to sexual harassment, it has been found that sexual harassment is independent from native place, religion and category except gender of students.

Keywords: Students, Simple Random Sampling, Stratified Random Sampling, Sexual Harassment

1. INTRODUCTION

Harassment is any improper and unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another person. Harassment covers a wide range of behaviours of offensive nature. It is commonly understood as behaviour that demeans, humiliates or empresses a person and its unlikelihood characteristically identifies it in terms of social and moral reasonableness.

Sexual harassment is any unwanted comment, gesture, or action that is sexual in nature (aside from unwanted touching of sexual body parts, which is sexual assault), that makes someone feel afraid, embarrassed, uncomfortable or ashamed. The intention of the person doing the action doesn't matter, it's the negative impact the action has that makes something sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment can include:

- Touching of non-sexual body parts (e.g. unwanted: massage, handholding, light grazing touches etc.).
- Pressing for sexual activity, including sexual touching of non-sexual body parts.

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- Calling someone sexual names.
- Sexual street harassment (e.g., cat calling, whistling).
- Cornering, standing too close, blocking doorways.
- Obscene language or jokes.
- Unwanted discussion of sexual topics.
- Repeatedly asking someone to go out on a date or be in a relationship.
- Unwanted sexual texts or emails.
- Unwanted sexual comments directed toward or about someone else on social media.
- Exposing someone to pornographic material.
- Sexual gestures.
- Embarrassing someone using sexual comments.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The majority of research on sexual harassment has examined the harassment of women by men, reflecting the predominant form of sexual harassment in the workplace (Gutek, 1985; U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (USMSPB), 1981, 1987). Surveys such as the Sexual Experiences Ouestionnaire (SEO; Fitzgerald, Gelfand, & Drasgow, 1995; Fitzgerald & Shullman, 1985; Fitzgerald et al., 1988) have been developed that measure the construct of male-to-female harassment in a psychometrically sound manner, and increasing numbers of prevalence studies document the extent of this problem in work organizations. Recently, some researchers (Popovich, Campbell, Everton, Mangan, & Godinho, 1994; Vaux, 1993) have challenged this focus and have suggested that the sexual harassment of male employees may also be an important problem. At the same time, increasing rates of men's sexual harassment grievances are given more media coverage than increasing rates of women's (Gross, 1995; Lawlor, 1994). The nature of this focus on the sexual harassment of men disguises the gendered power issues involved in sexual harassment. As noted in the above quote, sexual harassment is mainly about power. By power we broadly mean the ability to influence or control other people, allowing one to resolve conflicts to one's own advantage. Most public discussion of sexual harassment focuses on the abuse of organizational power. A popular explanation for the rise in men's grievances reasons that as women gain organizational power, they are increasingly in positions to harass men and that they do so (Crichton, 1993; Lawlor, 1994). This assumes, of course, that mainly women perpetrate sexual harassment against men, an assumption not supported by current data (Waldo, Berdahl, & Fitzgerald, 1998). This explanation also considers only formal organizational power, whereas other types of power are often invoked in sexual harassment (Cleveland & Kerst, 1993). Although women are slowly making headway, men continue to occupy the vast majority of positions of power in public social spheres, such as the workplace, the church, the media, politics, and entertainment. This power imbalance is reinforced by broadly held social norms concerning appropriate roles and behaviour for men and women. Furthermore, the physical power differential between men and women poses an oftenexercised threat of physical violence against women by men (Koss et al., 1994).

3. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the present research paper is to test

- Whether any relationship between sexual harassment of students and their gender is exited or not.
- Whether any relationship between sexual harassment of students and their native place exists or not.
- Whether any relationship between sexual harassment of students and their religion exists or not.
- Whether any relationship between sexual harassment of students and their caste is exited or not.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this paper, we have used cross-tabulation and chi-square tests to determine whether a relationship exists between sexual harassment of students and their gender, native place, region and caste.

To study the relationship of sexual harassment of students with their gender, native place, religion and caste, a structured questionnaire was prepared and through that data related to sexual harassment is collected. To collect the data for research work, we have conducted sample surveys by taking total UG and PG students of CUSB as the population of our study. We have used the method of stratified random sampling to conduct sample surveys.

Here, we have taken the Science Stream, Education Stream, and Social Science Stream of University as stratum1, stratum2, and stratum3 respectively.

The total population of UG and PG students in CUSB till session 2021-2023 (N) =1438.

We have divided the total population of students into three stratum sizes mainly as:

Number of students in Science Stream $(N_1) = 332$

Number of students in Education Stream $(N_2) = 378$

Number of students in Social Science Stream (N₃) =728

To determine total sample size (n) from total population size (N), we have used sample determination formulae which are described below:

$$n_0 = \frac{Z^2 * P * (1 - P)}{E^2}$$
 and $n = \frac{n_0}{[1 + (n_0 - 1)/N]}$,

where Z is value of the test statistic at given level of significance, P is the population proportion of the units passing any characteristic and E is the marginal error.

Here, we have assumed as P = 50% CUSB students are sexual harassed and marginal error (E) is 5% with 95% confidence level.

Hence, in case of simple random sampling without replacement, we have determined total sample size (n) from the total population of size 1438 which is given below:

$$n_0 = \frac{(1.96)^2 * 0.5 * (1 - 0.5)}{(0.05)^2} = 384.$$

Hence, total sample size of students (n) from total population of students (1438) is obtained as:

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$$n = \frac{384}{\left[1 + (384 - 1)/1438\right]} = 303$$

Further, by using the proportional allocation method, we have determined the sample sizes n_1 , n_2 , n_3 from strata size 332, 378, and 728 respectively which are given below:

$$\begin{split} n_1 &= (n/N)^* \ N_1 = (303/1438)^* 332 = 70, \\ n_2 &= (n/N)^* \ N_2 &= (303/1438)^* 378 = 80, \\ n_3 &= (n/N)^* \ N_3 &= (303/1438)^* 728 = 153 \end{split}$$

Hence, the sample size (n_1) for Science Stream (Stratum 1) is 70, t h e sample size (n_2) for Education Stream (Stratum 2) is 80 and the sample size (n_3) for Social Science Stream (Stratum 3) is 153.

After finding the sample size from each stratum, we sent Google forms of the questionnaire to students and got the responses from 70, 80,153 randomly selected students from science, education, and social science streams respectively.

5. ANALYSIS OF DATA

5.1 Relationship between sexual harassment of students and their gender Hypothesis:

Null Hypothesis H_0 : There is no relationship between sexual harassment and gender. Alternative Hypothesis H_1 : There is a relationship between sexual harassment and gender.

		Have you ever been sexually harassed?		
		Yes	No	Total
Gender	Male	41	116	157
	Female	78	68	146
	Total	119	184	303

Table 1 Cross tabulation of sexual harassment and gender

Table 2 Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig.(2-
Pearson Chi-Square	23.658 ^a	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	303		

^a0 cells (.0%) have an expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 57.34.

Table 2 shows that the p value for chi square test is less than 5 % level of significance, so null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, we conclude that there is a relationship between sexual harassment and gender i.e. sexual harassment depends on gender.

5.2 Relationship between sexual Harassment of students and their native place Hypothesis:

Null Hypothesis H0: There is no relationship between sexual harassment and native place. Alternative Hypothesis H1: There is a relationship between sexual harassment and native place.

		Have you ever beer	Have you ever been sexually harassed?	
		Yes	No	
Native Place	Urban	78	105	183
	Rural	41	79	120
	Total	119	184	303

Table 3: Cross tabulation of sexual harassment and native place

Table 4: Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig.(2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.173 ^a	1	.140
N of Valid Cases	303	1	

^a0 cells (.0%) have an expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 47.13.

Table 4 shows that the p value for chi square test is greater than 5 % level of significance, so null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, we conclude that there is no relationship between sexual harassment and native place i.e. sexual harassment does not depend on native place.

5.3 Relationship between sexual harassment of students and their religion

Hypothesis:

Null Hypothesis H0: There is no relationship between sexual harassment and religion. Alternative Hypothesis H1: There is a relationship between sexual harassment and religion.

Have you ever been sexually Total harassed? Yes No Religion Hindu 110 168 278 Muslim 5 15 10 Other 4 6 10 Total 119 184 303

Table 5 Cross-tabulation of sexual harassment and religion

Table 6 Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig.(2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.234ª	2	.889
N of Valid Cases	303		

^a1 cells (16.7%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.93.

Table 6 shows that the p-value for the chi-square test is greater than the 5 % significance level, so the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, we conclude that there is no relationship between sexual harassment and religion i.e. sexual harassment does not depend on religion.

5.4 Relationship between sexual harassment of students and their caste Hypothesis:

Null Hypothesis H₀: There is no relationship between sexual harassment and caste.

Alternative Hypothesis H₁: There is a relationship between sexual harassment and caste.

		Have you ever been sexually harassed?		Total
		Yes	No	
	EWS	11	20	31
Caste	General	45	72	117
	OBC	50	78	128
	SC/ST	13	14	27
	Total	119	184	303

Table 7 Cross-tabulation of sexual harassment and caste

Table 8 Chi-Square Test

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	Value	df	Asymp. Sig.(2-sided)		
Pearson Chi-Square	1.113 ^a	3	.774		
N of Valid Cases	303				

^a0 cells (.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.78.

Table 8 shows that the p-value for chi-square test is greater than 5 % level of significance, so null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, we conclude that there is no relationship between sexual harassment and caste i.e. sexual harassment does not depend on caste.

6. CONCLUSIONS

From Table 2,4,6,8, we can conclude that the sexual harassment of CUSB students is independent of native place, religion and caste but it depends on the gender of CUSB students. i.e. We can say that sexual harassment does not depend on whether students belong to rural or urban areas, whether students belong to Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, or Christian and whether students belong to EWS, General, OBC, SC, or ST caste. However, it depends on whether the students are male or female. We hope that this study will be very useful for the awareness of sexual harassment among students.

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