



FACT SHEET

Safety of Women and Girls from Sexual Violence in Public Spaces in Delhi¹

Perceptions of women on safety from sexual violence in public spaces

- Only 5 % of women and girls ranked public spaces in Delhi as being ‘safe’ in terms of sexual violence.
- Nearly three-fourths (73%) said that women and girls face sexual violence in their own localities/colonies. More than half stated that these spaces *are unsafe all the time*. Streets are reported to be the most unsafe (80%) followed by markets, parks and bus stops.
- Almost two-thirds (63%) stated that they feel fearful or extremely fearful when they go out alone after dark. 20% said they do not venture out alone at all.

Women and girls’ experiences of sexual violence in public spaces

- Nine out of 10 women and girls reported experiencing sexual violence in public spaces in their lifetime. Six out of 10 said they experienced at least one form of sexual violence in the last six months in Delhi.
- The most common forms were sexual jokes, sexual comments, whistling, leering, or obscene gestures, with more than half (52%) reporting having experiencing this type of sexual violence in the last six months. 20% of women were touched, brushed or groped, while 10% reported being stalked. Six women were sexually assaulted in the last six months in public spaces in Delhi.
- 30% of women and girls reported witnessing sexual violence in public places in the last 6 months. Less than a third reported intervening.

¹ Findings are from a cross sectional household survey conducted by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) between October and November 2012 among a representative sample of 2001 women and girls and 1003 men and boys ages 16-49 years in Delhi. This research is part of the Safe Cities initiative in Delhi being implemented by Jagori, the Government of Delhi and UN Women. Its aim is to make Delhi a safer place for women and girls. These baseline data have been collected from three intervention wards (Malviya Nagar, Badarpur and Molarband) and four comparison wards (Zakir Nagar, Hari Nagar, Shahpurjat and Mayur Vihar). Weights were applied to make the data representative of Delhi.

Self-reported perpetration of sexual violence by men in public spaces

- Half of the men (51%) reported that they have ever perpetrated sexual harassment/violence against women and girls in public spaces in Delhi. A fourth (25%) had done so in the last 6 months.

Witnessing sexual violence in public spaces and the response

- 78% of men reported witnessing sexual harassment/violence in public spaces in Delhi in the last 6 months. However, only 15% of them intervened.

Attitudes of men toward sexual violence in public spaces

- Despite high self-reported perpetration of sexual violence, men blame women for their behaviors. Three out of four men agreed with the statement '*Women provoke men by the way they dress.*'
- 40% of men fully or partially agreed with the statement '*If a woman is being teased in a public space, it is usually her own fault.*'
- 56% of men agreed that women should avoid taking jobs that require them to go out at night.
- Two out of five men fully or partially agreed with the statement '*Women moving around at night deserve to be sexually harassed.*'

Safety of Women and Girls from sexual violence in Public Spaces in Delhi²

Detailed Findings from a survey with women and girls

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) New Delhi

1. SAFETY OF DELHI: How safe is are public spaces in DELHI in terms of sexual /violence they may face?

Only 5 % of women and girls ranked public spaces in Delhi as being ‘safe’ in terms of sexual violence in public spaces

Rating on a 5 point safety scale for Delhi was as follows :

1 (22.9%)2 (31.2%).....3 (39.9%).....4 (4.7%).....5(0.2%)

Totally Unsafe

Totally Safe

Can't say 1.1%

2. Which places IN DELHI are not safe ?

Streets : 57.3%; Bus stops 55.2%; markets/shopping malls 51.15%; Parks 46.1%; Railway Stations 33.9%; Inside public transport –bus/metro/local train 31.5%; Areas around alcohol shops 18.8%
Metro stations 20.4%

3. SAFETY OF OWN LOCALITY/COLONY : How safe is are public spaces in your locality/colony in terms of sexual /violence they may face?

Do women and girls face sexual violence/harassment in your colony/locality – Yes : 72.8% .

Rating on a 5 point safety scale for locality was as follows :

1 (4.2%)2 (20.6%).....3 (45.1%).....4 (18.8%).....5(9.4%)

Totally Unsafe

Totally Safe

(1.9% : cant say)

² Findings from a cross sectional household survey conducted by ICRW between October – November 2012 among representative sample of 2001 women and girls and 1003 men and boys of ages 16-49 years in Delhi. This is part of the Safe Cities initiative in Delhi. This is being implemented by Jagori, Government of Delhi and UN Women and aims to make Delhi a safer place for women and girls. Data is collected from three intervention wards - Malviya Nagar, Badarpur and Molarband and four wards - Zakir Nagar, Hari Nagar, Shahpurjat and Mayur Vihar Phase-I from rest of the Delhi. Weights were applied to ensure that results are representative for Delhi

4. Which places in your locality where women/girls face sexual violence in public spaces ?
Streets 80.1%; markets/shopping malls 49.7%; Parks 46.7%; Bus stops 37.3% ; Inside public transport 18.0%; places around alcohol shops 16.65; weekly haat 15.8% .
5. Are there specific times when women face sexual violence in public spaces in your locality
Its unsafe all the time – 56.3%; its unsafe only after dark 30.3%
6. **FEAR SCALE : Fear of sexual violence when going out alone during day time and after dark**
How much do you fear that you may face SV when you go out alone during day
1 (29.3)2 (21.5%).....3 (18.8%).....4 (16.3%).....5(3.7%)
No fear at all fear a lot
(don't go out alone at all during day: 10.3% :)
How much do you fear that you may face SV when you go out alone during night
1 (2.6%)2 (3.1%).....3 (10.2%).....4 (29.4%).....5(33.6%)
No fear at all fear a lot
Don't go out alone at all after dark- 21.2%
7. Do you avoiding certain places when going out alone for fear of Sexual violence:
 - a) During day: YES-57.8%; what will make you feel safer – accompanied by someone 96.3% going in a group 50.5%; police patrol 31.4%; change in men's attitudes 22.3%; knowing that people around you will take action 13.2% ; vendors 10.3% ; knowing ,martial arts 10.3% (options 10% and above)
 - b) During dark : YES 95% : what will make you feel safer – accompanied by someone 94.9% going in a group 50.65; police patrol 33.2%; change in men's attitudes 21.4%; knowing that people around you will take action 13.2% ; vendors 10.5% (options 10% and above)
8. **EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE** ; Have you experienced any of these forms in public spaces, outside your home in Delhi
 - Nine out of ten women and girls reported experiencing sexual violence in public spaces in their lifetime. Six out of ten reported experiencing at least one form of sexual violence in the last 6 months in Delhi.

Experience of violence (Baseline Survey ICRW 2012)		
Have you ever experienced following forms of violence in public spaces in Delhi		In the last 6 MONTHS
Comments/Sexual jokes/whistling/Leering/Obscene Gesture	87.6	51.6
Stalking	32.3	9.7
Touching/Brushing/Groping (Breast or Buttocks)	52.5	20.6
Flashing (of sexual organs/genitals)	22.5	8.1
Sexual assault	0.7	0.2
Any form of violence (computed)	91.5	59.0
Total N	2001	2001

9. **Response** when you experienced a specific form of violence in the last 6 months

Response to experience of SV in last 6 months, and reasons for not doing anything in last 6 months				
Proportion of women and girls who responded to violence, of those experienced violence during last 6 months and reasons for not doing anything by different forms of sexual violence, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012.				
	Comments/Sexual jokes/whistling/Leering/Obscene Gesture	Stalking	Touching/Brushing / Groping (Breast or Buttocks)	Flashing
Response to violence in last 6 month				
Did nothing	58.1	43.1	40.1	71.2
Confronted the perpetrator	40.7	48.0	58.8	23.5
Told to family members/friends	10.8	19.1	18.6	5.6
Ask people around to help/take some action	0.8	2.1	1.7	3.1
Reported to Police	0.8	7.7	0.7	0.6
Reasons for not doing anything				
Incident was minor	61.4	48.8	47.9	30.2
Did not want to attract others attention	35.3	40.5	33.9	33.0
Fear of retaliation from perpetrator	22.5	14.3	22.1	23.3
Felt ashamed of it	17.5	18.6	27.4	42.6
Fear that other would blame me	11.4	15.3	20.9	13.9
Fear that mobility would be restricted	8.0	8.2	9.7	7.0
Fear of hurting family reputation	21.0	19.0	19.5	21.7

10. **Experience as By stander** : Have you seen any women facing sexual violence/ sexually harassed in last 6 months - 30 percent of women and girls reported witnessing sexual violence at public places in last 6 months. Less than a third reported intervening.

11. **Knowledge on laws /policies /messaging around violence against women in public spaces in Delhi**

Knowledge about laws and policies and messaging	
Percentage distribution of women and girls' knowledge and perception about laws and policies on violence against women in public spaces, among all respondents, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, 2012	
Statements	Total
Sexual violence against women and girls public spaces is a crime	100
Sexual violence against women and girls public spaces is worth reporting to any authority	99.0
Aware of any law or act related to harassment of women in public spaces	25.5
Know about any helpline number on which one can call if harass in public spaces	7.9*
Aware of NGOs/CBOs or any other groups who can be approached in case of witnessing sexual violence in public spaces	3.7
Heard or seen any message related to violence against women or safety in public spaces	56.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of these, 37 % said they don't remember the number at that time; and another 31% said 100; only 6% said 1091 	

12. Who should be responsible for addressing SV against women and girls in public spaces and is the government response enough?

Responsibility for addressing violence against women and girls in public spaces		
Percentage distribution of women and girls' perception on who should be responsible for addressing violence against women in public spaces, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012		
Statements		
Who should be primarily responsibility to end violence against women and girls in public spaces?		
Women herself	14.0	
Family	2.2	
Men	10.4	
Community	5.5	
State	50.0	
Others – Police	18.0	
Is government doing enough to address violence against women and girls in public spaces?		
Doing enough	5.3	
Something but not enough	40.6	
Nothing	40.1	
Can't say	14.1	
Total N	2001	

Safety of Women and Girls from sexual violence in Public Spaces in Delhi³

Detailed Findings from a survey with boys and men

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) New Delhi

1. Self –reported Perpetration of sexual violence by men in public spaces in Delhi

- Half of the men (51%) reported that they have ever perpetrated sexual harassment/violence against women and girls in public spaces in Delhi. One-fourth (25%) has done so in last 6 months.

Perpetration of violence (Proportion of men who reported perpetrating specific form of sexual violence in Delhi, ever and last 6 months, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012)		
Have you ever done any of the following to women and girls in public spaces in Delhi	EVER	LAST 6 MONTHS
Comments/Sexual jokes/whistling/Leering/Obscene Gesture	49.8	23.6
Stalking	9.2	2.9
Touching/Brushing/Groping (Breast or Buttocks)	8.6	3.8
Flashing	1.5	1.2
Sexual assault	0.3	0.3
Any form of violence (COMPUTED)	50.5	25.0
Total N	1003	1003

2. Witnessing sexual violence in public spaces and the response

- 78% (785 out of 1003) men reported witnessing sexual harassment/violence in public spaces in Delhi in last 6 months. However, only 15.8% (n=124) of them intervened.

Witnessed sexual violence / harassment of women Proportion of men who reported witnessing any form of sexual violence ever and last 6 months , Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012		
Have you ever witnessed following forms of violence in public spaces	Ever	Last 6 months
Comments/Sexual jokes/whistling/Leering/Obscene Gesture	88.9	77.1
Stalking	55.9	30.3
Touching/Brushing/Groping (Breast or Buttocks)	37.2	31.7
Flashing	16.7	3.7
Sexual assault	7.6	0.1
Any form of violence (Computed)	89.5	77.9
Total N	1003	1003

³ Findings from a cross sectional household survey conducted by ICRW between October – November 2012 among representative sample of 2001 women and girls and 1003 men and boys of ages 16-49 years in Delhi. This is part of the Safe Cities initiative in Delhi. This is being implemented by Jagori, Government of Delhi and UN Women and aims to make Delhi a safer place for women and girls. Data is collected from three intervention wards - Malviya Nagar, Badarpur and Molarband and four wards - Zakir Nagar, Hari Nagar, Shahpurjat and Mayur Vihar Phase-I from rest of the Delhi. Weights were applied to ensure that results are representative for Delhi

- The reason for others not intervening was as follows:

Reasons for not intervening when witnessed any form of sexual violence / harassment of women in last 6 months Proportion of men reporting reasons for not intervening when they witnessed any form of sexual violence or harassment against women, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012	
Reasons for not intervening	Total
Incident was minor	24.1
Did not want to attract attention of people standing nearby	3.0
Fear of retaliation from perpetrator	28.0
It was none of my business	56.3
Felt people standing nearby won't support me	4.2
Total N	661

3. Attitude of men towards sexual violence in public spaces

- Despite high self-reported perpetration of sexual violence, men continue to blame women for their behaviours. Three out of four men agreed to the statement '*Women provoke men by the way they dress*'.
- 40% of men fully or partially agreed to the statement '*If a woman is being teased in a public space, it is usually her own fault*'.
- 56% men agreed that women should avoid taking up jobs that require them to go out a night.
- Nearly 65% men fully or partially agreed to the statement '*Women should go out only when accompanied by male*'.
- Two men out of five fully or partially agreed to the statement '*Women moving around at night deserve to be sexually harassed*'.
- 30% of men fully or partially agreed to the statement '*When a woman is raped, she usually did something careless to put herself in that situation*'.

4. Usual reaction of people around to such incidents

Reaction of bystanders when they witnessed any form of sexual violence or harassment of women Proportion of men reporting reaction of bystanders on witnessing any form of sexual violence or harassment against women, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012		
Reasons for not intervening	Total	
Ignored	65.2	
Laughed/enjoyed	12.3	
Trivialized	20.6	
Confronted with the perpetrator	6.7	
Told something to girl/woman to do something to avoid the perpetrator	1.5	
Blamed the girls	2.0	
Did not do anything even when asked for help	10.5	
Total N	1003	

5. Knowledge of laws/policies and messaging

Knowledge and perception about laws and policies		
Percentage distribution of men and boys' knowledge and perception about laws and policies on violence against women in public spaces, among all respondents, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012		
Statements	Total	
Sexual violence against women and girls public spaces is a crime	99.6	
Sexual violence against women and girls public spaces is worth reporting to any authority	99.2	
Aware of any law or act related to harassment of women in public spaces	13.9	
Aware of NGOs/CBOs or any other groups who can be approached in case of witnessing sexual violence in public spaces	4.2	
Heard or seen any message related to violence against women or safety in public spaces	16.7	
Total N	1003	

6. Who should be responsible for addressing SV against women and girls in public spaces and is the government response enough?

Percentage distribution of men and boys' perception on who should be responsible for addressing violence against women in public spaces, Baseline survey, Safe Cities, ICRW 2012		
Statements		
Who should be primarily responsibility to end violence against women and girls in public spaces?		
Women herself	14.2	
Family	6.8	
Men	6.4	
Community	26.5	
State	13.1	
Others – Police	33.0	
Is government doing enough to address violence against women and girls in public spaces?		
Doing enough	8.4	
Something but not enough	48.1	
Nothing	38.6	
Can't say	4.9	
Total N	1003	