

WOMEN POLICE UNITS FIGHT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN INDIA

Harassment covers a wide range of offensive or unwanted behavior in order to make other person uncomfortable. Most often women are the victims of harassment and the offenders are male. Harassment is a form of illegal and discrimination and all the human rights laws prohibit this act but ratio of the harassment is continuously increasing although laws are present in our society.

Sexual harassment is a worldwide growing problem, specially in India, which leads to the murder and robbery too. It does not just include a creepy man forcing himself on a helpless working woman. There are many others ways that men find to subtly harass a woman sexually just because they get an adrenalin kick out of it.

India being a patriarchal society is trying very hard to remove the bias against women; by educating them and seeing them step out of homes and fulfil duties as an earning member in their own right.

The Asian superpower has long struggled to come to terms with the epidemic of sexual violence happening behind closed doors.

Around 80% of Indian women have been harassed by men in public. This is a practice known as 'Eve teasing' and it includes catcalling, lewd comments and being followed by strangers. The term 'eve teasing' is referred as Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment of women, verbally, or by making vulgar gestures or by winking, whistling or staring, in public places such as in streets, public transportation, park and many places of public meeting. Eve teasing today has become pernicious, horrid and disgusting practice.

A popular category of Eve teasing is stalking which Indian Law has not looked as a serious issue; stalking is much graver than eve teasing; it is an obsessive behaviour. The general definition of Stalking can be described as repeated harassing or threatening behaviour by an individual, such as following a person, appearing at person's home, person's workplace, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects or vandalizing person's property.

In India many women want to protect their rights and safety . So, a lot of them gone to special police division . This decision is a result of the India economic summit. Now all-female police units are taking to the streets in northwest India to fight the problem because of no tolerance towards crimes against women

The city of Jaipur has recently launched the country's latest all-female police force. This follows a similar initiative in the neighbouring city of Udaipur.

Those on the force are put through months of legal and martial arts training before being deployed to patrol harassment hotspots, such as bus stops and parks. It is hoped that the presence of all-women police units will not only deter would-be rapists, but that it will also help prevent sexual harassment.

Early results are promising. The all-women Jaipur police force was set up in May and it has already been credited with reducing levels of harassment.

Previously, victims were afraid to report sex crimes to a largely male police force. This was due to fears that they wouldn't be believed, or that they would be blamed for the attack.

The presence of female-only units has boosted confidence in the police.

Women who become the target of harassment or a sex crime can now report it via a phone call or the messaging service, WhatsApp.

Taking action against sex crimes committed in public is one thing, preventing similar attacks occurring in a domestic setting is quite another.

While advances have been made in tackling domestic abuse around the world, it remains an underreported problem within many societies, including in India where it is often accepted under the guise of cultural practices or religious beliefs.

Marriage is seen as a private affair for many Indian families. Before the 2005 introduction of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act there was little respite for victims of domestic abuse. Yet, even to this day, marital rape is not covered by the Act.

India's Ministry of Women and Child Development and several national and international development organizations have invested in schemes to enhance the social and economic empowerment of women.

Perhaps the officers who work in all-female police units will help to empower other women.

The All Women Police Units have become well known locally and increasing numbers of women now feel confident in approaching the units for help with sexual harassment. Further, these units greatly raised the status of women police in the minds of the public and their success led many young women to

seek a career in policing. In sum, these units have been successful not only in encouraging women to report domestic abuse to the police, but also in helping women police officers to achieve their law enforcement career goals and to play an active role in prevention of women harassment. Women policing is also progressing in some other Indian states, but at a slower pace.

Список використаних джерел

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