



Research Paper

A Study on Sexual Harassment Among Women Players

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Abstract

Objectives: Determine prevalence of sexual harassment amongst players of National and University level. The second to determine types of sexual harassment predominantly found in players. The third objective was to identify types of action normally taken by victim of sexual harassment.

Subject: A total of one hundred seventy women players were selected. The women players selected were those who participated in national, inter university, and in all India inter university tournaments. 93 data of netball players were collected during all India university net ball tournaments and 77 players were selected from Chhattisgarh.

Variable: Sexual harassment Questionnaire designed by the United States of America Defense Equal Opportunity Council (DEOC) Task Force on discrimination and sexual Harassment, (Laxman (2003) and SEQ-Sports (section C & D) (Nogueras&Enid,2010) were modified and translated in Hindi.

Design of study: The present study is ex post facto type of research. The variable sexual harassment is categorized into four sections. Section A consists of 9 questions which seeks personal information regarding subjects, section B consists of 20 questions this section deals with sexual harassment experience in sports. Section C is related with section B there are only 4 questions which seeks information about person responsible for sexual harassment and section D comprises of 8 questions which deals with response of sexual harassment by women players. Statistical Analysis: Data were analyzed with the help Analysis Tool Pack (Microsoft Excel). Frequency of response was recorded and percentage was calculated.

Conclusion: The result of the study indicated that 50% women players faced crude/offensive behavior at some point of time. 41.55% players faced sexual harassment in the form of unwanted sexual attention. 19.55% players faced sexual harassment in the form of sexual coercion. It can be concluded that crude offensive behavior and unwanted sexual attention occurred abundantly as compare to sexual coercion which is considered as serious categories of sexual harassment. 29% women player reported it was coach who was responsible for sexual harassment, whereas, 40.1% reported it is departmental staff, 61.76% reported its spectator and 63.53% reported it as other athletes. It is further concluded that the person responsible for sexual harassment were other athletes, spectators, departmental staff & coach respectively. More than 50% women player reported that they talked about the sexual harassment incident to someone they trusted, reported to staff from university or department and also let the harasser know that they dislike the same. Some of the women player made an excuse so that they would be left alone, blamed themselves or tried to forget sexual harassment incident.

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I. INTRODUCTION.

Sexual harassment includes abuses like eve-teasing, molestation, sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape have become very common forms of offences which are reported almost every day. They cover both physical as well as verbal abuses. However, they all are different parts of what is commonly known as sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. It is the gender based violence which depicts the superior status of men in the society and the victimization of women. It is also pertinent to consider that any form of violence, whether verbal

or physical, may be forced against a woman either by a complete stranger, or by people who are known to them. There have been many instances where the suspected offenders are either family members themselves, or relatives, or even family friends. Considering such circumstances, it will not be wrong to presume that a woman is not safe in today's time even at her own home.

Sexual harassment perceived in different ways by different people, Fitzgerald's conceptual model describes three types of sexual harassment (Fitzgerald et al., 1995)

The first type Gender harassment refers to the range of insulting and offensive attitudes against women. Behaviors in this category include but are not limited to sexual epithets, slurs, taunts, and obscene gestures; gender-based hazing, bullying, and threats; undermining self-respect and performance. This type of harassment behavior degrades the individual's gender and sex role, and could be manifested as verbal, physical, and symbolic gestures, but does not require sexual cooperation

The second type of sexual harassment, unwanted sexual attention, offers an extensive range of verbal and non-verbal behaviors that constitute offensive and sex-based approaches. Sexual behaviors could include unwanted or unexpected kisses, touches, dating invitations, staring at the body; a sexual-based comment, remarks, jokes; sexual/homophobic graffiti, and other offensive actions. This particular harassment category could be viewed as mild harassment.

The third harassment category, sexual coercion, involves extortion of sexual cooperation in exchange for victim's benefits or rewards. This is the most severe, explicit, and offensive category. Examples of sexual extortion could include exchange of favors for a position in a team, scholarship, starting position, or financial reward. In this category, the power imbalance plays a crucial role. Authority figures (e.g., coaches, athletic directors, or medical staff) demand sexual interaction in return for the athlete's advantage in a school or athletic program. (Fitzgerald, Swan & Magley, 1995).

Fasting, Brackenridge & Walseth (2002) conducted a study on consequences of sexual harassment in sports for female athlete. Prevalence of sexual harassment among 572 athletes was measured with the help of questionnaire. The instrument used was an 11 items scale derived and adapted from Brackenridge's. In this study, the consequence of the incidents of sexual harassment that were reported were mostly negative.

Fasting, Brackenridge & Knorre (2007) investigated about the performance level and sexual harassment prevalence among female athletes in the Czech republic. 595 women were divided into 3 performance group elite athletes, non elite athletes and exercisers. The research questionnaire related to any relationship between the experience of sexual harassment among inside and outside at different sports. (threatening, troublesome, insulting etc) performance level result show that the prevalence of sexual harassment among **this group** of czech athlete is very high, both inside and outside Sports

Sports women are exposed to a sexual harassment Gunduz, Sunay & Koz (2008) conducted a study on incidence of sexual harassment in Turkey among elite sports women which were done by spectators, teammate, trainers, managers and others. 356 sports women participated in the study from different games. 20 items Questionnaires was prepared which included sexual harassment incidents, affective dimension, action against harassment and the location of the incidence. Result of the study showed that 56.2 % of sports man sports women had been exposed to sexual harassment which leads to 18.5% decrease in performance and 20.8% showed anger to sexual harassment incidents.

Auweele, Opdenacker, Vertommen, Boen, Niekerk, Martelaer & Cuyper (2011) designed a study to investigate two aspect of unwanted coaching behaviour connotation reported prevalence and perception of acceptability among female athlete. The study has two aims: first was to quantify the reported prevalence of unwanted sexual experience involving male coaches among female student athlete in flanders (Belgium), the second was to investigate possible difference in perception of acceptability of various coaching behaviors between students athletes from two universities with different philosophical orientation. Total 435 students – athletes of catholic university (n=291) and non religious- affiliated university (n= 144), were the sample of the study, no difference was found between the reported prevalence of unacceptable and serious sexual coach behavior.

Akhtar's (2013) in a case study of Srinagar Kashmir that eve teasing is a routine problem faced by women. Eve teasing is the most Universal and deceptive because it is mull normal behavior and not an assault to female. This paper provides an analysis of the directions of eve teasing and its relation to Age, socio economic and psychological factors. Through stratified random sampling. This paper make a final decision that eve-teasing is unlimited, and women's response to eve-teasing are more of hardiment than of opposite for the fear of double victimization.

Akhtar's (2013) cases study of district Srinagar Kashmir sexual harassment at workplace and in educational institution. This paper provide nature of sexual harassment in Kashmir there was stratified random sampling and pre- tested interview schedules was taken mostly women response to sexual harassment.

Child sexual abuse is a serious and widespread in India. Many of children and adolescence girls are facing psychological and emotional disorder due to sexual abuses. Carson, Foster & Tripathi (2013) discuss

about sexual abuse of children and youth in India an anthropological perspective where sexual harassment of girl children's are not given protection and therapeutic assistance and are neglected. Community awareness must be generated at the community level, family and school taking ownership in playing major role in education and prevention effect. Kapoor & Dhingra (2013) studied sexual harassment against women in India, such as eve teasing, molestation, sexual abuse and rape lack of awareness, illiteracy upbringing of the abuser etc which leads to an increase number of sexual harassment there is also change in their psychological and mental impact.

Sexual harassment occurs in many place most of the girl faced different type of harassment. In college harassment can occur among the student themselves between the faculty and students. Gurung, Priyadarshini & Margaret (2016) conducted a study on 408 undergraduate student of Udupi district, data was collected using self structured questionnaire on sexual harassment. The tool consisted of 20 items. The result showed that 82.4% had average knowledge, 13.2% had good knowledge and 4.4% had poor knowledge about sexual harassment. Majority of students who participated in the study agreed that there should be awareness program which will help in preventing sexual harassment in college and also advocated proper dress code which can prevent sexual harassment in college.

Aina & Kulshrestha (2017) conducted a study to find out the level of awareness of sexual harassment in educational institutional in Delhi NCR (India). The sample consisted of on 430 respondents, from private University and state University. The questionnaire included 20 questions the first section had five demographic question, the second section was based on the knowledge of incidence of the sexual harassment and the last section dealt with complaints of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment occurred in both private and state education institution. But the students of private educational institution reported to have better knowledge of sexual harassment as compared to state university.

Coach-athlete sex relationships create ethical, behavioral, social and emotional entanglements that are rarely addressed openly. Research in this area has focused on the sexual harassment of coaches and the abuse of children and female athletes. Legal coach-athlete sex and take the coach's perspective were discussed in this study. As a dual relationship, coach-athlete sexual relationships blur the boundaries between (usually) professional roles bound by moral codes of conduct and the private spheres of love and desire. Johan, Goran, & Anderson (2016)

Sexual harassment against women in sports and exercise highlights is that sexual abuse in sports is a great problem that needs to be addressed now, with a view on Prevention, prohibition and redressal. Female athletes should be aware and should recognise the abuse and should be prepared for defence, and reaching for proper support.

Objectives

- The objective of the study was to determine prevalence of sexual harassment among Sports women
- The second objective of the study was to determine types of sexual harassment predominantly found in players.
- The third objective of the study was to identify types of action taken by victim of sexual harassment.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Subjects: - In the present study total one hundred seventy women players were selected. The women players selected were those who participated in national, inter university, and in all India inter university tournaments.

Variables: Sexual harassment Questionnaire designed by the United States of America Defense Equal Opportunity Council (DEOC) Task Force on discrimination and sexual Harassment, (*Laxman (2003)* and SEQ-Sports (section C & D) (*Nogueras & Enid, 2010*) were modified and translated in Hindi. The variable sexual harassment is categorized into four sections. Section A consists of 9 questions which seeks personal information regarding subjects, section B consists of 20 questions this section deals with sexual harassment experience in sports. Section C is related with section B there are only 4 questions which seeks information about person responsible for sexual harassment and section D comprises of 8 questions which deals with response of sexual harassment by women players.

Design: The present study is descriptive research.

Data collection: The data of the subjects was collected during all India Inter University Netball tournaments, at the same time period by other players of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University with whom researcher contacted at their respective colleges individually and administered the test after proper instruction.

Statistical Analysis: Data were analyzed with the help Analysis Tool Pack (Microsoft Excel). Frequency of response was recorded and percentage was calculated.

III. RESULTS

Table-1 EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

CRUDE/OFFENSIVE BEHAVIORS					
ITEMS		Percentage (%)			
		Never	Sometime	Often	Always
1.	Repeatedly told sexual stories or jokes that offensive to you?	72.94	21.76	3.52	1.76
2.	Said things to insult women in general (for ex. Saying that women don't make good athletics?)	64.58	31.76	6.47	1.1
3.	Any one comment on your dress	60.58	31.76	6.47	1.17
4.	Made offensive remarks about your appearance body.	62.35	30	4.7	2.94
5.	Said crude or gross sexual things, either in front of others or to you alone.	94.11	30.58	0.58	0.58
6.	Exposed them physically in a way that embarrassed you or made you feel uncomfortable.	50.58	25.88	8.23	15.29
7.	Gave you a sexual "LOOK "that made you feel uncomfortable	80	14.7	4.11	1.17
8.	Keep on talking you about your personal life even after you refuse.	54.7	36.47	7.64	1.17
9.	Made dirty remarks about you to others.	58.82	35.29	3.52	2.35
10	Made unwelcome attempts to draw you into a discussion of sexual matters(discuss or comment on your sex life)	80	15.29	4.11	0.58
11	Stared or leered you in such a way that made you feel uncomfortable	49.41	37.05	10	3.52
Total		728.07	310.54	59.35	31.63
Overall average		64.19	28.23	5.40	2.88

The result of the first section i.e. crude/offensive behavior is presented in table no 01. The first section included 11 questions on an average 64.19% respondents reported that they never faced crude/offensive behavior where as 28.23% respondent had experienced such situation some time, 5.40% often and 2.88% reported they always faced this problem

Table- 02					
UNWANTED SEXUAL ATTENTION					
01	Continued to ask for dates, movies, dinner.	71.76	22.35	3.52	1.17
02	Touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable.	61.17	32.94	5.88	0
03	Made unwelcome attempts to fondle you.(at the back or shoulder)	41.17	40	8.82	10
Total		174.1	95.29	18.22	11.17
Overall average		58.03	31.76	6.07	3.72

The result of the second section i.e. unwanted sexual attention is presented in table no 02. The second section included 03 questions on an average 58.03% responded that they never faced unwanted sexual attention where as 31.76% respondent had experienced such situation some time, 6.07% often and 3.72% reported they always faced this problem

Table -03					
SEXUAL COERCION					
1.	Did anyone talk's you double meaning words?	57.64	35.88	3.52	2.94
2.	Made you feel like you were being bribed with some sort of rewards or special treatment to engage in sexual behavior.	95.88	3.52	0.58	0
3.	Made you feel threatened or treated you badly for refusing to have sex.	94.11	4.11	1.17	0.58
4.	Implied faster promotion s or better treatment if you wear sexually cooperative.	87.05	7.64	2.94	2.35
5.	Tried to have romantic even you tried to tell him/her you didn't want to.	64.11	32.35	2.94	0.58
Total			92.32	15.85	8.8
Overall average		80.33	15.39	2.64	1.47

The result of the third section i.e. sexual coercion is presented in table no 03. The third section included 05 questions on an average 80.33% respondent reported that they never faced sexual coercion where as 15.39% respondent had experienced such situation sometimes, 2.64% often and 1.47% reported they always faced this problem.

Table- 04
Person Responsible For Sexual Harassment

PEOPLE	NEVER	SOMETIME	OFTEN	ALWAYS
Coaches	70.59	21.18	5.29	2.94
Departmental staff	60.00	24.71	11.18	4.12
Spectators	38.24	32.35	22.35	7.06
Other Athletes	36.47	33.53	15.88	14.12

When the person responsible for sexual harassment was to ascertain 21% players responded that its coach, 25% reported its departmental staff, 32% indicated its spectators and 34% reported its other athletes who sexually harassed them some time. Some of the players reported they were often harassed by coach, departmental staff, spectator, and by other athletes and the percentage of the sexual harassment respondent were, 5% 11%, 23% 16% respectively. 3%, 4%, 7% & 14% players reported they were always sexually harassed by coach, departmental staff, spectator and other athletes respectively

**Table-05
Response to Sexual Harassment of Women Player**

Item	Percentage			
	NEVER	SOMETIME	OFTEN	ALWAYS
asked to stay away from this person	31.76	42.35	16.47	9.41
blamed myself it was not really important	17.06	20.00	13.53	49.41
talked about it with someone I trusted	11.76	25.29	18.82	44.12
asked this person known I didn't like what he was doing	24.12	21.18	24.12	30.59
asked to a staff from university or department	31.76	42.35	16.47	9.41
made an excuse so he/she would leave me	35.29	18.24	15.88	30.59
blamed myself for what happened	64.71	21.76	4.12	9.41
asked to forget it	16.47	10.59	15.88	57.06

IV. DISCUSSION

Findings of the present study pose a serious challenge on the participation of women in sports. The study indicated the existence of sexual harassment in the sport structure. Reason behind Sexual harassment conduct of male has to be understood. The psychological and sociological perspectives of such behavior are to be investigated because all the time system can not be blamed, individual motives are vital. The findings in this study support previous studies Fasting (Karifasting, Celia Brackenridge, Jorunn Sundgot-Borgen (2004), who reported that sexual harassment occurs in every sport group irrespective of sport type .

Nogueras & Enid (2010) in a study revealed that 63.4% of female student-athletes experienced gender harassment at least once, 46.4% experienced unwanted sexual attention, and 5% experienced sexual coercion. Participants indicated feeling de-valued and discriminated against, mainly regarding their athletic skills and benefits. The study supports the result of the present study.

In addition similar to the result of the present study, Nogueras & Enid (2010) also reported that female athletes cope with different types of sexual harassment situations in different ways. Specifically, athletes experiencing gender harassment situations tended to use internally-focused responses (e.g., detachment, denial, endurance, relabeling, and self-blame) in order to deal with insults against women. Meanwhile, athletes experiencing unwanted Sexual attention and sexual coercion tended to use a problem-solving method or externally-focused responses (e.g., avoidance, social support, confrontation, appeasement, and institutional relief).

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