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## Harassment- The threat to engineers' life

Mugunthan B.

[mugurocks007@gmail.com](mailto:mugurocks007@gmail.com)

Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, Tamil Nadu

### ABSTRACT

*This study has been done to investigate the events of harassment happening in an engineering college in India. Here the pie chart has been used to analyze the data that we have obtained from engineering students. The places and different ways a student is being harassed is brought to light here. Based on the answers by the participants, suggestions or initiatives to be taken to reduce harassment is stated below.*

**Keywords**— Harassment, Ragging, Findings, College, Engineering

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Harassment is the action intimidating of person. It usually covers violent behaviours which play a role in spoiling/violating the dignity of a person. It creates a humiliating environment. Generally, an individual or a group of people bullying others in a way, that it hurts them which can also be considered as harassment. Most of the acts of harassment does not come to the light, as the victim has a fear that they will be isolated from society. Still, a few cases manage to reach the light is given minimal attention from our society. The most effective solution to this problem is to talk about it.

#### 2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The occurrence of harassment is increasing day by day. Any type of harassment can make a huge impact on the life of the victim. The sexually harassed victim faces the same psychological trauma a raped victim faces. Not all countries take the problem of harassment seriously. Most of the victims have the guts to bring the problem to the public. Through this research, a detailed understanding of harassment can be spread among readers.

#### 3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the consequences that the harassed victim faces?
2. Any case of harassment that engineering student faces?

#### 4. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study aims to spread this awareness on harassment and its relation to other forms of violence which affects an engineer's life. Through this study, we can pinpoint the appropriate methods to conduct research on harassment. It also reviews the information gathered by communicating with engineering students other article and the information gathered by years of research on harassment. This study helps us to conclude the surroundings where harassment is more likely to occur and what way it may occur.

#### 5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to explore the harassment experienced in engineering colleges that students generally go through. This work here is to analyze and examines the experiences that each individual has gone through. It helps in cracking the ugly truth and the trend of harassment, which is occurring in different sectors of an engineer's life. It is used to spread awareness among the people who don't even know what it actually means. This study will help us to look over the nook and corner of the issue of harassment, that a naked eye is unable to observe.

#### 6. LITERATURE REVIEW

When you start looking for research papers on harassment you drown in the sea of information. Each paper is in a different context, has different views and a variety of audience. As an example, Martyha Chamallas about sexual harassment from UCLA'S WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL, this mostly talks about sexual harassment. This research puts in front that women are commonly affected by verbal harassment compared to nonverbal harassment.

Another example of sexual harassment in the workplace by Carrie Hunt, Marilyn Davidson, Sandro Fiedden and Helge Hoel from Manchester business school, University of Manchester talks about sexual harassment. It talks about the occurrence of the act of

harassment in any workplace in common. This study provides us with perceptions, the effects of sexual harassment and coping strategies used. The authors also convey us the levels of intervention and methods of prevention. Here, in this study, each subtopic summarized at their respective ends.

Sexual harassment: A review of the literature by William O'Donohue A, kala Downs B and Elizabeth A. Yeater is a critical review on the researches published on sexual harassment. They try to bring out the aetiology of sexual harassment. This review talks about the subtypes of sexual harassment such as gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention, and sexual coercion.

There are rare books talking about the harassment an engineer faces in different aspects of life. Here in our study, we look over the various ways the engineers are being harassed, how they tackle the situation, how they overcome it and how it makes an impact on their life physically and psychologically.

### 7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Qualitative and Quantitative questionnaire is used. There are many types of questionnaire but Likert Scale Questionnaire is taken for the survey with both open and closed questions. This questionnaire with 8 closed type questions and 2 open type questions circulated only to 70 Engineering Students in Tamil Nadu.

#### 7.1 Participants

There are around 70 engineering students who are selected from different Engineering Colleges across Tamil Nadu for this study. The respondents' are male and female students between the age group of 18-22 years. The questionnaire was circulated among all students of different years. The reason is that the first year students with the experience in the new environment, the output of the questionnaire will be the best and accurate. The remaining years can share what they want to express about harassment. Since we wanted to know the occurrences.

#### 7.2 Instruments (Questionnaire and research papers)

This study uses instruments like Questionnaire and research papers. There are various types of questionnaire available, however, Likert Scale is the most appropriate one for our study because of its ability to obtain the best result from the participants. The questionnaire consists of 10 questions. Two of them are open type questions and 8 were closed. The questions are prepared for keeping the students in mind. None of the questions is prepared in a way that will hurt others. The two open questions are to get to know what they feel about the one who harassment. The required information is pinpointed and taken out from different research papers related to the topic of harassment.

#### 7.3 Procedure (Google form)

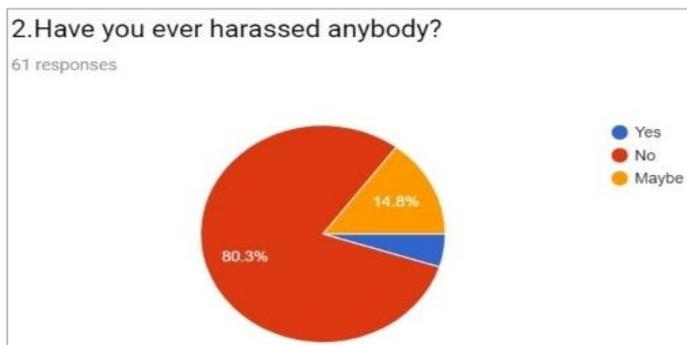
The students from different engineering colleges across Tamil Nadu were informed about the study and explained all the questions found in the questionnaire. Since students are from different Engineering colleges of Tamil Nadu, we presented the questions in the form of a google form. Students being good at using technology have responded to our requirements splendidly. As soon as they finish, the responses reached the researcher's specified mail and it was collected together and analyzed. The most wonderful thing about Google form is that the result of the Questionnaire comes in the form of analyzed diagram such as pie charts and graphs for each question which allows the researcher to learn, analyze and conclude the opinion on the subject.

### 8. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The students have answered all the questions and their opinion for each question is analyzed through the pie chart.



**Fig. 1: Response of question 1**



**Fig. 2: Response of question 2**

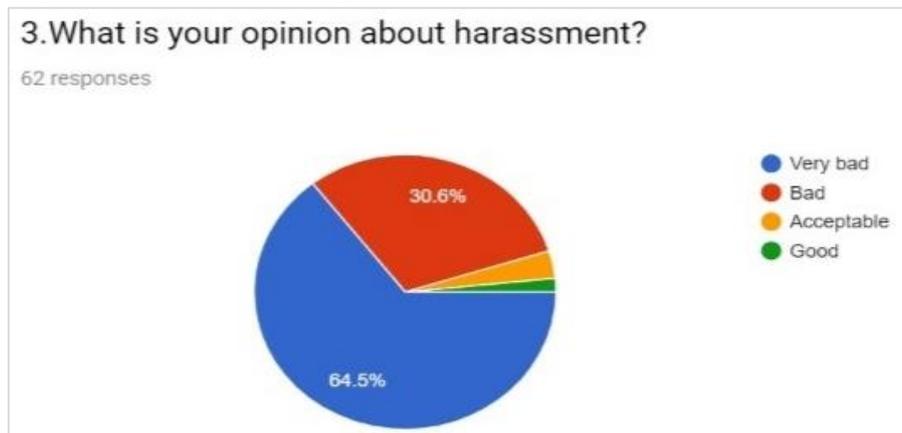


Fig. 3: Response of question 3

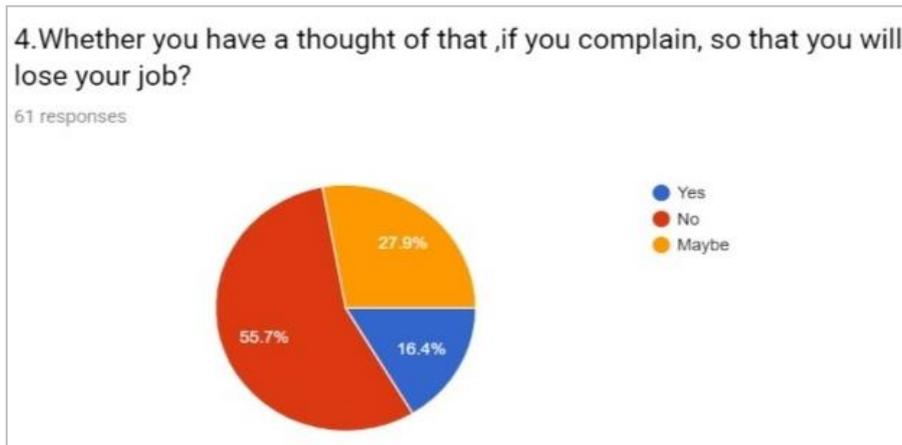


Fig. 4: Response of question 4

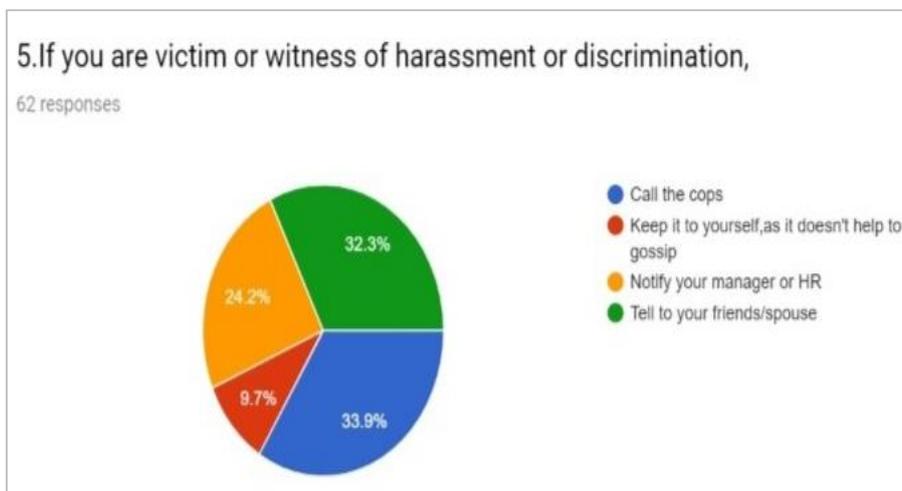


Fig. 5: Response of question 5

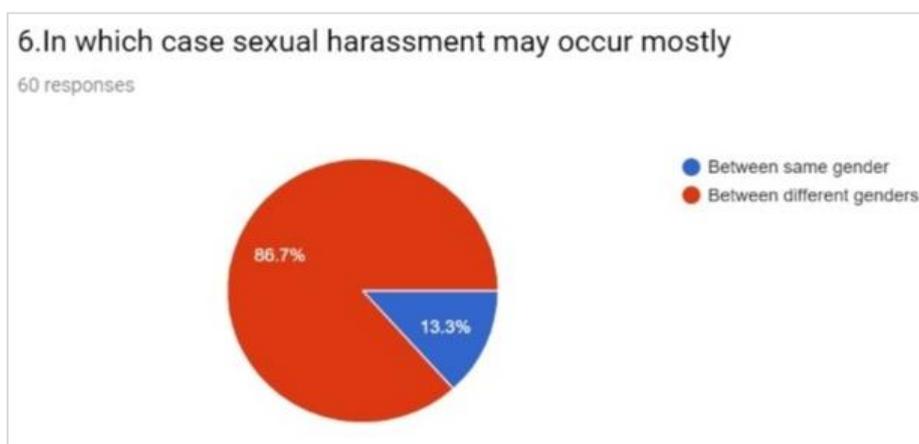


Fig. 6: Response of question 6

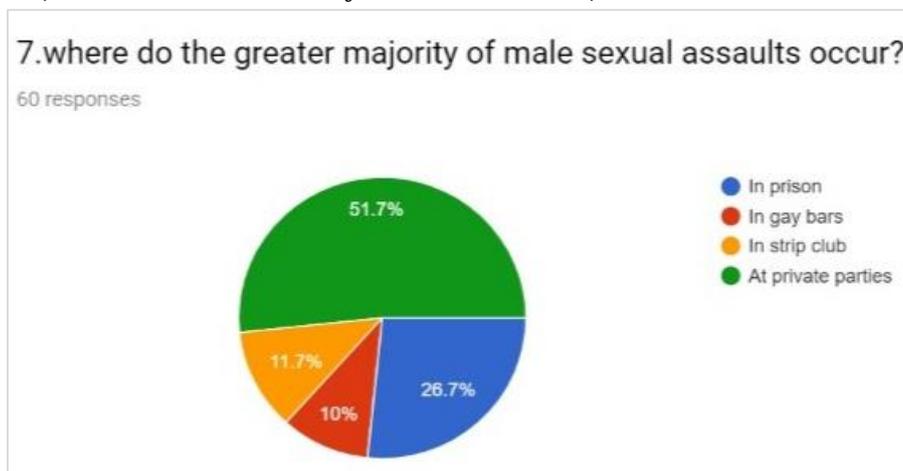


Fig. 7: Response of question 7

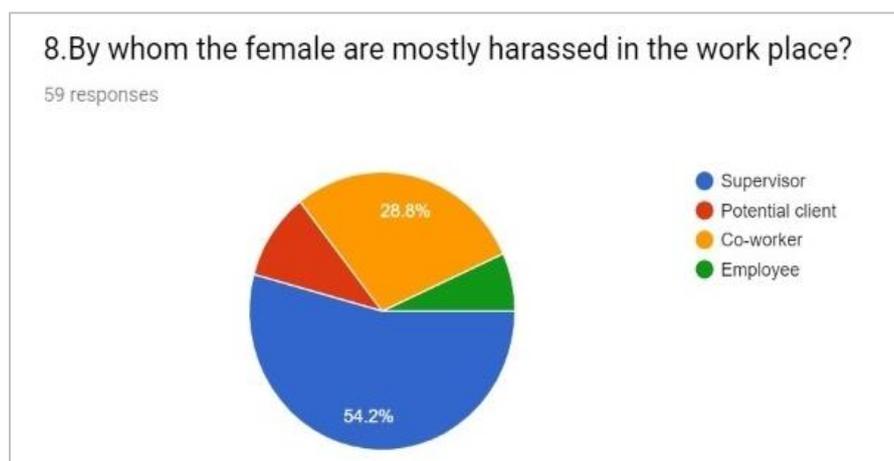


Fig. 8: Response of question 8

## 9. FINDINGS

Based on the answers obtained, it is found that various suggestions were given by the students. They are:

- The students have to open up and talk about it to the counsellors.
- CCTV cameras should be installed in classrooms, washrooms, corridors, playgrounds and so on. Knowing that there are CCTV cameras seniors have a thought it is tough to rag a junior.
- To spread awareness interactive sessions can be conducted for the students to discuss important topics like harassment.
- A severe punishment has to give to the students who are involved in ragging.
- An initiative can be taken by the college management to form a team that will fight against any sort of harassment within the college premises.
- A student seeking admission to the hostel has to submit an affidavit to the college management for hostel accommodation that he/she is aware of the law in this regard and agrees to act in accordance with the rules and the punishments given if he/she is found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging.

## 10. CONCLUSION

The research paper on harassment on engineering college students concludes that severe punishment for harassment practices and improved security system can only be the best way to prevent harassment in engineering colleges. An awareness about sexual harassment can be spread among students, the students can be informed with techniques to escape from the situation or place of harassment. The suggestions and opinions of the students received through questionnaire are very true and need to be implemented. Thus, in many cases, the best way of action is for the complainant to talk with the individual whose behaviour is giving offence.

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## **APPENDIX**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1bG10pzAJ3SNH0neG5HhrBNRivlRZ5iOiw121IeKAQzs/edit>

1. When were you harassed for the first?

- a) School life
- b) College life
- c) Workplace
- d) Never

2. Have you ever harassed anybody?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

3. What is your opinion about harassment?

- a) Very bad
- b) Bad
- c) Acceptable
- d) Good

4. Whether you have thought of that if you complain so that you will lose your job?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

5. If you are victim or witness of harassment or discrimination,

- a) Call the cops
- b) Keep it to yourself, as it doesn't help to gossip
- c) Notify your manager or HR
- d) Tell your friends/spouse

6. In which case, sexual harassment may occur mostly

- a) Between same gender
- b) Between different genders

7. Where do the greater majority of male sexual assaults occur?

- a) In prison
- b) In gay bars
- c) In strip club
- d) At private parties

8. By whom the female is mostly harassed in the workplace?

- a) Supervisor
- b) Potential client
- c) Co-worker
- d) Employee

9. Describe the harassment situation that you have come across.

10. What will be your reaction if you are being harassed by someone?