

Study on Ways and Methods to Eliminate Sexual Harassment in Egypt

Results / Outcomes and Recommendations Summary



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معهد التخطيط القومي

Thanks and Appreciation

This study on methods to eliminate sexual harassment in Egypt is the first to be undertaken by a governmental body on the issue of sexual harassment and is considered to be one of the important studies that aim to reduce a problem lately exacerbated on a large scale, especially with the outbreak of lawlessness, and the feeling among the youths that they can harass females with impunity.

Therefore, this study has been undertaken to provide the necessary information and data on what are the best ways and methods offered to solve this problem, whether from the point of view of the harassed girl, the harasser himself or from the leadership in Egypt, be they executive, legal, juridical, religious or social, in addition to the leaderships of the National Council for Women and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

I would like to heartily thank Professor Dr. Azza El Fandary, Director of the National Institute for Planning, and Professor Dr. Nevine Kamal, Director of the Demographic Centre at the Institute for all their help in carrying out this study and completing it in record time.

I also wish to offer my thanks and deep gratitude to UN Women in Cairo and Dr. Maya Morsy, former Country Coordinator, for funding this study.

Thanks are also due to all the staff of the Demographic Centre at the National Institute for Planning for their effective efforts and assistance during the fieldwork phase of this study.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the respondents, male and female, and the leaderships who participated in this study, without whose participation, it would not have been possible to carry out such an important study.

Bouthajna El Deeb, Ph.D.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to achieve one main objective, and that is to identify ways and methods for reducing sexual harassment in Egypt. However this does not exclude other secondary objectives of the research which are considered complementary and will help in general to solve the problem and to identify the harassers and the victims, and particularly the impact harassment has on each of them.

There were, therefore, other secondary objectives, namely:

1. Verifying the extent of the respondents' knowledge, both male and female, of the meaning of harassment and the source of information.
2. Identifying the characteristics of the harasser, such as age/ level of education/ status/ economic situation of the family etc....
3. Identifying the characteristics of the harassed (victim) such as age/ level of education/ status/ economic situation of the family etc....
4. Specifying the different forms of sexual harassment and their frequency.
5. Specifying the most significant times and places where harassment occurs.
6. Finding out the views of the respondents on some factors that help towards the occurrence of harassment, such as way of dressing and walking etc..
7. Identifying the psychological, economic and social impact of sexual harassment, whether on the victim or on the harasser.
8. Learning how to deal with the victim, both on the part of passers-by and security personnel whether on the street or in police stations.

Thus, this study has eight secondary objectives in addition to the main one, which is to identify ways and methods to eliminate sexual harassment in Egypt.

The Geographical Scope Distribution of the samples surveyed

Geographical Scope of the Study

Previous studies indicate that the highest rate of sexual harassment occurs in urban governorates, especially Cairo and Alexandria with 65.2%; whereas the rate in border governorates among the youths of age group between 10-29 years does not exceed 2.4%. It has also been discovered that urban areas suffer more than rural areas from the phenomenon of sexual harassment. Hence the two governorates Cairo and Alexandria were chosen to represent urban areas, the governorate Ismailia to represent the Canal area, and the governorates Gharbia and Dakahlia to represent Lower Egypt, and Assiut and Qena to represent Upper Egypt. Preference was for governorates that have universities so that harassment among university students could be studied.

Finally, the samples were divided to include both urban and rural areas so that the sample can cover all geographical areas.

Division of the Details of the Sample

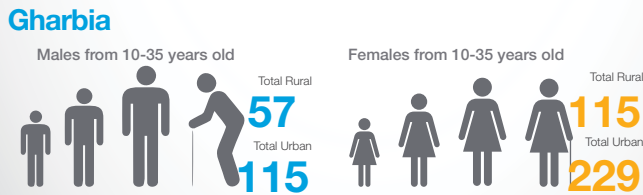
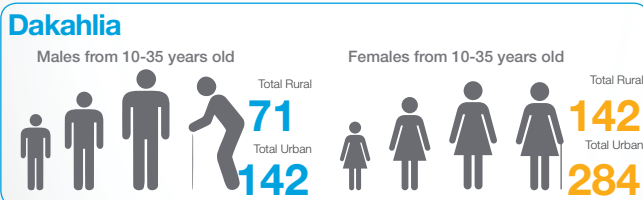
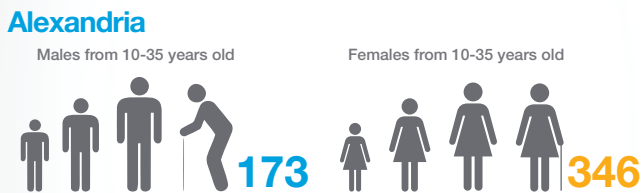
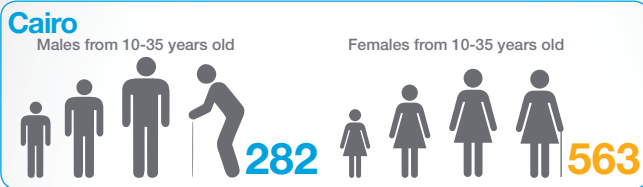
The sample was divided according to the number in the age bracket (10- 35 years) from among the population of the governorates, which is the age group chosen for this study on sexual harassment. The quota for each governorate was divided into 2/3 females and 1/3 males since the views of the - harassed- victim on the extent of the spread of harassment/ its causes / place where it occurs/ time/ means of combating it/ proposals for the most important solutions represent a much higher priority for this study, more important than those of the male. Yet, this Study has not overlooked the views of the male harasser, but the female sample has greater weight in this study.

After the samples were divided according to governorate and gender, the samples were again divided on urban and rural basis. The urban areas were given a higher rate than the rural because according to previous studies, harassment is more widely spread in urban than in rural areas (Research on Teenagers and Youth - 2009); thus urban areas were given almost 2/3 and rural areas 1/3 in each governorate. Finally, the details of each area were further divided into (urban and rural), and within each governorate according to the age of the respondents (both male and female) within this study, according to the relative distribution of the age bracket of the population of each governorate, based on the data provided by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (2009)

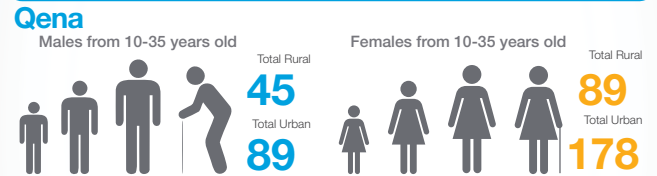
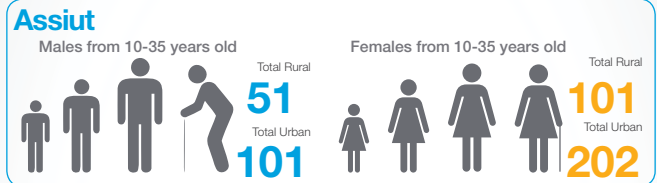
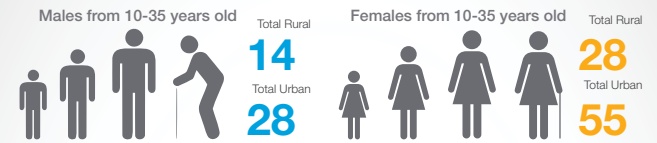
The following table (I) shows the distribution of the sample according to governorate, sex and age group.

Table I

Distribution of the sample according to the governorate (urban/rural), age groups, and gender



Ismailia



Methods and Tools of Research Applied in This Study

This study has applied the two research methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis.

The quantitative analysis was carried out by applying two previously coded questionnaires; the first for the females of age group (10 -35-years) and a similar questionnaire for the males of age group (10-35 years).

As for the qualitative method, some prominent leading figures who can influence and play an effective role in curbing the problem of harassment were selected for in-depth interviews, to be asked about the extent of the spread of the phenomenon of harassment in their governorates and their suggestions for solutions. The interview would be concluded with a very important question: "What is the role he/she can personally play being in that position or holding that job to solve the problem of sexual harassment in Egypt?". For this purpose, the secretary general of each governorate was chosen because it was often very difficult to meet the governor. The director of the security department or his deputy, the director of the education department in each governorate, former members of the People's Assembly representing significant constituencies in the governorate, all of whom can play a role in offering solutions to reduce this phenomenon, were also chosen. In addition, heads of political parties or their representatives, chairpersons of some of the well-known NGOs active in the area of women's issues, leaderships from the National Council for Women and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and a number of public figures, all of whom can be instrumental in offering viable solutions that can be implemented to reduce the phenomenon of sexual harassment in Egypt.

Legal and constitutional experts were approached for their suggestions for solutions to the problem, and to know whether it was necessary to pass a new law to increase the severity of the punishment for harassment; or if the existing laws are already there but not implemented; or if the existing laws require the presence of witnesses or the official registration of the incident in the police station as well as other measures, which make it difficult for the victim of harassment to prove. In conclusion, they were asked about their personal role as community leaders and what can they do to curb this phenomenon.

Background of the Female Respondents on Harassment

First we have to make it clear that the researchers met the female respondents in places where harassment is frequent, for example, in front of universities, on campus, in front of secondary, preparatory and primary schools, in shopping malls and markets, in bus and subway stations; and also in a number of private companies where incidents of harassment can occur whether by the employers or the colleagues.

Most Important Results for Girls and Women

The Percentage of Girls and Women Subjected to Harassment

Through this study we are able to confirm the spread of sexual harassment in Egypt to unprecedented levels. Of the female respondents, 99.3% replied that they have been subjected to one form or another of harassment.



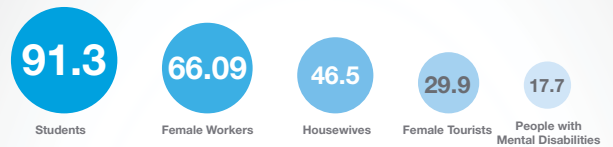
The Relative Distribution of Female Respondents according to the extent of their knowledge of all forms of harassment in the sample governorates:



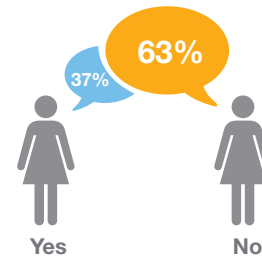
Are certain girls more liable to be harassed than others?

The results confirm that 67.1% of the female respondents said that all girls are subjected to harassment, regardless of attire, looks, manner of speech or gait. They also revealed that 29.9% replied in the affirmative to this question, indicating that the victim can sometimes be the cause for harassment. Yet, when a question was posed on the age of the harassed female, her marital status, or if she comes from a rich or poor family, the biggest part of the answers, which scored the highest number, was that all girls, regardless of their characteristics are liable to be harassed. When a question was posed on the ages more liable to be harassed, 57.9% replied that all ages suffer from harassment. To the question on what type of attire made a girl more liable to be harassed, 72.4% replied that all girls, regardless of how they are dressed, are subjected to harassment. To the question on which marital status led to a female being harassed, 81.2% replied that all of them are liable to be harassed. Asked about which social class is more liable to be harassed, 87.7% of the female respondents answered that all social classes are liable to be harassed.

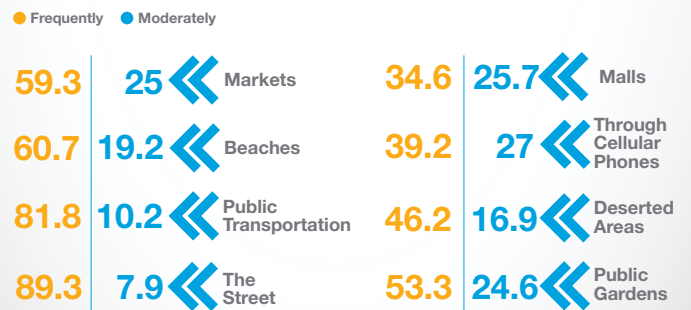
The percentage of the respondent victims of harassment divided according to their opinion on the segments more exposed to harassment in the sample governorates:



The percentage distribution of the respondents victims of harassment according to their opinion on whether the girl herself is the cause for harassment:

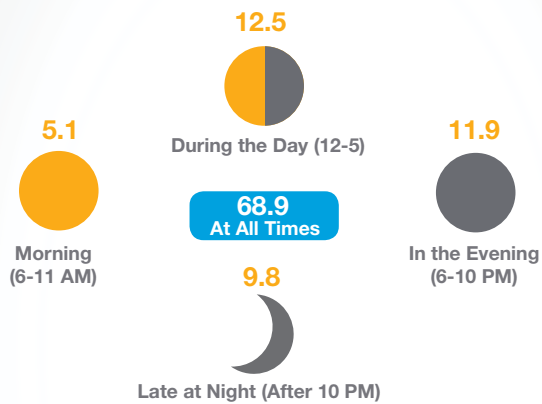


The most significant places where harassment is common:



Harassment according to the time preferred by the harasser:

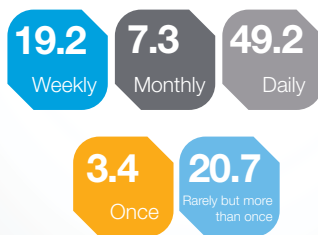
The percentage distribution of the total number of the samples of the respondents victims of harassment according to their opinion on the times when most harassment takes place:



Based on what the female respondents said, we can confirm that harassment generally takes place at all times, yet it tends to increase during peak periods and not necessarily at night.

Repetition or Recurrence of Harassment

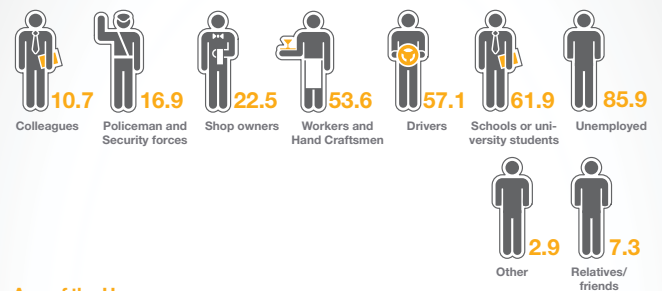
The percentage distribution of the respondent victims of harassment to the total sample, based on their opinion on the repetition or the frequency of the occurrence of harassment



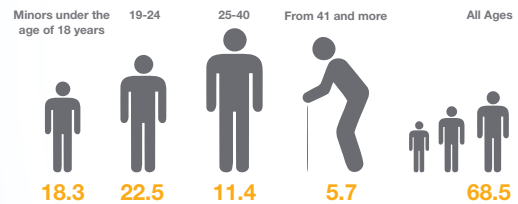
Age, Work or Profession of the Harasser

Percentage distribution of the respondent victims to the sample governorates according to age and work of the harasser:

Employment of the Harasser

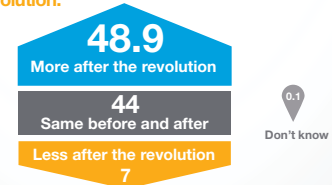


Age of the Harasser



Comparison of Harassment Rates Before and After the January 2011 Revolution

The percentage distribution of the respondent victims of harassment to the total sample according to their opinion on the occurrence of harassment before and after the revolution:



Forms of Harassment Previously Subjected to:

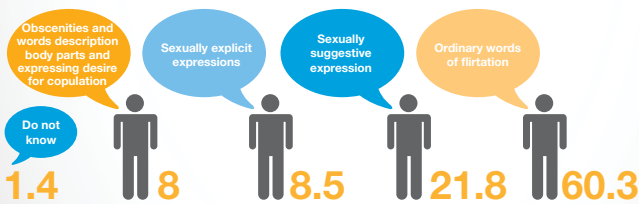
The percentage distribution of the respondents victims of harassment to the total sample based on the forms of harassment to which they were previously subjected.



* Multiple answers allowed

Types of Expressions Used in Verbal Harassment: The expressions used in sexually harassing females have been divided into four groups: Ordinary words of flirtation/words with sexual insinuations/explicit sexual statements/obscene statements describing parts of the body and the desire for copulation.

The percentage distribution of the respondents victims of harassment to the total sample based on the type of verbal harassment they were subjected to



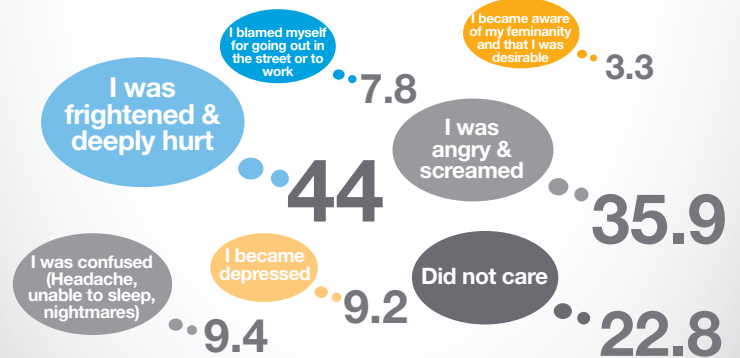
After identifying the language used for sexual harassment, it was also necessary to identify which part of a woman's body is touched when she is being harassed. It was strange to notice that only 7.5% of the total number of the respondent samples, amounting to 2334 respondents, were the ones whose bodies were not touched during harassment; whereas 91.5% said that part of their bodies were touched. They were then questioned about the part of their body that was touched in the process.

The percentage distribution of the respondent victims in the sample governorates, according to what they said concerning the part of their bodies that was touched



Victim's reaction immediately after the harassment

The percentage distribution of the harassed respondents to the total samples on the basis of their reaction during the occurrence of harassment:



Feelings of the respondent victim of harassment after reoccurrence of harassment:



It is important to mention here that some (7.6%), thought of resorting to the use of harmful defensive tools to protect themselves, such as pins (used to hold hijab in place), a stun gun or a sharp instrument such as a knife or scalpel etc...

The percentage distribution of the respondents based on the impact of harassment on their personal lives in the sample governorates:



With regard to the impact of harassment on the marital relationship, as the survey covered a large number of women respondents (56.7%) who were unmarried, they were not asked whether harassment had an impact on the marital relationship. The remaining number of respondents, who represent (43.3%) of the total were married. This percentage was divided among (23.7%) respondents who agreed and (19.2%) respondents who disagreed.

Those who agreed that harassment had an impact on marital relationship mentioned that if the spouse learns about harassment he becomes jealous and this leads to daily problems between spouses. Furthermore, harassment affects the wife's psychological condition. She becomes nervous and as a result, this reflects to a certain extent on her relationship with her

husband. Some respondents stated that if the harassment they were subjected to included touching or rape, the spouse may divorce his wife, as the oriental man, in particular, does not accept that such an incident happens to his wife. Those who denied the impact of harassment on marital relationship, stated that harasser was one thing and the husband another, adding that most spouses know very well that harassment is a societal problem now and that the wife is not a guilty party. The results have confirmed that (55.1%) of the total sample confirmed that the impact of harassment creates domestic violence, while (44.9%) refuted this statement.

Those who stated that harassment leads to domestic violence indicated that when the spouse learns that his wife has been subjected to harassment, he beats her or prevents her from going out alone and this may result in several problems within the family. Those who deny the impact of harassment on domestic violence indicated that so long as there was love and understanding between the spouses, the husband must realize that the wife is not responsible of any guilt when harassment occurs and that harassment of women is now a societal problem regardless of the looks or attire of women. The respondents also confirmed that harassment has an impact on divorce (50.3%) caused by suspicion and tension among the spouses due to the jealousy of the husband. As a result, disagreements and disputes increase, sometimes leading to divorce.

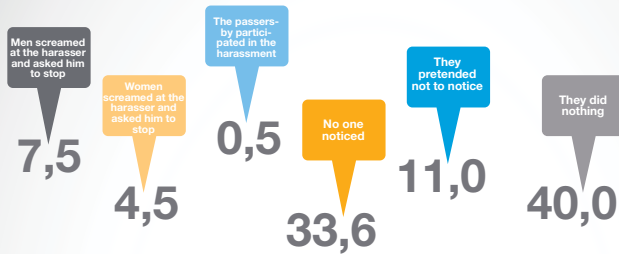
Reaction of Victims vis-à-vis the Perpetrator of Harassment



Reasons for Negative Reaction by the Victim



Reaction of those around the Victim at the Scene of the Harassment

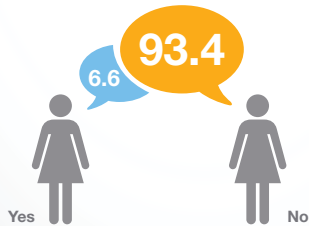


Reasons for not interfering



Request for help from the Security Forces in the Scene of the Harassment

Percentage of female respondents victims of harassment with regard to the response to their requests for help from the security forces on the scene of harassment in relation to the total sample



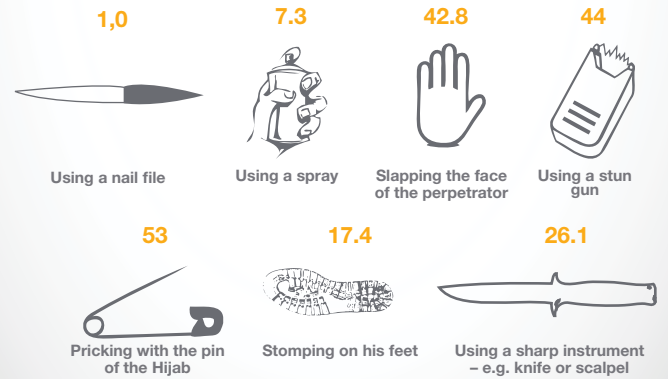
Results relating to the police intervention



Reasons for not asking help from the police force



Methods of Self - Defense used by Girls



Is there a relation between the attire and harassment?

Attire of the Respondent at the time of Harassment

Conservative clothes



–

Make up



= 75,7

Conservative clothes



+

Make up



= 18,7

Not conservative clothes



+

Full make up



= 2,1

For further confirmation, the description of conservative clothes from the respondent viewpoint was asked. (55.9% of the total sample confirmed that such clothes consist of any attire on condition that it does reveal any contours of the body. (26.9% of the total sample indicated that the conservative clothes have to have long sleeves, be ankle-length (maxi), and has to be large and not reveal any body contour. (15% of the total sample stated that it should have long sleeves and be ankle-length but did not confirm that it should be loose. In their opinion, it is enough that the attire has long sleeves and covers their legs.

The study confirmed that harassment increases when the girl is alone with an (82.8% of the total respondents. This is followed by (55.7%) if the respondent is accompanied by a girlfriend. The rest of the cases had a very low percentage (less than 5%) occur with the spouse/with the children/with another man for each individual case. As expected, there are variances in the percentages among the governornates.

Reasons for harassment of women from their own viewpoint

To learn about the causes of female harassment, 37 reasons were proposed. The following reflects a concurrence of over 90% of the respondents' opinions:

1. Foreign pornographic programs (Agree - 97.2%)
2. Watching sex magazines (Agree - 97%)
3. Watching erotic movies (Agree - 96.6%)
4. Watching sex education movies (Agree - 96.7%)
5. Obscene clips sent via cellular phones (Agree - 96.2%)

6. Non-enforcement of the religious principles (Agree - 95.5%)
7. Surfing obscene websites (Agree - 95 %)
8. The internet and its obscene websites and scenes (Agree - 94.6%)
9. The various educational institutions do not instill moral and religious values (Agree - 94.8%)
10. Lack of interest in religious education in the homes (Agree - 94.5%)
11. Non-compliance of girls with religious values with regard to appearance (Agree - 94.3%)
12. Poor religious faith (Agree - 93.8%)
13. Obscene calls through cellular phones (Agree - 93.2%)
14. Immoral behaviour of girls (Agree - 92.4%)
15. The way of walking of girls (Agree - 91.3%)
16. Weakening of the religious message in places of worship (Agree - 92.5%)
17. Not investing properly in times of leisure (Agree - 91.5%)
18. The demeanor of girls (the way the girl speaks and looks) (Agree - 90.4%)

Solutions proposed by female respondents to address sexual harassment:

Hereunder are some of the proposed solutions, agreed upon by more than 90% of the female respondents:

1. Enacting laws with severe penalization (important - 95%)
2. Overcoming the existing lack of security in general (important - 94.2%)
3. Activate the existing legislations and their implementation (important -93.4%)
4. The necessity of having a policewoman officer to deal with cases of harassment in the police stations (important - 93.4%)
5. Providing job opportunities for the youth (important - 92.3%)
6. Addressing the display of obscene pictures and programmes in television (important - 93.2%)
7. Enforcing censorship on the media: TV serials/films/video clips - (important 92.3%)
8. Immediately addressing the issue through the police officers on the streets (important - 92%)
9. The presence of a social worker to deal with cases of harassment in every police station (important - 90%)

In conclusion:

Unfortunately (82.6%) of the total female respondents announced that they neither felt secure nor safe in the street. The rate of the feeling of insecurity and lack of safety in public transportation increased to (86.5%) more than the street. Also (78.7%) of the total sample indicated that they did not feel safe even in a taxi.

On the contrary, the rate of the sense of security and safety increases in places of education (66%) in relation to the total sample. As expected, the sense of security and safety increases in the home (97%), also within the family circle and relatives (95%) of the total women respondents. This rate increases also among friends and colleagues reaching (85.9%) of the total sample.



Most Important Findings relating to Males

Awareness of the male respondent/ harasser on the concept of harassment

Percentage distribution of male respondents based on the meaning of the word Harassment



From all of the above, it can be noted that touching the body of a woman or raping are the acts that come to the minds of male harassers when defining sexual harassment. This is followed by dirty looks when looking at women's bodies and using foul language with sexual connotations. The rest of the cases that define sexual harassment need investigation and explanation on the part of the researcher, in order that the male respondent would consider these as among the cases of female sexual harassment.

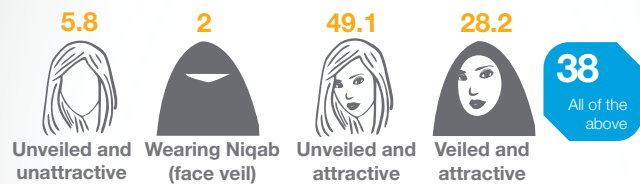
Traits of women who are exposed to harassment

The study reveals that the age of the harassed female is not the basis for harassment, as the male respondents unanimously agreed that harassment includes all age brackets. With regard to the attire of women and girls who are exposed to harassment, a third of the sample indicated that (38.0%) all women are exposed to harassment regardless of the way they dress. Noting that approximately half of the male respondents (49.1%) stated that attractive unveiled girls or women are the ones most exposed to harassment.

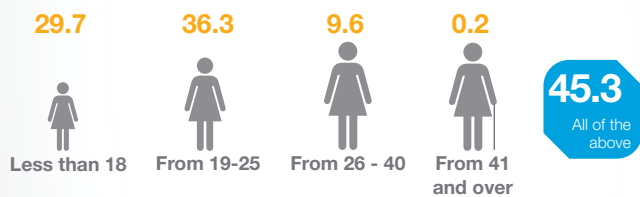
With regard to the social class to which the victims belong, (73.3%) of the total sampled indicated that all social classes suffer from harassment without discrimination. With regard to the marital status of the victims most exposed to harassment, it is surprising that (80%) of the male respondents confirmed that sexual harassment does not differentiate between forms of marital status.

The percentage distribution of male respondents based on the traits of women and girls exposed to harassment

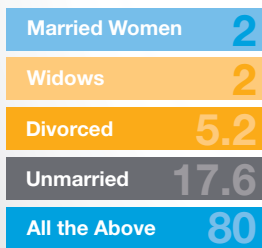
Attire of girls and women exposed to harassment



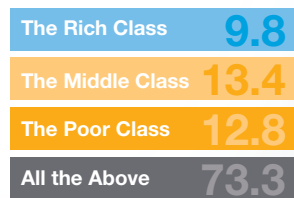
Age of women and girls exposed to harassment



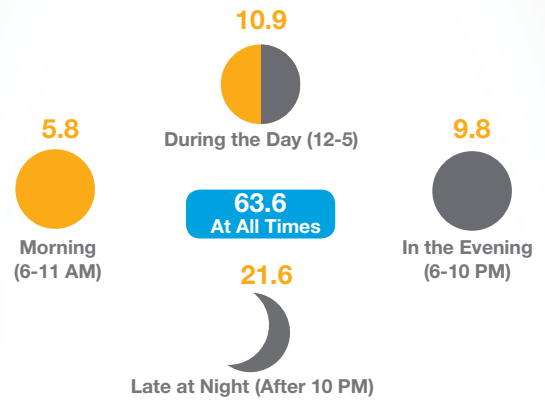
The Marital Status of Girls and Women who are exposed to harassment



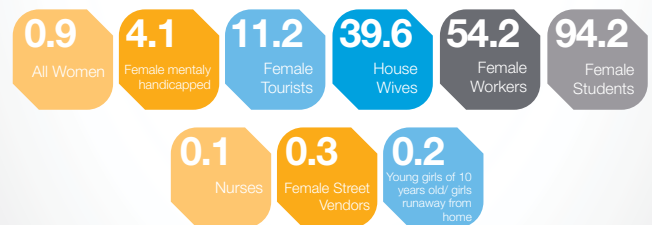
The Social Classes of Women and Girls most exposed to harassment



The percentage of male respondents according to the time of occurrence of harassment in relation to the total sample

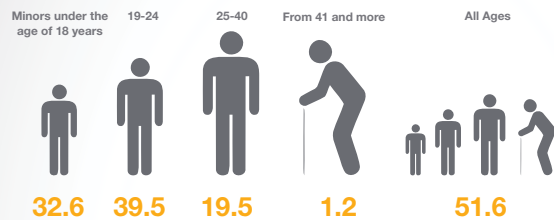


Segments of Girls and Women who are exposed to harassment



Age of harasser and his employment

Percentage of respondents according to the age group committing harassment

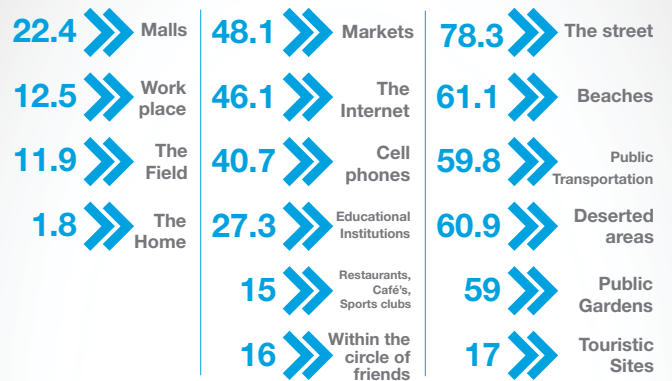


Percentage of male respondents according to type of employment in relation to the total sample



* Multiple answers allowed

Percentage of male respondents according to the place of occurrence of harassment in relation to the total sample



Comparison between rates of harassment before and after the revolution of 2011

With the lack of security currently prevailing in Egypt after the 25th January Revolution (58.4%) male respondents indicated that harassment after the Revolution is considered more than before the revolution, while (20.5%) indicated that the rate decreased or remained almost the same. (20.6%) indicated that it remained the same before and after the revolution.

Did you commit yourself or witnessed someone committing such acts?

Percentage distribution of male respondents according to either committing or witnessing some aspects of sexual harassment in relation to the total sample



The main areas in the female body that the harasser touches

The relative distribution of male respondents according to the main parts that are exposed to touching in a women's body during the act of harassment in relation to the total sample



What is the type of girl/woman who frequently exposed to harassment?

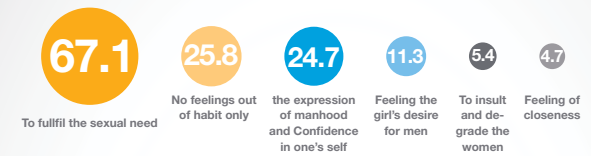
A percentage of (52.1%) mentioned that the females most exposed to harassment are those walking in the street, while (61.2%) male respondents stated that "any one in public transportation" can be harassed.

Frequency of harassment

The percentage of male respondents according to the number of occurrences of harassment

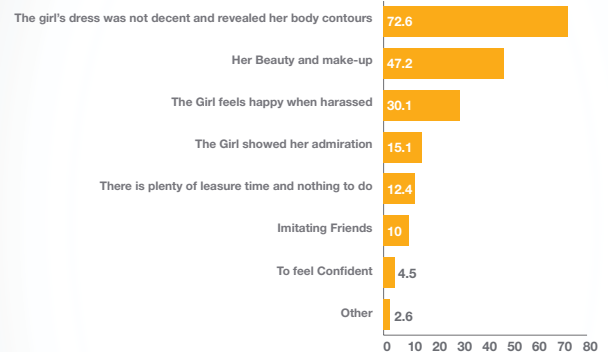


The feelings of a man during the act of harassment



* Multiple answers allowed

Reasons for harassing a female



A male point of view: of a women's conservative/decent dress: (63.4%) of the total sample declared that the "decent dress can have any shape provided that it is loose and does not show the contour of the body.- Those who answered that the decent dress should be long loose and with long sleeves reached (24.4%) of the total sample, while those who mentioned that it should be long and with long sleeves but did not did not oblige that it should be loose did not exceed (8.7%) of the total sample.

The number of harassment cases that the respondent personally witnessed and his reaction to it: (79.3%) of the total sample of males stated that they have witnessed cases of harassment while (20.7%) of the total sample of males negated that. When they were asked about their reaction to it, strangely enough, about half of the male sample (53.1%) responded by saying that they ignored it, while (24.4%) of the total male sample declared that they reacted positively by insulting / hitting the harasser, while (19.6%) or about one-fifth of the male respondents merely sympathized with the girl, noting that less than 1% accompanied the girl to the police station to report the incident of harassment. Another (1%) advised the harasser to stop such behavior in the future.

When asked about the reasons for completely ignoring the act of harassment despite witnessing it, (38%) said that it was none of their business, while (22%) said "girls like that-. Furthermore (17.2%) stated that they were afraid of the harasser himself. Some stated that they did not face the harasser or prevented him from attacking the girl because they commit the same kind of behavior themselves. In addition (5%) of those who said that they ignored the incident stated that it was out of fear of further complications and going to the police station. However there are some differences in these percentages among the governorates concerned.

The response of the male respondent/harasser if he encounters in the future a girl being harassed by someone

The relative distribution of male respondents to the total sample according to their reaction if they witness a female being molested in the future



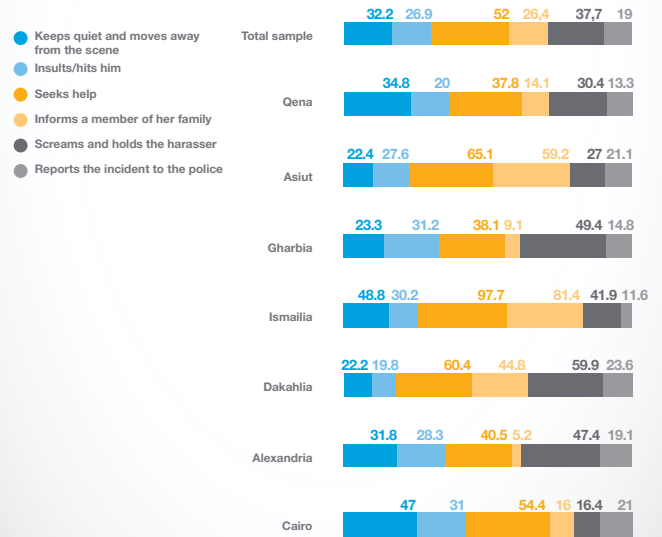
Reasons for female harassment from the viewpoint of male / harassers

For further investigation, the study tried to find out in more detail causes for harassment. Consequently 40 reasons for sexual harassment were proposed to find out how many male respondents approved of them. The following percentages will shed light on the approval rate of the factors which more than 90% agreed upon:

- Wearing tight clothes (96.3%).
- Indecent behavior of the girl (97.5%).
- Putting make-up in a provocative way (95.2%).
- Non-compliance with conventional customs and traditions (94.9%).
- The way girls walk (93.3%).
- Girl's adopting devious relations (95.7%).
- The way girls talk (94.4%).
- Wrong upbringing of girls (92.7%).
- Laxity in raising girls (94.6%).
- Watching provocative films (97.5%).
- Reviewing erotic magazines (95.5%).
- Browsing through pornographic websites (94.7%).
- Watching pornographic foreign programs (95.9%).
- Obscene phone calls (93.9%).

- Pornographic websites showing obscene scenes (94.2%).
- Messages sent through cellular phones (96.7%).
- Watching exciting video clips (94.4%).
- Watching educating sexual films (97.1%).
- Youth unemployment (92.1%).
- Weakness of faith (96.0%).
- Inadequate attention to religious upbringing within the home (95.6%).
- The avoidance of the religious discourse in speaking about such a phenomenon in places of worship (91.0%).
- Educational institutions fail to advocate religious values and ethics among students (93.7%).
- Girls do not conform to religious ethics with regard to their appearance (97.5%).
- Improper investment of leisure time (90.8%).
- Failing to apply the principles of Islamic Sharia (95.5%).

The relative distribution of male respondents- by governorate according to the ideal conduct of girls and women when exposed to harassment



The male respondents sense of security and safety in regard to the girls or women in their families according to different places

Male harassers/ respondents were asked about their sense of security and safety regarding the girls and women in their families in the following places: The percentage of the sense of insecurity in the street reached up to (80%) in public transportation reached up to (88.5%), in private transportation (taxi) reached up to (70%), in educational institutions, the sense of insecurity and lack safety reached (49.6%), in the workplace (50.5%). On the contrary, the sense of security at home reached (95.3%), and in the vicinity of the family and relatives (91%) and in the vicinity of friends and colleagues (52.9%).

Views of male respondents about ways and methods for facing sexual harassment: 23 methods were suggested for confronting this phenomenon to become acquainted with the extent of their approval of such methods. The study will list the methods approved by more than 90% of the harassers, namely: overcoming the lack of law enforcement, in general, was considered of extreme importance by (96.1%), girls observance of conservative appearance and behavior (96.2%), helping the youth to get married (95.6%), creating jobs for the unemployed (95.1%), improving the economic situation of families and the eradication of poverty (93.3%), preventing television programs from displaying pornographic photos and programs (91.6%), deterrent legislating penalties to for committing the act of harassment (91.1%) the enforcement of existing laws (91.1%) responding promptly to acts of harassment by increasing police forces on the streets and everywhere (91%).

The most important results of the qualitative analysis of sexual harassment

The qualitative analysis of the phenomenon was carried out by interviewing 40 community leaders who hold leadership positions such as governors or their deputies (governorate secretary-generals) directors of the governorate educational department(or their deputies) heads of the governorate security forces (or their deputies) such as the director of the investigation department) directors of youth centers in the governorates, as well as some community leaders such as members of national parties, former People's Assembly members in addition to representatives of Al-Azhar and the Egyptian Church, religious and Sharia' jurors, legal experts, sociologists, university or research centers professors and the leaderships of the National Council for Women and the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

Their suggestions for eliminating the problem of harassment were as follows:

Short term ways and methods

1. Formal and informal leaderships unanimously agreed that the first step for addressing this phenomenon is the issuance of a new law stipulating a deterrent punishment against the harasser, consequently immediately limiting - on the short term - the phenomenon of harassment.
2. All leaderships unanimously agreed that the return of police patrols and regular security campaigns to the streets will lead no doubt to the restoration of security in the Egyptian street which will in turn prevent female harassment. The experience of the governorate of "Qena" confirmed that security campaigns were able to capture several young people during the act of harassment and filed instant reports of the incidents. As a result, there are now legal cases against those young people in the courts.

3. Raising the awareness of the media and directing it to play an active role in informing the youth about the seriousness of committing harassment, the punishment of which when the new law is issued can reach up to imprisonment, thus ruining the future of the harasser.

Ways for addressing harassment which can put a restraint to it but require some time to have an effective impact:

1. Expanding the pedagogical aspect of education in schools and universities to include classes for Islamic or Christian Studies, as well as national social studies, and through explaining that the freedom of the individual is also to respect the freedom and rights of others.
2. Renewing the religious discourse in mosques especially during Friday prayers and in churches especially during Sunday mass through providing training courses for Muslim orators and preachers and the Christian clergy to emphasize that the observance of religious ethics includes the protection of females in the street and public transportation, etc, as if they are either sisters, mothers or wives.
3. Alleviate poverty and improve the country's economic situation as a whole.
4. Create jobs for young people of both sexes to reduce long hours of leisure time and ensure that they can play an active and positive role in the development of their homeland.
5. Help young people to marry by providing housing units of limited sizes and at affordable prices, to be allocated only to young people about to get married.

What can a leader do through his/her position in the community to eliminate sexual harassment?

The role of selected leaderships were identified, each in their respective fields, to reduce the phenomenon of female sexual harassment in Egypt:

First: the leaders of the Security forces in the governorates were the study was conducted unanimously confirmed that they have now increased security campaigns and patrols, especially at the end of schools hours, for both morning and evening sessions; also in front of universities, markets and crowded places, bus and minibus stops. The Head of the Criminal Investigations Directorate of Security in Ismailia reported that security campaigns are conducted by policemen wearing civil clothes who infiltrate crowds to arrest harassers while committing the act. Reports are filed immediately on the scene, thus a court case is filed against the harasser and tried in court. By increasing such campaigns, it will be possible to reduce the phenomenon.

Second: Leadership in Education: According to the leaders of education especially in schools, this can be achieved through religion and national social studies, during the morning assembly, talks about ethics and religious teachings can raise the awareness of the students about the need to safeguard the purity of their sister students. The male teachers from each school could also participate in the protection of girls at school leaving time, since their presence in front of the school could, in many instances, thwart harassment of female students

A number of educational leadership indicated that they can organize awareness raising seminars to educate the public about the serious repercussions of harassing females. They can as well inform students about the prevailing laws in this respect, which include penalties that can reach up to imprisonment, thus jeopardizing their future opportunities in life. They also indicated that they can, at the same time, organize seminars for girls and female students to encourage them to report any act of harassment they are exposed to in order that a deterrent penalty can be passed against the harasser to prevent him and

other young people from committing such acts in the future. At the same time, through these seminars, young girls could be encouraged to wear conservative clothes.

Third: Leaderships of youth centers in different governorates unanimously agreed to organize camps, seminars, symposia, cultural and sports activities to fill the leisure time of the youth through the practice of sports and through participating in various sport matches. Such events will fill the youth leisure-time with useful activities and could have an impact on limiting the harassment of females. However, there are some problems related to the availability of budgets for these centers nationwide.

Fourth: Social work and NGOs leaderships: Several Social Work leaderships and heads of a number of NGOs emphasized that they are trying as much as they can to provide job opportunities for young people to fill their free time by engaging them in useful activities to generate income and keep them away from harassing girls.

Fifth: law professors, judges and legislators: According to law professors, judges and legislators, the Egyptian law contains a punishment for sexual assault. However, the perpetrator must be caught while committing the act, or there must be witnesses to the crime. The female victim must report the incident and file a complaint to the police against the harasser to indict him, which in some cases may represent an obstacle to the female subjected to this kind of harassment. But if a new law were passed that toughens the punishment for the harasser, while the same time, stipulating that the police at the scene of the crime can file an immediate report of the incident, the harasser can then be indicted in a criminal case that could cause the loss of his future.

Therefore, the role of legislators and law professors in Egypt can focus on advocating for a new law toughening the penalty against the harasser and which, at the same time, includes more flexible procedures for proving the case of incident of harassment

Sixth: Religious leaders, both Muslim and Christian: mosque orators or clergy emphasized that they can raise the awareness of the young generation and educate them about the religious principles which advocate morality call for restraining desires and for directing their energies towards education and work instead. Women, whether colleagues at school or university, walking in the street or riding a public transportation should be regarded by men as their sisters, mothers or wives and therefore they cannot accept their being harassed in the street. It is therefore an even stronger reason that they must protect the freedom and honor of women and refrain from harassing them.

Seventh: The role of the National Council for Women (NCW): The leaderships of the National Council for Women noted that the Council organizes many awareness raising seminars in coordination with Al-Azhar, the Ministry of Awqaf and NGOs to which they invite girls of all ages in order to raise their awareness about methods for fighting harassment and to encourage them to report the harasser so that he can get a deterring penalty. NCW also coordinates with all the audio and visual media channels as well as the press to shed more light on the seriousness of this problem works towards resolving it and calling for the necessity to punish harassers of females to reduce this phenomenon which has spread in the Egyptian society.

Eighth: the role of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM): The leaderships of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood noted that through its hotline No. 16000 allocated for helping children, the areas where female harassment occurs can be identified and security forces can be directed to intensify their forces in these locations. The responsible official for the Youth Empowerment Program of the NCCM indicated that NCCM provides job opportunities for young people to contribute in solving the problem of unemployment and to invest the free time of youth and adolescents in useful work that can generate income and help them lead a decent life

Ninth: the role of the press and the media: Some newspapers editors emphasized that they do actually shed more light on the problem and its causes and inform women about the existing law through which girls can report harassment and indict the perpetrator.

Recommendations of the Study

The study emphasized the importance of the valuable solutions raised by the respondents (male/female) and the leaderships which can contribute to reducing the problem of sexual harassment in Egypt.

But we would like to reiterate the importance of the following:

- 1- Passing a new law criminalizing female sexual harassment, stipulating deterrent penalties for the harasser and at the same time facilitating the procedures for arresting the harasser through evidence provided on the site of harassment in order to eliminate this phenomenon new to the Egyptian society.
- 2- Restoring the sense of security in Egypt and the deployment of police officers and detectives in crowded places, especially in front of schools, universities public squares, main streets, bus and microbus stations in all governorates and to intensify this deployment in peak hours during feasts and holidays.
- 3- Observing good conduct and adhering to the principles of the Islamic and Christian religions which call for the respect and non-infringement on the freedom of others and to consider the female on the street as a mother, a sister or a wife.
- 4- The necessity that the executive popular and religious leaderships carry out the roles they indicated that they can undertake towards reducing the problem of female sexual harassment as included the qualitative part of the study.