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High Prevalence rate of Sexual Harassment in the Universities of Dhaka: Hinders the Women Empowerment

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Abstract

Although the issue of sexual harassment on university campuses has been discussed in the literature for couple of years, little attention has been paid to sex differences in levels of tolerance and attribution of blame in harassment. The aim of the present study was to investigate the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in both public and private universities of Bangladesh. This study focused on the harassment of female students from their university related persons; e.g. student/teacher/staff. 100 each for public and private universities; in total 200 female students were selected following incidental sampling techniques and were administered a standard questionnaire to assess the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in public and private universities of Bangladesh.

Introduction

Almost every societies; specially the developing and underdeveloped countries facing a challenge for last couple of decades and that is sexual harassment. It is one of the major concerns for almost every country because its presence is significant in all societies throughout the different phases of human civilization. In the very primitive period in medieval societies females were the pleasure subjects to the males and that's why their contribution towards the human civilization was underestimated. Once they thought themselves a subject for open harassment. But with the blessing of human civilization the concept has been changing over time. There is a radical change in the relation patten between male and female. Now females feel more confident because of their freedom in sexual life, they got their right on their own body and economy. Gender equity and end violation against women is expected by all so that females are not considering themselves as a

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tool of sexual pleasure for the males. Although it is expected the sexual harassment free society but it cannot be said that sexual harassment is no longer present in any society. The changing and latest forms of it make the prevalence rate high with versatile nature in almost every society.

Sexual harassment is bullying or coercion of a sexual nature, or the unwelcome or inappropriate promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favors. In most modern legal contexts, sexual harassment is illegal. As defined by the US EEOC, "It is unlawful to harass a person (an applicant or employee or a student) because of that person's sex." Harassment can include "sexual harassment" or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature. Where laws surrounding sexual harassment exist, they generally do not prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or minor isolated incidents. In the educational institutes like: universities; harassment may be considered illegal when it is frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive educational environment or when it results in an adverse educational decision (blackmailed and forced sexual relation; may be sometimes in return of better results). It includes a range of actions from mild transgressions to sexual abuse or sexual assault. Sexual harassment is a form of abuse (sexual and psychological) and bullying. In terms of family life the harasser can be the close relative, they can be student/teacher/staff in educational sectors and colleagues/ boss in work place.

Sexual harassment have been defined and described in various ways. The European Commission classified sexual harassment into following five categories:

- **Non-verbal harassment** (e.g. pin-ups, leering, whistling, suggestive gestures)
- **Physical harassment** (unnecessary and objectionable bodily touch)
- **Verbal harassment** (unwelcome sexual advantages, propositions or innuendo)
- **Intimidation** (offensive comments about dress, appearance of performance)
- **Sexual blackmail.**

According to EC's code of practice the essential characteristics of sexual harassment is that it is unwanted by the receipts, it is for each individual to

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determine what behavior is accepted to them and what they regarded as offensive. Sexual attention becomes sexual harassment if it is persisted in and it has been made clear that it is regarded by the recipient as offensive, although one incident of harassment may constitute sexual harassment if sufficiently serious (Dine et. Al., 1995). One of the difficulties in understanding sexual harassment is that it involves a range of behaviors. In most cases (although not in all cases) is difficult for the victim to describe what they experienced. This can be related to difficulty classifying the situation or could be related to stress and humiliation experienced by the recipient. Moreover, behavior and motives vary between individual cases.

Behavioral classes

Dzeich et al.(1998) has divided harassers into two broad classes:

- Public harassers are flagrant in their seductive or sexist attitudes towards colleagues, subordinates, students, etc.
- Private harassers carefully cultivate a restrained and respectable image on the surface, but when alone with their target, their demeanor changes.

Langelan (2001) describes three different classes of harassers.

- Predatory harasser who gets sexual thrills from humiliating others. This harasser may become involved in sexual extortion, and may frequently harass just to see how targets respond. Those who don't resist may even become targets for rape.
- Dominance harasser: the most common type, who engages in harassing behavior as an ego boost.
- Strategic or territorial harassers who seek to maintain privilege in jobs or physical locations, for example a woman's harassment of male employees in a predominantly female occupation.

Sexual harassment is a common phenomenon in recent world. And Bangladesh is not also excluded from this. It is a social disaster for our country; hence it is a social crime like all other crimes in Bangladesh. The problem of sexual harassment in Bangladesh is devastating. Women in our country are being harassed by people in so many ways. The most significant aspects where the women are being harassed like public places, shopping

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centers, bus, in streets, in organizations, in institutions etc. We can certainly say that, women are being harassed in most of the segments in Bangladesh. There is hardly can find any place where harassment is not taking place. The most terrifying sexual harassment which is really unavoidable by women is “EVE Teasing”.

Bangladesh is also a signatory to the “**Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** (Resolution No. 48/104 of 20 December 1993)” which in its Article 1 states as under:

“For the purposes of the Declaration, the term “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercions or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

There are certain types of sexual harassment in Bangladesh, which are given below:

Physical conduct: includes

1. Physical violence
2. Physical contact, e.g. touching, pinching
3. The use of job-related threats or rewards to solicit sexual favours

Verbal conduct: includes

1. Comments on a worker’s appearance, age, private life, etc.
2. Sexual comments, stories and jokes
3. Sexual advances
4. Repeated social invitations
5. Insults based on the sex of the worker
6. Condescending or paternalistic remarks

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Non-verbal conduct: includes

1. Display of sexually explicit or suggestive material
2. Sexually-suggestive gestures
3. Whistling

According to the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, almost 90 percentage of girls aged 10-18 years are victims of sexual harassment. The perpetrators range from college students and unemployed youth to street vendors, rickshaw pullers, bus drivers, fellow passengers, colleagues and supervisors. Sexual terrorism thrives on patriarchal attitudes, prejudices, cultural norms, double standards and discriminatory laws that devalue women and deny them their rights. Eradicating it will require transformative social change.

Sexual harassment includes every sort of behavior which is unwelcomed or unwanted. This may include verbal comments, whether innuendoes or blatantly obscene; written messages, gestures, obscene, picture drawing, graffiti, and so forth (Huda,1999). According to Corol Smart (1995) sexual harassment even involved touch; it can be a look or a comment.

Kenig and Ryan (1986) pointed that sexual harassment includes: (a) Sex stereotype jokes; (b) Teasing remarks of a sexual nature; (c) Unwanted suggestive looks or gestures; (d) Unwanted telephone calls or letters; (e) Unwanted leaning or concerning; (f) Unwanted pressure for date; (g) Unwanted touching and (h) Unwanted pressure for sexual activity.

Various initiatives have slowly begun to address sexual harassment in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh sexual harassment was made punishable by Section 10 of the Nari O Shish Narjaton Domon Ain (2000) states that any man who, in order to satisfy his lust in an improper manner, outrages the modesty of a woman, or makes obscene gestures, will have engaged in sexual harassment and for this, the above mentioned male will be sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of not more than seven years and not less than two years and beyond this will be subjected to monetary fines as well. The High

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Court in April, 2010 directed the Ministry of Education to take immediate steps **to implement the Guidelines on Sexual Harassment declared earlier in BNWLA v Bangladesh**, and to ensure that no woman working in any educational institution, public or private is forced to wear a veil or cover her head, and may exercise her personal choice whether or not to do so. The Court also observed that Section 27A of the Government Servants Discipline and Conduct Rules 1979, must be read alongside these Guidelines, to ensure that public officials are held to account for any acts of sexual harassment.

Bangladesh penal code describes certain behavior which can be equated with sexual harassment and subject to legal stricture. Section 59 of the penal code states that whoever, intending to insult the modesty of any women, utters any words, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any objects, intending that such women shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extended to one year, or with fine, or with both (Huda,1999)..

In the meantime, in 2008, the University Grants Commission, Bangladesh, in the context of the new reports of sexual harassment surfacing at Universities, and in response to calls from women's organizations, including Bangladesh Mohila Porishod, set up a drafting committee to prepare new Guidelines. This Committee revised it following consultations with civil society organizations and academics. But ultimately the Education Ministry failed to adopt the Guidelines the decision. Earlier this month, it held that it would not proceed with the UGC guidelines, but instead called on each University to frame its own rules and regulations - leaving victims of sexual harassment with no effective redress. In this context, the High Court's Guidelines in Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association v Bangladesh, pronounced on 14 May 2009, have filled a much needed gap in the law.

Sexual harassment take place in all sorts of work situations including government agencies (Ray, 1976; Meyer et al., 1981; Rogan, 1981), and religious organizations (Meyer et al., 1981). The Education Amendments of 1972 (United States) states "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." In *Franklin v. Gwinnett County Public Schools* (1992), the U.S. Supreme Court held that private citizens could collect damage awards when teachers sexually harassed their students. In *Bethel*

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School District No. 403 v. Fraser (1986) the courts ruled that schools have the power to discipline students if they use "obscene, profane language or gestures" which could be viewed as substantially interfering with the educational process, and inconsistent with the "fundamental values of public school education." Under regulations issued in 1997 by the U.S. Department of Education, which administers, school districts should be held responsible for harassment by educators if the harasser "was aided in carrying out the sexual harassment of students by his or her position of authority with the institution." In *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*, and *Murrell v. School Dist. No. 1*, 1999, schools were assigned liability for peer-to-peer sexual harassment if the plaintiff sufficiently demonstrated that the administration's response shows "deliberate indifference" to "actual knowledge" of discrimination. Most sexually harassing behavior is student-on-student. In "The Report Card on Gender Equity", by the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE), it was reported that, of students who have been sexually harassed, 90% were harassed by other students. (NCWGE, 1997) And in their 2006 report on sexual harassment in higher education, the AAUW reported that 80% of students sexually harassed were targeted by other students. (AAUW, 2006). One of the most common reasons reported for sexually harassing behavior is because the harasser thinks it is funny to do so. In their 2006 study, the AAUW found that this was the most common rationale for harassment by boys—59 percent used it. Less than one-fifth (17%) of those boys who admitted to harassing others say they did so because they wanted a date with the person. (AAUW, 2006) Other researchers assert that the "I thought it was funny" rationale is a fallacy, and the true reasons align more with that of a need to assert power and induce fear in others—more in line with bullying. These hazing behaviors develop in school, continue in high school and college, eventually moving into the workplace. (Boland, 2002)

In late 2006/early 2007 a study revealed that more than 20% of all boys had been harassed by a female student. In 15% of all cases the girl admitted to sexually harassing the boy and asserted the reasons of "I thought it was funny" and "I'm not doing any harm, it's what he wanted". High schools are addressing this behavior. In their 2002 survey, the AAUW reported that, of students who had been harassed, 38% were harassed by teachers or other school employees. One survey, conducted with psychology students, reports that 10% had sexual interactions with their educators; in turn, 13% of

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educators reported sexual interaction with their students. In a survey of high school students, 14% reported that they had engaged in sexual intercourse with a teacher. (Wishnietsky, 1991). In a national survey conducted for the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation in 2000 found that roughly 290,000 students experienced some sort of physical sexual abuse by a public school employee between 1991 and 2000. And a major 2004 study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education found that nearly 10 percent of U.S. public school students reported having been targeted with sexual attention by school employees. Indeed, one critic has claimed that sexual harassment and abuse by teachers is 100 times more frequent than abuse by priests.

In their 2006 report, "Drawing the Line" the AAUW found physical and emotional effects from sexual harassment on female students:

- 68% of female students felt very or somewhat upset by sexual harassment they experienced;
- 6% were not at all upset.
- 57% of female students who have been sexually harassed reported feeling self-conscious or embarrassed
- 55% of female students who have been sexually harassed reported feeling angry.
- 32% of female students who have been sexually harassed reported feeling afraid or scared.

The AAUW also found that sexual harassment affects academics and achievement. The wide range of experiences lowers the percentage of students who experience any particular effect.

- 16% of female students who have been sexually harassed found it hard to study or pay attention in class.
- 9% of female students dropped a course or skipped a class in response to sexual harassment.
- 27% of female students stay away from particular buildings or places on campus as a result of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is present in all sphere of life even in academic institutes and judicial system (MacKinnon,1979; Hatton, 1994; Dziech and Weiner, 1984; Maihoff and Forrest, 1983)

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It is really very tough to get proper information about the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in the universities of Bangladesh because they feel shy to report about the harassment. In most of the cases the victim; the female students remain silent because of the fear of social harassment and stigma. Only because of the fear retribution the most cases remain under veiled. Sometimes they ignore the incident; although it might have the witness. And only of the stigma; the victims are being victimized over and over. It is not only the fault of the victim. Actually the social system is male dominated so there remains a possibility to being socially harassed if the story being published.

In this background the culture of silence and fear of women when one brings allegation of harassment their personal life will be scrutinized to such an extent that it is better to suffer the harassment in silence (Huda, 1999). Data from a small sample (N=39) from two districts of Bangladesh Huda (1999) found that about 52 percent of the respondents experienced sexual harassment of different nature. Teasing was found to be most common types of harassment followed by insinuating comments, sexual overtures and threat.

Another study was conducted with 100 female respondents of different work place of Dhaka where 61 percentage reported 'Unwanted look with sex appeal by their male colleagues' and 8 percentage were faced 'forced sexual relationship with their male colleagues'.(Nazrul,I. & Mobarak, H. 2004). Intensive research has been conducted in the western countries, but the number of systematic research in Bangladesh is very few. And for the very few studies the main data are being collected from the newspapers, which are not proving the wide range data about the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in educational institutes specially in universities rather is unveil some stories in front of us.

Although the newspapers of Bangladesh frequently publishing the news of sexual incidents in universities of Bangladesh but it is very difficult to enumerate the exact nature, dimensions and intensity of sexual harassment in both public and private universities. So the present study was aimed to investigate the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in public and private universities of Bangladesh.

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The specific objectives of the present study were:

1. To investigate the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in public and private universities of Bangladesh by the university related persons as hearsay.
2. To investigate the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in public and private universities of Bangladesh as experienced by the respondents themselves.

METHOD

Sample

The sample of this study comprised of 200 female students of university level. Here 100 female students were from different public universities of Bangladesh and rest of the 100 female students were from different private universities of Bangladesh. They were selected following incidental sampling procedure. 93% of them were from Under graduation level and 7% were post-graduation level for public universities and 89% from under graduation and 11% post-graduation level for private university's respondents. Their age ranged from and to 19-30 years. 7% of them were from lower socio economic, 18% lower –middle, 56% higher-middle and 19% of them were from higher socio-economic status.

Instrument

To collect the data for this present study a simple questionnaire suited for this purpose was used. This questionnaire was developed by Dr. Nazrul Islam & Mobarak Hossain for studying the nature of sexual harassment in work place of Dhaka city. The questionnaire was slightly modified as this study was investigating the sexual harassment of public and private universities of Bangladesh. The questionnaire includes provision for biographic informant as well as the items to assess sexual harassment experienced by the respondents and about the hearsay of such experienced; experienced by other female students of university. The included items were on the basis of the definition and description by European Commission (Wilson 1995; Kening and Ryan,1986; Halson, 1989). There are 19 pairs of statements describe

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different types of sexual harassment. For each statement there were three (3) alternatives: **Yes/No/Don't know**. To response for any particular statement the respondent putted a tick mark for that statement. This instruction was same for both two phases- experience in her own life and hearsay phase. The first statement of the pair was an indirect one and the second one directed to the respondent. It is frequently seeing in our society that respondents may feel shy to express their own experience regarding sexual harassment but they don't for hearsay about others. Moreover the indirect phase was included to see the discrepancy of harassment as propagated by hearsay and the real nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in public and probate universities.

Procedure

After modifying the questionnaire it was administrated on 200 female students of university level. For this study 100 female students were selected from public universities and 100 from private universities. Each respondent were approached individually and were told the purpose and the importance of the study. After agreement the respondent was given a questionnaire to keep with them for answering in her suitable time. The respondents were not to mention her name or sign on it so that her identity remains unknown to us. To questionnaire was to submit after passing a certain time period. Within the time frame we got 185 questionnaires back and rest of the 15 failed to submit. In that regard we again gave 15 questionnaires to new 15 respondents abiding by all the rules and procedure and after one week finally we made the number of respondents to 200.

Results

After collecting and checking all of 200 filled up questionnaire the data were inputted to SPSS for analyzing. Since the present study was an explanatory type and intended to see the baseline of the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment and for the reason only the percentage of response and for the every the 'yes' response the harasser's (student/teacher/staff) percentage to all statements have been analyzed.

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There were 19 pairs of statement were in the questionnaire. For the first 19 statements respondents response about nature and prevalence of sexual harassment experienced in their own life. In this regard for every statement there were 3 alternatives (yes/no/don't know), Respondent had to tick (✓) on the alternative but if there was a 'yes' in response then another alternative options had to figure out for them e.g. if yes then from whom/student/teacher/staff. And this procedure was same for the rest 19 items regarding hearsay about the sexual harassment of the respondents. The percentage distribution of the statement sought to assess the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment experienced by the respondent of both public and private universities are shown in later.

The Next pahse hearsay about the sexual harassment experienced by the respondent's friends or acquaints female students. It appears that sexual harassment if different forms are widespread in both public and private universities of Bangladesh. The most common forms is 'Telling story or jokes of sexual nature' (67%; among this figure 53% by students and 14% by teachers). Followed by 'Telling jokes of sexual nature with sexual cues' (49%; among this figure 40% by students and 09% by teachers). The next frequent form of harassment is 'Unwanted look with sexual appeal' (43%; among this figure 27% by students, 11% by teachers and 05% by staffs). The next is 'Making telephone call with sexual appeal' (32%; 31% by students and 01% by teacher). Next is ' Asked to meet alone' (27%; 19% by students, 07% by teachers and 01% by staff). Next is 'Making unwanted and objectionable comment about the dress and dress-up' (26%; 20% by students, 05% by teachers and 01% by staff). Next is 'Making objectionable comment about the physic and look' (25%; 19% by students, 03% by teachers and 03% by staffs).

Followed by 'Showing picture depiction sexual image; (24%;22% by students and 02% by teachers). Next is 'Displaying physical gesture with sex cues' (24%; 17% by students, 05% by teachers and 01% by staff).Next is 'Making unwanted and objectionable physical move' (24%; 18% students, 02% by teachers and 04% by staffs). Followed by 'Passing objectionable comment with sexual cues' (24%; 19% by students,02% by teachers and 03% by staffs). Next is Touched body in an objectionable manner' (23%;19% by students, 03% by teachers and 01% by staff). Next is 'Intend to know about the sex life' (17%; 13% by students and 14% by teachers). Next is 'Proposed

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for sex' (12%;all of 12% by students). Followed by 'Intentionally pushing in a narrow space' (08%;06% by students and 02% by teachers). Next is ; Proposed to give good marks in exchange of sexual relation' (08%;01% by student, 06% by teachers and 01% by staff). Next is 'Write letter/email with sexual appeal' (07%;06% by students and 01% by teacher). Followed by 'Forced to have sexual relation' (03%;01% by student and 02% by teachers). Next is 'Black mailed sexually' (01% and that was by student). And for private universities the most common forms of sexual harassment in private universities of Bangladesh is 'Telling story or jokes of sexual nature' (58%; among this figure 45% by students, 12% by teachers and 02% by staffs). The followed next is 'Telling jokes of sexual nature with sexual cues' (53%; 42% by students, 09% by teachers and 02% by staffs). The next is 'Asked to meet alone; (53%; 39% by students, 13% by teachers and 02% by staffs). Next is 'Unwanted look with sexual appeal' (49%; 38% by students, 09% by teachers and 02% by staffs). Followed by 'Intend to know about the sex life' (47%;39% by students and 08% by teachers). The next is 'Proposed for sex' (42%;26% by students, 15% by teachers and 01% by staff). Next 'Displaying physical gesture with sex' (41%;32% by students, 08% teachers and 01% by staff). Next is 'Touched body in an objectionable manner' (39%;26% by students and 13% by teachers). Followed by 'Passing objectionable comment with sexual cues' (37%;23% by students, 13% by teachers and 01% by staff).

The next is 'Making unwanted and objectionable physical move' (36%;26% by students, 09% by teachers and 01% by staff). The next is 'Showing picture depiction sexual image' (36%;29% students, 06% teachers and 01% staff). Next is 'Making telephone call with sexual appeal' (34%;30% by students, 03% by teachers and 01% by staff). Followed by 'Making unwanted and objectionable comment about the dress and dress-up' (34%;25% by students, 08% by teachers and 01% by staff). Next is 'Making objectionable comment about the physic and look' (34%;27% by students, 06% by teachers and 01% by staff). Next is 'Intentionally pushing in a narrow space' (31%;22% by students, 08% by teachers and 01% by staff). Followed by 'Proposed to give good marks in exchange of sexual relation' (29%;13% by students and 16% by teachers). Next is 'Black mailed sexually' (24%;16% by students and 08% by teachers). Next is 'Write letter/email with sexual appeal' (22%;17% by students and 05% by teachers). The next and last one in 'Forced to have sexual relation' (21%;14% by students and 07% by teachers).

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Now if we look at the harassment about the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in universities then we found the discrepancy between hearsay and real life experience. Almost for all statements the response rate of ‘yes’ is much higher in hearsay phase. In this regard the previously mentioned statement again can be repeated that fear to socially harass and stigma the victim remain silent and always reluctant to make complain. For example: for public university the percentage of ‘Blackmail sexually’ was 01% but in the hearsay phase it becomes 04%. Again for private university for own experience phase the percentage of ‘yes’ response in the statement ‘Blackmailed sexually’ was 24% but it rose to 34% in hearsay phase on same statement.

Discussion

The aim of this present study was to investigate the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in public and private universities of Bangladesh. A number of both public and private university’s total 200 female students were responded to this study. In this regard we collected data from 100 female students of public and 100 from different private universities. From their data we have got severe acute types of sexual harassment and their prevalence. By applying the appropriate statistical techniques (percentage distribution), we have got different forms of sexual harassment is most prevalent and pervasive in the universities. From the media we have informed a very few cases and most of them from public universities and their rate in decreasing but the real scenario doesn’t support this. We have got the prevalence rate of sexual harassment in the universities of Bangladesh highly. Here the presence of all of 5 (five) categories e.g. non-verbal harassment, physical harassment, verbal harassment, intimidation and sexual blackmail are significantly active. This social crime makes the university life devastating to some female students of Bangladesh. They are being harassed by the university related peoples (e.g. student, teacher, staff) in many ways. This is the most unfortunate for us to be harassed a female student in university life, although they are being harassed is most of the segments of life. There is hardly any place where harassment is not taking place.

For the public universities in own life experience phase the highest form of sexual harassment ‘Telling story or jokes of sexual nature’ (67%) and ‘Telling jokes of sexual nature with sexual cues’ (49%). 3% female students

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are being 'Forced to have sexual relation' and 1% is 'Blackmailed sexually'. In hearsay phase for public universities the most frequent sexual harassment's form is 'Telling story or jokes of sexual nature' (51%) and 'Unwanted look with sexual appeal' (42%).

For private universities the most frequent form of sexual harassment is 'Telling story or jokes of sexual nature' (58%) and 'Telling jokes of sexual nature with sexual cues' (53%). The most shocking thing for private universities is for the female student is -24% of them are 'Black mailed sexually' and 21% are 'Forced to have sexual relation'. For the hearsay phase the most frequent form of sexual harassment is 'Telling story or jokes of sexual nature' is 55% and 'Asked to meet alone' is 49%.

For both types universities the harasser's rate is high from the category- **Student**, but the rate of **Teacher** and **Staff** are also significant.

From the result we have seen the discrepancy between public and private universities in terms of the forms of sexual harassment. Using the standard questionnaire we have seen that the discrepancy rate is less significant for the

The most shocking is the rate of 'Blackmail sexually' is 24% and 'Forced to have sexual relation' is 21% for private universities while 01% & 03% for public universities. These two forms made the prevalence rate of sexual harassment of private universities significantly higher than public universities of Bangladesh.

The rate of sexual harassment in educational institutes were wide spreading in the developed countries so that several researches, organizations, NGO's even different departments of state started studying on it. In a survey of high school students, 14% reported that they had engaged in sexual intercourse with a teacher. (Wishnietsky, 1991). In a national survey conducted for the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation in 2000 found that roughly 290,000 students experienced some sort of physical sexual abuse by a public school employee between 1991 and 2000. In their 2006 report, "Drawing the Line" the AAUW found physical and emotional effects from sexual harassment on female students; they found 68% of female students felt very or somewhat upset by sexual harassment they experienced, 6% were not at all upset, 57% of female students who have been sexually harassed reported feeling self-conscious or embarrassed, 55% of female

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students who have been sexually harassed reported feeling angry, 32% of female students who have been sexually harassed reported feeling afraid or scared. In their 2006 study, the AAUW found that this was the most common rationale for harassment by boys—59 percent used it. In "The Report Card on Gender Equity", by the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE), it was reported that, of students who have been sexually harassed, 90% were harassed by other students. (NCWGE, 1997) And in their 2006 report on sexual harassment in higher education, the AAUW reported that 80% of students sexually harassed were targeted by other students. (AAUW, 2006).

According to Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, almost 90 percent of girls aged 10-16 years victims of sexual harassment, including the university students. In 2008, the University Grants Commission, Bangladesh, in the context of the new reports of sexual harassment surfacing at Universities, and in response to calls from women's organizations, including Bangladesh Mohila Porishod, set up a drafting committee to prepare new Guidelines. This Committee revised it following consultations with civil society organizations and academics. The High Court's Guidelines in Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association v Bangladesh, pronounced on 14 May 2009, have filled a much needed gap in the law, and today's judgment shows how they can be immediately utilized to open up new possibilities for legal protection and also to hold authorities responsible for creating a violence free educational environment. This is frequently seen that the peoples are more conscious, but we can't declare our universities free from sexual harassment.

There remains argument regarding the data about the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment in public and private universities of Bangladesh. Doubt always with us about the fairness and the accuracy of the data because the victims of Bangladesh feel shy and insecure to report the incidents of harassment. Moreover, many women avoid disclosing sexual harassment for the fear of retribution,(Huda, 1999). Only of this social stigma the rate of sexual harassment in village and downtown becomes so higher for the last couple of years. The victims are forced to shut their mouth form several persons, ever her family. This tradition makes the harasser more desperate. With all of other countries of this subcontinent, Bangladesh is facing the incidents of sexual harassment frequently. No women even the children of

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five years get escape from the harasser. The highest rate of sexual harassment in the universities of Bangladesh makes this incident very common. And for this reason female students are not getting the justice for these incidents. This thing also happened in Bangladesh that, being raped on the time of reporting in police station a women again raped by those policeman to whom she went for getting the justice. We can hardly see any cases of sexual harassment in the universities at present. But the data is showing the acuity of sexual harassment. This statement shows the discrepancy between the numbers of complain and the real rate of harassment. Several marked teachers from both public and private universities frequently harass their female students. But because of several social reasons and stigma the complaining rate remain less even zero. Sometimes the victim does not have the way she make a complain because there is hardly seen any victim support cell or proper and active guide line for preventing sexual harassment in universities. Sometimes we find the severe negligence of the authority to the incidents of sexual harassment. Sometimes the power exercising, status, position of the perpetrators and victims are equal which paves the way to injustice. The perpetrators with his allies sometimes make the life more miserable of the victims as they can manipulate their surroundings. The morality of complaint's becoming questioning because of the social system, stigma and the power exercise of the perpetrators, which reinforced them to harass again and again. On the other hand the victims bearing their miserable life with both physical and psychological trauma. But the positive thing is the in general number and rate of complain of sexual harassment is becoming higher so that the movement against violence and sexual harassment from all spears of life in our society specially from educational institutes will be removed fast. The movement will be more strengthening with the active participation of all educated women of Bangladesh towards a sexual harassment free society, work place and educational environment.

Conclusion & Recommendations

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The present study shows that the prevalence of sexual harassment is significantly higher with versatile nature. For some forms this rate is slightly high and for a few particular forms this rate is significantly higher in private universities than public universities of Bangladesh. But the zest is the prevalence rate is alarming for the educational institute specially for both public and private universities of Bangladesh. We are feeling the moral education for removing this curse from our society. Besides, we need the gender based education, policy, rights etc. For the victim we need active one stop center to get all sorts of assistance for both physiological and psychological context. With the assistance and direction every university should have policy for preventing sexual harassment. The monitoring cell regarding sexual harassment should be formed with the efficient and experienced persons. The university author and monitoring cells joint movement can reduce the rate of sexual harassment. With these two thing for the victim's counseling centres with experienced and resourced persons should be establish be working so that they provide immediate counseling to prevent any suicidal incidents. Different authorities of different countries adopt so many judicial and policy contract (Stein,Nan, Nancy L. Marshall, and Linda R.1993)

AAUW Educational Foundation (1993) explained the impact of sexual harassment on the educational process. Students who have been harassed have reported following feelings and actions:

- Not wanting to attend educational institutes; staying home, or cutting class.
- Not wanting to talk as much in class.
- Finding it hard to pay attention.
- Making a lower grade on the tests.
- Drop out
- Dropping out of chosen classes or field of study.
- Emotional impact of feeling embarrassed, self-conscious, less confident, and guilty about being the target of harassment.
- Many victims report being afraid of the harasser and trying to avoid contact with this person.

Almost every university from both public and private categories, adopting policy and guideline for the elimination of the sexual harassment form the university. With respect to those guideline; according to the Stein,Nan, Nancy L. Marshall, and Linda R.1993,U.S state of California's Educational code,Sec. 231.5, AAUW Educational Foundation, Iowa Department of Education, The

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University of Michigan, c 1985, we recommend the following policies to eliminate sexual harassment from both public and private universities of Bangladesh:

- ⊕ Each university shall have a written policy on sexual harassment.
- ⊕ The university's written policy on sexual harassment shall include information on where to obtain the specific rules and procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment and for pursuing available remedies.
- ⊕ A copy of the written policy shall be displayed in a prominent location in all building or other area of the campus.
- ⊕ A copy of the written policy, as it pertains to students, shall be provided as part of any orientation program conducted for fresher or newly coming students.
- ⊕ A copy shall be provided to all faculty members, all administrative, official and technical staff.
- ⊕ The written policy preventing sexual harassment shall be published to the common publication of the university e.g. on prospectus, academic calendar, exercise book etc.
- ⊕ The policy shall have the commitment to prevent sexual harassment.
- ⊕ Provide training to the responsible persons.
- ⊕ When a harassment complaint has been filed, the authority needs to take prompt remedial action.
- ⊕ It offers examples of behaviours covered by the policy.
- ⊕ Explain the methods the authority will investigate the incidents of sexual harassment.
- ⊕ Mention the complaint manager's name with detail.
- ⊕ Prohibit retaliation against those who report harassment or participate in related procedures.
- ⊕ Explain the confidentiality will be maintained as much as possible (for victim).
- ⊕ Explain the goal of the investigation and a fair resolution that includes appropriate and corrective action.
- ⊕ To maintain the standard any fake complain shall be identify and the compliant must be punishing strictly.

Remedies for sexual harassment of students may include special care and provisions for affected students, dismissal of others sanction for adults involved, changes in the educational setting itself, or punitive fines or criminal sentences. Many national laws make harassers individually punishable for acts of sexual harassment, whether through criminal legislation, dismissal, or civil penalties. While individual liability is critically important, making schools

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institutionally liable for their actions in creating a safe university is an equally important piece of preventing sexual harassment of girls and women.

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