

AN EVALUATION STUDY OF AWARENESS CONCERNING CRIMES AGAINST ADOLESCENT GIRLS

(An Action Research Study in GVMC Schools in Visakhapatnam)

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Abstract

Globally, 15 million girls aged 15 to 19 have been subjected to forced sexual acts. These adolescent girls face numerous barriers to their education, and additionally, safety issues, including violence and abuse, present several challenges for this age group. It is essential to prevent gender-based violence such as sexual abuse and harassment stemming from gender discrimination. According to the NCRB report of 2023, there has been a 4% increase in crimes against women in India compared to the previous year. This rising trend is particularly concerning given the various legal protection and social awareness initiatives that have been established. Raising awareness about gender equality and safety issues for adolescent girls is crucial to mitigate gender-based violence and promote their empowerment. This paper primarily serves as action research, focusing on assessing the respondents' awareness of crimes against girls and the measures taken to enhance awareness regarding these crimes.

Keywords: *adolescent girls, safety issues, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, empowerment social awareness*

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) has consistently identified violence against women and girls as a significant global public health concern. Violence against women and girls is fundamentally caused by unequal power distribution between men and women and discriminatory gender norms. Child marriage, intimate partner violence, bad touch, sexual abuse, workplace sexual harassment of women, stalking, acid assaults, abduction and kidnapping, rape and murder, human trafficking, and cybercrimes are all examples of crimes against teenage girls. About 25% of teenage girls between the ages of 15 and 19 who have been in a relationship have experienced violence. Sexual violence encompasses a wide range of harmful and nonconsensual sexual behaviors, such as sexual exploitation, harassment, and rape. Early and forced marriage, among other harmful traditional practices, is a breach of human rights. Traffickers frequently use force, as well as physical and sexual abuse, to manipulate girls who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. School-based violence is also a problem for adolescent girls. Bullying and physical abuse by teachers and classmates are common issues that can have a negative impact on a girl's education and well-being. However, technology has also made violence easier to commit since the internet has given abusers new methods to prey on teenagers through online harassment and cyber bullying. Crimes against adolescent girls have far-reaching and devastating consequences for their physical and psychological health, education, and general well-being. Many adolescent girls face barriers to reporting abuse, such as fear, social stigma and a lack of awareness of their rights or available youth friendly services. Addressing harmful practices like child marriage, sexual abuse and crimes such as human trafficking and cyber bullying is the effective preventive measure for crimes against women and adolescent girls. (UN Women 25th Nov 2024).

1.2. NEED OF THE STUDY

It is imperative to raise awareness about gender equality and safety concerns for adolescent girls to mitigate gender-based violence and to promote their empowerment. The present study focuses on issues like child marriage, bad touch, sexual abuse, sexual harassment of women at workplace, stalking, acid attacks, abduction and kidnapping, rape and murder, human trafficking and cybercrimes with an aim to conduct action research.

1.3. ACTION RESEARCH

Action Research is a systematic approach that involves conducting activities to address and resolve issues related to various problems. This qualitative research method emphasizes problem solving within social systems by generating knowledge and implementing actions within those frameworks. The primary objective of action research is to identify challenges and formulate practical solutions to enhance a particular situation or practice. In light of this, the present study employed action research to combat gender-based violence and foster empowerment among adolescent girls by raising awareness about safety concerns.

1.4. AIM

The present paper is mainly an action research, which primarily focuses on evaluating the respondents' awareness of crimes against girls and the action taken to raise awareness about these crimes. In this context, the current study aimed to investigate whether the respondents are aware of crimes against girls, with the objective of valuating their understanding of these crimes to enhance their self-protection.

1.5. OBJECTIVES

1. To examine gender-based violence in India, particularly focusing on Andhra Pradesh.
2. To assess the level of awareness among respondents concerning crimes against girls.
3. To enhance awareness about safety issues with the aim of empowering adolescent girls to protect themselves.

1.6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Primary data has been collected from adolescent respondents aged 10 to 19 years. A well structured questionnaires are used to collect the data. *Questionnaire-1* covers the objectives of the study. *Questionnaire-2* focuses on outcome of the awareness programmes on safety concerns of adolescent girls. A random sampling technique has been employed to select the respondents for the study, which seeks to gather data from a total of 369 respondents from 6 GVMC schools in Visakhapatnam. A total of 369 respondents are chosen using random sampling from selected GVMC High schools in Visakhapatnam. Simple statistical methods including averages and percentages are used along with bar graphs and pie charts for easy understanding of the data.

II STATUS OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN INDIA AND ANDHRA PRADESH

The National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB) has noted a rise in crimes against women with 444,256 cases documented in 2022, compared to 4428,278 in 2021. Crimes against women and children rise in Andhra Pradesh in 2022. The State registers 25,503 cases of crime against women in 2022, as against 17,752 in 2021 and 17,089 in 2020; when it comes to cybercrimes, the State stands fifth in the country with 2,341 cases. (NCRB, 2022). Among the states, Maharashtra has seen the most significant increase in such crimes, rising by 10-15 percent since 2021, while Mumbai ranks among the cities with the highest reports of sexual harassment and human trafficking involving women. (NFHS-5).

The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 indicates that 29.3 percent of married Indian women aged 18-49 have experienced domestic violence at some point. According to National Crime

Records Bureau (NCRB) 2022, over 99% of the crimes reported under the POCSO Act in 2020 were directed at girls. This statistics highlights the vulnerability of the girl child within society. An analysis conducted by the NGO Child Rights and You (CRY) indicated that out of 28,327 children who were victims to crimes under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, 28,058 were girls. Furthermore, the backlog of exclusive POCSO cases has risen from 122,617 in March 2022 to 131,886 in March 2023. India experiences 51 incidents of crimes against women every hour, totaling over 4,44,000 cases in 2022, according to a report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). This report highlights a troubling increase in such crimes across the country. In 2022, there were 4,45,256 reported cases, marking a rise from previous years. The predominant types of offenses included cruelty by husbands or their relatives, kidnapping and abduction, assault with the intent to outrage modesty and rape. Delhi recorded the highest crime rate, exceeding the national average, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. (NCRB report, Times of India, April 3, 2024)

According to World Health Organization approximately one in three or 30% women globally, have experienced either physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence at some point in their lives. The majority of this violence is attributed to intimate partners. Nearly one-third, specifically 27% of women aged 15 to 49 who have been in a relationship report having faced some form of physical or sexual violence from their intimate partners. Each year, approximately 1 million girls are married before reaching the age of 18, which equates to nearly one girl every two seconds. If immediate action is not taken, it is projected that over 150 million girls will become child brides by the year 2030. In 2022, around 48,800 women and girls were murdered by their intimate partners or other family members worldwide. This statistics reveals that an average of more than five women or girls being killed every hour by someone within their family. Globally, 15 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sexual acts.

In the state of Andhra Pradesh, crimes against women recorded at 22,418 cases in 2023. In terms of kidnapping and abduction, 746 cases were registered in 2023. Additionally, there were 438 reported rape cases in 2023. Overall, there is a 4% rise in crimes against women in India compared to previous year. Among them Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of incidents at 59,445 followed by Rajasthan with 35,497 cases and West Bengal with 30,394 cases. Cybercrimes targeting women has seen a notable surge, with 24.4% increase in reported cases. This increasing trend is particularly alarming considering the various legal protections and social awareness initiatives that have been implemented. (NCRB report, 2023)

In order to address crimes against girls a comprehensive strategy that emphasizes education, legal reform, economic empowerment, and community engagement is essential to alter detrimental norms. It is crucial to implement educational programmes in schools and communities that promote respectful relationships, consent and equality in order to unlearn violent behaviours. In addition, promoting girls' education is imperative to face the challenges of crimes against them. Furthermore, enhancing women's access to economic opportunities, such as employment, financial services, and property rights, is vital to diminish dependency and vulnerability.

III CRIMES AGAINST GIRLS & ASSESMENT OF AWARENESS CONCERNING SAFETY ISSUES AND ACTION TAKEN

3.1. Child Marriage : Child marriage is recognized as a violation of human rights and is a criminal act in many countries, including India, where it is prohibited under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA). Child marriage not only violates children's rights it places them at high risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse and high-risk pregnancies. It curtails girls education and development opportunities. The PCMA legislation sets forth minimum marriage ages and imposes severe penalties on individuals who promote, conduct, or allow such marriages. According to the PCMA, the legal minimum age is 18 years for females and 21 years for males. This practice is frequently associated with poverty gender inequality and

detrimental social norms, resulting in significant health, social, and economic repercussions for both girls and boys. Discriminatory societal norms often assign lesser value to girls compared to boys, perceiving their primary responsibilities as those of wives and mothers. Consequently, families may restrict their daughters' educational opportunities and arrange early marriages for them. The ramifications of child marriage are devastating and enduring, affecting individuals, families and communities alike. It frequently signifies the ending of a child's education, thereby constraining future career opportunities and perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Young girls are typically not physically prepared for child birth, which increases the risks of complications diseases, and mortality for both them and their infants.

In the above context, an effort was made to investigate whether the respondents are aware that child marriage is a crime, and whether they possess knowledge regarding the consequences of early marriage, with the aim of educating them. The findings reveal that a significant percentage of the respondents acknowledged child marriage as a crime, (45.1%) asserting that girls should not marry before the age of 18. Although more than fifty percent of them are aware that child marriage constitutes a crime, they remain un informed about the consequences of engaging in such practices. (53.9%). Through discussions, it became evident that many respondents were unaware of the repercussions of early marriage and the associated reproductive health issues. The investigator raised awareness about the detrimental effects of child marriage on individual development and career prospects, emphasizing the significance of education and employment for their empowerment. Additionally, awareness was created regarding reproductive health issues that may arise from early pregnancies resulting from child marriage.

3.2. Good Touch and Bad Touch : Educating young girls about the difference between good touch and bad touch is crucial as it enables girl children to better safeguard themselves against sexual abuse. Good touch is characterized by feelings of safety, comfort, and affection. In contrast bad touch is associated with discomfort, fear or a sense of wrong doing, often involving unwanted contact with private areas. The fundamental difference lies in the feelings involved and the respect for personal boundaries. Good touch is respectful, whereas bad touch infringes upon those boundaries and can lead to harm.

In light of this, an effort was made to assess whether the respondents recognize the concepts of good touch and bad touch. The data indicates that a majority of respondents are aware that bad touch is considered a crime (49.3%). A notable percentage of respondents reported confusion about which behaviors are categorized as bad touch (50.7%). The investigator addressed their uncertainties concerning good touch and bad touch, assisting them in understanding how to protect themselves from unwanted interactions with strangers to mitigate the risk of bad touch.

3.3. Sexual Abuse : Studies indicate an alarmingly high prevalence of sexual abuse, particularly against children. A female child may experience sexual abuse or exploitation in her home, at school, or within her community. The prevalent use of digital technologies can further endanger children. Typically, abuse is perpetrated by someone whom the child knows and trusts. Sexual abuse encompasses indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing, and sexual photography. Furthermore, this form of abuse may include exposing an individual to pornography, witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure, or sexual assault.

In the above context, the current study aimed to investigate whether the respondents are aware of what constitutes sexual abuse. The data reveals that the majority of respondents were not knowledgeable about sexual abuse. (91.1%). From the observations, it is clear that most respondents lacked awareness regarding sexual abuse. The investigator provided knowledge on the types of actions that fall under the category of sexual abuse, as well as how to prevent such actions to safeguard themselves from sexual abuse.

3.4. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace : Sexual harassment against women in the workplace encompasses unwelcome behaviours such as inappropriate physical contact, sexually suggestive comments, and requests for sexual favours, all of which can foster an intimidating or hostile work atmosphere. Understanding sexual harassment in the workplace is essential as it infringes upon women's basic rights, cultivates a hostile environment, and adversely affects their mental and physical well-being. A lack of awareness makes it more challenging to recognize and prevent actions that contribute to an unsafe and hostile environment, thereby obstructing professional development. This concept must be communicated to adolescent girls who will enter the workplace in the future, equipping them to defend themselves.

In this regard, the present study aimed to assess their knowledge about sexual harassment of women in the workplace. The findings reveal that a significant number of respondents are unaware of what constitutes sexual harassment of women in the workplace (95.1%). Numerous questions arise concerning sexual harassment of women in the workplace. The investigator provided knowledge on which actions are classified as sexual harassment, what steps to take when confronted with such issues and what measures organizations should implement to ensure a healthy work environment.

3.5. Stalking : Stalking refers to a series of repeated, unwanted, and harassing actions directed towards an individual, which instills feelings of fear or threat in them. Instances of stalking may include following someone, making repeated unwanted communications such as emails, texts, or phone calls, appearing uninvited at a person's residence or workplace, disseminating false information, and engaging in online harassment or surveillance. This behavior constitutes a serious offense that can lead to considerable psychological and practical consequences for the victims. This includes physically following individuals, monitoring their residence, or using devices for tracking. It also encompasses the act of sending numerous emails, texts, or social media messages, making unsolicited phone calls or leaving unwanted gifts, notes, or items. Additionally, it involves showing up uninvited at a person's home, workplace, educational institution, or other familiar places. Spreading rumours, whether online or offline, sharing personal details or images without consent, or utilizing fake profiles to reach out to someone are also forms of stalking. Stalking constitutes a criminal offense that has a profound and diverse effect on its victims, thereby requiring careful evaluation and intervention.

In the above context, an attempt was made to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of the issue of stalking, with the intention of educating them on how to handle the problem. The data reveals that the majority of respondents are unaware that stalking constitutes a crime (91.6%). From the discussion, it can be inferred that the majority of respondents are unaware of the various forms of stalking, which leads to significant repercussions for adolescent girls, adversely affecting their reputation and career. The investigator raised awareness regarding how stalkers create issues for girls and women, and provided knowledge on how to prevent the problems associated with stalking.

3.6. Acid Attacks : Acid attacks represent a brutal manifestation of gender-based violence that primarily affects women and girls, aiming to disfigure, dominate, and punish them. These assaults cause significant physical, psychological, and social trauma, frequently resulting in lifelong injuries and societal discrimination for survivors. The offenders, predominantly men, employ acid attacks as a means of revenge and control in patriarchal societies where traditional perceptions of woman's physical appearance and societal role are deeply rooted. Men perpetrate these attacks against women who reject their love, sexual advances or marriage proposals. Typical physical repercussions include permanent scarring, blindness, facial disfigurement, and loss of mobility. Survivors frequently endure profound psychological trauma, such as depression, anxiety, insomnia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidal ideation. Victims often encounter social ostracism, isolation and discrimination, which complicate their ability to secure employment, pursue education, or enter into marriage. Consequently, they frequently become financially reliant on their families due to their disabilities.

In the above context, an effort was made to investigate whether the respondents are aware of acid attack and the underlying reasons for such incidents, with the aim of educating them on how to prevent acid attacks that cause distress among adolescent girls and hinder their career prospects. The data indicates that the majority of respondents are not aware that acid attacks constitute a crime. (77.5%). It has been observed that while the respondents are aware that acid attacks constitute a crime, they are unable to foresee the repercussions of such attack, which could potentially devastate their careers, nor do they know how to tackle the issue associated with acid attacks. The investigator offered insights into how to avert circumstances that may lead to acid attacks, suggesting that at least some situations can be mitigated through the implementation of preventive measures.

3.7. Abduction and Kidnapping : The problem of abduction and kidnapping of girls represents a significant global challenge with intricate origins, such as gender discrimination, economic difficulties, and a demand for sex work or forced marriage. A disproportionately high number of girls and young women fall victim to abduction and trafficking, underscoring their particular vulnerabilities. In numerous regions, gender inequality and economic disparity render girls and young women particularly susceptible to exploitation by traffickers. Families in underprivileged communities may be lured by traffickers who promise an improved life for their children. A major factor contributing to this issue is the demand for commercial sex work, forced labour, and forced marriage. The repercussions for victims are profound and can endure for a lifetime, including intense emotional and psychological trauma, such as anxiety, depression, trust issues, and flashback. Abducted girls may face physical and sexual violence, forced marriage and forced labour. These heinous acts inflict tremendous emotional pain on families.

In the above context, an effort was made to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of the crime of abduction and kidnapping of girls for commercial purposes as well as their understanding of how the perpetrators mislead girls and their families by showing the false notion that they offer a comfortable life for their girls. This is particularly relevant for parents living in poverty who are unable to support their daughters and arrange marriages. The data indicates that above fifty percent of the respondents are aware that kidnapping is a crime (55.3%). It was noted that while the respondents are aware that kidnapping constitutes a crime, they lack understanding regarding abduction. The investigator imparted knowledge on how abductors deceive both girls and their parents, and educated them on how to limit their relationships in order to safeguard themselves.

3.8. Rape and Murder : Rape and murder of girls constitutes a widespread, global concern that is deeply rooted in entrenched patriarchal beliefs, systematic failures, and gender inequality. In societies dominated by males, girls and women are frequently regarded as property of men rather than as individuals possessing their own autonomy. This viewpoint can result in extreme violence as a method of control and punishment for perceived violations. The notion that men possess rights over women's bodies is a significant contributor for sexual violence. In instances of rape and murder, the fatal outcome terminates the victim's life, yet the trauma generates ripple effects that can devastate families and communities for generations. Families of murder victims endure profound and enduring grief. The violent nature of the death, coupled with subsequent interactions with the legal system, can provoke increased feelings of anger, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress.

In the aforementioned context, an effort was undertaken to ascertain whether the respondents are cognizant of occurrence of rape and murders of girls, with the intention of educating them on how to avert such crimes against girls. The data indicates that above fifty percent of the respondents are aware that rape and murders constitute a crime (58.5%). It was observed that while the respondents are aware that rape and murder constitute crimes against girls, they do not comprehend the reasons behind men's harmful behavior towards them. The investigator aimed to clarify the underlying reasons for the behavioural patterns of the perpetrators and to illustrate how families endure suffering due these crimes against their family

members. Additionally, the researcher sought to educate them on how to avert such situations and safeguard themselves.

3.9. Human Trafficking: The trafficking of girls for human exploitation is a critical global concern, primarily associated with sexual exploitation, forced labour and coerced marriage. Individuals who are vulnerable are specifically targeted and manipulated through deceit, coercion or the abuse of authority, resulting in significant physical, psychological, and social harm. Various factors contribute to the disproportionate trafficking of women and girls. Adolescent girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are particularly susceptible, frequently enticed by misleading promises of lucrative employment or an improved life. Social conventions that restrict girls' access to education, financial resources, and empowerment heighten their vulnerability to exploitation. Girls hailing from dysfunctional families, those who have been abandoned, or victims of childhood abuse are often preyed upon by traffickers who take advantage of their emotional weaknesses. Girl is trafficked for various exploitative reasons, including sexual exploitation. The majority of these girls are trafficked for sex work, which encompasses prostitution, and pornography. Trafficked girls are compelled to engage in domestic servitude, agricultural labour and other forms of work under inhuman conditions. The trauma associated with human trafficking leaves survivors with profound and enduring scars, including physical health issues. Survivors often grapple with depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal ideation. Victims frequently encounter stigmatization upon their rescue, resulting in social isolation and challenges in reintegrating into their communities.

In the aforementioned context, an effort was undertaken to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of human trafficking and the factors that influence the trafficking of girls, with the objective of raising awareness about the gravity of the issue. The data indicates that majority of the respondents are unaware of human trafficking. (93.2%). It was noted that the respondents lacked knowledge regarding the patterns of human trafficking, which devastating their lives. As human trafficking is a fundamental crime against women and girls, the victims typically do not realize they are being trafficked by the perpetrators. The investigator raised awareness about the various forms of trafficking while elucidating how girls are trafficked. Furthermore, they were educated on the consequences faced by trafficked girls and instructed on how to prevent human trafficking and safeguard themselves.

3.10. Cyber Crimes : Cyber crimes targeting girls and women encompass harassment, cyber bullying, and the non-consensual sharing of images, all of which can lead to serious mental health consequences. These offenses are enabled by the anonymity provided by the internet and the proliferation of social media, with millions of women worldwide. Girls face considerable levels of online harassment, which may manifest as insults, and threats, with some reporting higher instances of online harassment compared to street harassment. Offenders often cultivate a relationship with a young individual online to exploit them, typically with sexual motives or to manipulate them into engaging in violent behaviours. Cyber crimes can inflict considerable emotional distress, and research indicates that some women perceive a threat to their physical safety. In extreme cases, this can result in drastic actions such as suicide. A substantial portion of online abuse is characterized by sexist or misogynistic elements, rendering the digital environment unsafe and unwelcoming. Victims may experience mental health challenges, and those with pre-existing vulnerabilities, such as low self-esteem or eating disorders, may be especially at risk.

In the above mentioned context, an effort was made to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of cyber crimes, given that they utilize mobile phones and the internet for educational purposes. Many girls and women, either knowingly or unknowingly become victims of cyber bullying, which can severely impact their lives. The data reveals that a significant majority of the respondents lack knowledge regarding cyber bullying and the dangers associated with internet usage via mobile phones (93.2%). It was observed that although the respondents frequently use mobile phones at home for educational purposes and to communicate with family members, relatives and friends, they remain

unaware of the potential consequences of receiving calls from strangers. They do not understand how cyber criminals can exploit young girls by luring them into cyber bullying. The investigator provided them with information on how cyber bullies can harm girls through phone calls and educated them on preventive measures to safeguard themselves against such activities.

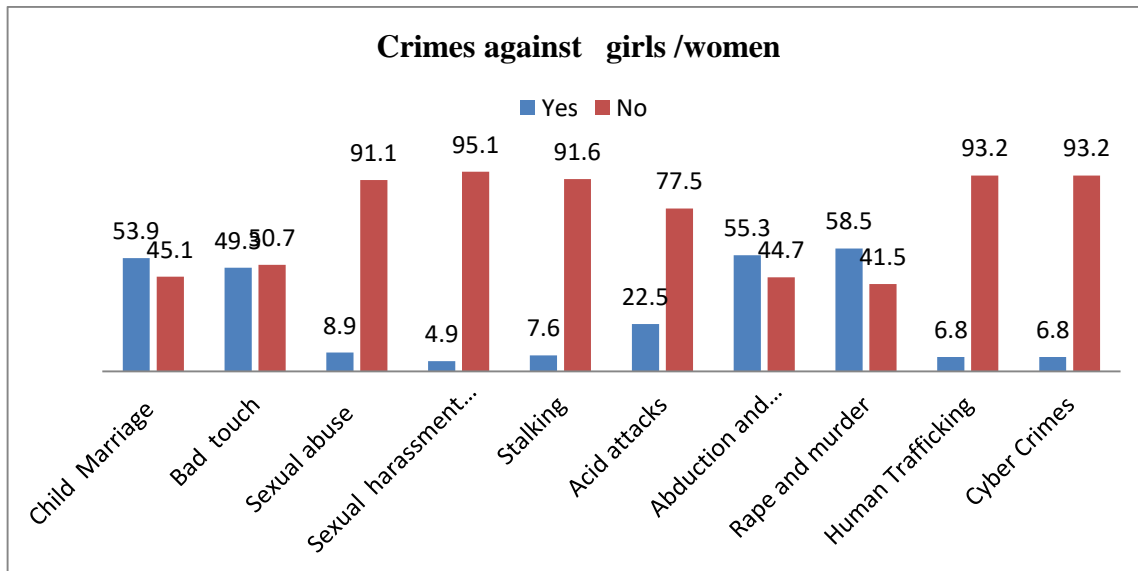
Table-1 provides an overview of the respondent’s understanding of crimes Committed against girls.

Table-1

Do you know the following Crimes against girls /women?

Sl. No	Crimes against girls	Yes		No	
		Frequency	Percent (%)	Frequency	Percent (%)
1	Child Marriage	199	53.9	165	45.1
2	Bad touch	180	49.3	187	50.7
3	Sexual abuse	33	8.9	334	91.1
4	Sexual harassment of women at workplace	21	4.9	344	95.1
5	Stalking	28	7.6	338	91.6
6	Acid attacks	83	22.5	285	77.5
7	Abduction and kidnapping	204	55.3	164	44.7
8	Rape and murder	216	58.5	152	41.5
9	Human Trafficking	25	6.8	343	93.2
10	Cyber Crimes	25	6.8	343	93.2

Figure- 1 depicts the data.



The subsequent point presented briefly, under action research, indicate that a significant number of respondents lack awareness regarding certain crimes against girls. The investigator raised awareness about the following crimes targeting girls.

- Raised awareness about the detrimental effects of child marriage on individual development and career prospects, emphasizing the significance of education and employment for their empowerment. Additionally, awareness was created regarding reproductive health issues that may arise from early pregnancies resulting from child marriage.
- Addressed the uncertainties concerning good touch and bad touch, assisting them in understanding how to protect themselves from unwanted interactions with strangers to mitigate the risk of bad touch.

- Provided knowledge on the types of actions that fall under the category of sexual abuse, as well as how to prevent such actions to safeguard themselves from sexual abuse.
- Provided knowledge on which actions are classified as sexual harassment, what steps to take when confronted with such issues and what measures organizations should implement to ensure a healthy work environment.
- Raised awareness regarding how stalkers create issues for girls and women, and provided knowledge on how to prevent the problems associated with stalking.
- Offered insights into how to avert circumstances that may lead to acid attacks, suggesting that at least some situations can be mitigated through the implementation of preventive measures.
- Imparted knowledge on how abductors deceive both girls and their parents, and educated them on how to limit their relationships in order to safeguard themselves.
- Aimed to clarify the underlying reasons for the behavioural patterns of the perpetrators and to illustrate how families endure suffering due these crimes against their family members. Additionally, the researcher sought to educate them on how to avert such situations and safeguard themselves.
- Raised awareness about the various forms of trafficking while elucidating how girls are trafficked. Furthermore, they were educated on the consequences faced by trafficked girls and instructed on how to prevent human trafficking and safeguard themselves.
- Provided them with information on how cyber bullies can harm girls through phone calls and educated them on preventive measures to safeguard themselves against such activities.

IV CONCLUSION:

The main goal of action research concerning an awareness programme is to investigate, assess, and enhance the efficacy of initiatives aimed at raising knowledge, altering attitudes, or changing behaviours related to particular issue. And its primary aim is not merely to acquire knowledge, but to achieve tangible, immediate changes that benefit the participants and fostering a dynamic and responsive approach to problem solving. In this context, the purpose of conducting the current action research on the safety issues faced by adolescent girls is to raise awareness about crimes against girls and women, with the ultimate aim being that they learn to protect themselves from becoming victims of such crimes. This current research has successfully met its objective of raising awareness among the target group regarding safety issues, and nearly all respondents have gained knowledge about their safety concerns. The data presented indicates that the majority of respondents are well-informed about the key points that will assist them both now and in the future.

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