

Overall Goal

To envision safe urban public spaces and services in select areas of two cities in Jharkhand - Ranchi and Hazaribag, that women and girls across age groups and communities can access without fear and threat of sexual harassment and sexual violence and claim their rights as equal citizens.

Project Goal

To support the development of comprehensive and multi-sectoral approaches with local partners to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and sexual violence against women and girls across different sites in select urban localities of Jharkhand.

Expected Key Results

1. Working towards increased commitments by key stakeholders to address gender equality measures in their approaches to enhancing safety of women and girls
2. Enhancing capacities of select women's groups and civil society partners on gender inclusive methodologies and services to address women's safety and outreach to their communities
3. Building processes to enhance public awareness and education on women's safety

Study on Violence Against Women in Public Spaces in Ranchi and Hazaribag, Jharkhand (2014-2016)

The study included a 1000 Household level Survey (with 600 respondents in Ranchi and 400 from Hazaribag); 12 Focus Group Discussions; 13 Safety Audits; and 14 Key Informant Interviews. The study can be accessed at Jagori website.

Key Findings

- The data clearly highlighted that women's lack of safety and assertion of her rights limits her access to study, work, mobility and a life of dignity and autonomy. More than 44% see these two cities as unsafe, reporting both verbal and visual harassment

- Women constantly experience 'fear' of harassment; the age group 18-24 years is among the most vulnerable and inexperienced in dealing with harassment
- Sites of sexual violence include streets/ roads, market places/ malls, auto/bus stops and in public transport
- Poor quality of infrastructure such as lighting, crowded public spaces and badly maintained open public spaces contribute to perceptions of fear
- Public transport (especially shared autos) was seen as major sites of harassment. Women experienced lack of support in public spaces due to mute bystanders
- Very few women approached the police
- Boys and men in groups (engaging in anti-social activities) seemed to harass more than individual men
- 60% survivors shared their harassment with family members.
- While more than 95% male respondents in both the cities knew that sexual assault, and others forms of sexual violence were a crime under law, the awareness among women was lower

Strategic Framework

A strategic framework for women's safety was developed, which includes:

1. Advocating for gender sensitive physical infrastructure (e.g. urban planning and design, provision of basic services, transport)
2. Improved services for women and girls (e.g. responsive policing, one stop crisis centres with counseling and support services)
3. Building awareness to change mindsets and attitudes that have normalized violence against women and girls

Key Policy and Programme Recommendations

1. Urban Planning and Design of Public Spaces

- Ensure safe accessibility to all parts of the city through integrated and gender-inclusive design
- Designing broader roads and creating pavements for walkability for all women
- Build parking bays for women auto drivers and women rickshaw pullers to ensure their security

- Designating Sulabh toilets for women workers, with fittings for pregnant and disabled women
- Ensuring police check posts that are accessible to women to report cases at key road junctions

2. Provision and Management of Urban Infrastructure

- Better maintenance of street lighting and roads, especially near education institutions and workplaces of informal sector workers
- Provision of quality drinking water and sanitation services, including menstrual hygiene facilities for women workers
- Safer vending and market places including at railway sites and by the road side

3. Public Transport and Related Services

- Need for more public transport with expanded outreach, particularly for women, students and low-income migrant workers
- Availability of adequate, frequent, women and disabled friendly public transport services
- Conduct regular trainings of drivers, conductors, auto-drivers and traffic police on sexual harassment in public spaces and what support systems can be accessed
- Build adequate parking spaces that are properly lit and safe
- Develop protocols and response systems to address sexual harassment in transport facilities and display police and women's helpline numbers prominently in all public transport

4. Gender Sensitive Policing

- Make plans to increase numbers of *Mahila Thanas*
- Ensure regular patrolling by PCR vans in highly vulnerable areas
- Ensure presence of visible security, and build trust and confidence among female citizens
- Gender sensitization on sexual harassment among police personnel at all levels
- Ensure effective operation of the women's helpline and registering FIRs and other complaints

5. Legislation, Justice and Support to Survivors/Victims

- Access to legal support for women in a timely manner
- Training of relevant personnel in the criminal justice system on laws related to sexual harassment and violence

- Increased access to women-friendly counseling and support services, transition homes, shelter homes, one stop crisis centres
- Ensure effective functioning of Sexual Harassment Committees in all institutions and Local Complaint Committees at district level that can be accessed by women workers in the informal sector

6. Education

- Include gender equality, sexual harassment, safety of women and girls in school and college curriculum/sessions
- Outreach programmes with students and parents/guardians on prevention and effective support to ending sexual harassment and violence against women through campaigns and study circles
- Engaging young men and boys in addressing dominant masculinities and ending sexual violence against women and girls
- Information in all educational institutions on how to access police helplines, shelter homes, legal aid, etc.

7. Civic Awareness and Participation

- Awareness and sensitization campaigns
- Counter rationalization of sexual harassment by men/women and address adverse social norms that target women and girls
- Developing bystanders, community and family support in intervening in incidents of sexual harassment in public and private spaces

8. Research, Communication and Information Technology

- Undertake regular studies, safety audits and focus group discussions on women's safety in public spaces
- Communicate key findings through social media and public media to campaign on critical issues

Partners

Research Partners

Study led by Jagori with support from Oak Foundation in partnership with New Concept Information Systems, Safetipin and others including Breakthrough, Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, Mahila Mukti Sansthan, Mahila

Samakhya and representatives of the Mahila Adalat, Prerana Bharati, Srijan Foundation and collectives of domestic workers and female sex workers.

Programme Partners

Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives, Centre for Health and Social Justice, Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, Mahila Samakhya, Srijan Foundation and others.

Jagori

Jagori is a Women's Resource, Training and Documentation Centre, and is guided by its vision of contributing to a collective process of building a just society through feminist values. Jagori's mission is to deepen feminist consciousness with a wide range of partners and women leaders from marginalised urban and rural areas in support of women's rights. For more information, visit: [weblinks. www.jagori.org](http://weblinks.www.jagori.org), www.safedelhi.in.



Jagori Delhi Office

B-114, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017
 Phone: +91-11-2669 1219/20, Telefax: +91-11-2669 1221
 Jagori Helpline +91-11-2669 2700, 8800996640
jagori@jagori.org, www.jagori.org, www.safedelhi.in

Jharkhand Field Office

C/O Shilwanti Surien, 1st Floor, Cheshire Home Road,
 Near Poonam Sweet House, Shashi Vihar, Bariatu
 Ranchi- 834009, Jharkhand
 Tel: 08800229555, Email: safecities.jharkhand@jagori.org

Creating Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls in Jharkhand - Ranchi and Hazaribag

Jagori-Women's Resource Centre

