

STREET HARASSMENT SCALE

Abstract

Street harassment is defined as performing inappropriate behaviours both verbal and nonverbal to women primarily by men. The purpose of the study was to ascertain the manifestations of street harassment. The study was conducted in the metropolitan city of Lahore, Pakistan. The data was collected from government and private sector universities. Indigenously developed scale was administered on a sample of total 530 women, 150 respondents for EFA and 380 respondents for CFA within the age bracket of 18-25. Random sampling technique was used for this. Stratas were made for university population. Government and private sector universities were taken in which participants were further stratified according to their academic years such as Intermediate, Bachelor's and Master's. Indigenously developed Street Harassment Scale, Sexual harassment Experience Questionnaire (Kamal & Tariq, 1998) was used to assess convergent validity for the newly developed scale and Demographic profile were used to assess the manifestations of street harassment among women. EFA results suggested a three factor solution with oblimun rotation. Scale was further divided into three subscales on basis of factor loadings. Confirmatory factor analysis was further done to confirm the factors obtained in EFA analysis which suggested values for $\chi^2=204.088$ (df= 77, N=380), $P < .0000$, RMSEA= .064, CFI= .83 and TLI= .80 overall showing strong construct validity of the scale and model fit. Cronbach alpha value was .82 suggesting strong inter-item correlation. There are myriad implications of the study, for example to make roads safer for women by installing CCTV cameras, awareness sessions for street safety and also training women on how to approach authorities and file complaint.

Keywords: Street harassment, public harassment, female students, behavioural manifestations.