

Awareness and Attitude of Female About Harassment in Dar Almaali Secondary School River Nile state Sudan

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Abstract

Background: Harassment is identified by its unlikelihood in terms of social and moral reasonableness. In the legal sense, these are behaviors that appear to be disturbing, upsetting or threatening. **objectives** The main goal of this study is to assess awareness and attitude regarding harassment among female in Dar Almaali secondary school in Shendi town. **Method:** This descriptive cross-sectional community-based study was conducted in Shendi city Dar Almaali school for girls during the period extended from (November 2021 to June 2022) .. Hundred female were selected using systematic sampling technique . Data of study variables were collected using pre-prepared questionnaire and scale to assess attitude ,and the results were analyzed using the Statistical Package of social sciences (SPSS) version (24) and presented in form of table and graphs. **Results:** The study showed that two-thirds of the study group had good knowledge about definition of harassment ,perpetrators of harassment, Harassment images and subjects to harassment while most of them (98%) they are aware about place of harassment . 72% and more than half of the study group had positive attitude regarding harassment and female dress style as reason of harassment respectively . About reaction to harassment their positive attitude distributed in many responses like multiplication, reporting to relatives and ignoring. **conclusion:** the findings of the study pointed out that students had good knowledge about definition , causes and images of harassment and positive attitude regarding female dress style as reason of harassment. **Recommendation:** Ministry of Education should create awareness programs using social media, posters and short films to publish content that prevents the spread of harassment among students.

Key words : attitude , awareness, female , harassment , Student

Introduction

Harassment covers a wide range of behaviors of an offensive nature. It is commonly understood as behavior that demeans, humiliates or embarrasses a person, and it is characteristically identified by its unlikelihood in terms of social and moral reasonableness. In the legal sense, these are

behaviors that appear to be disturbing, upsetting or threatening.⁽¹⁾ When these behaviors become repetitive, it is defined as bullying. The continuity or repetitiveness and aspect of distressing, alarming or threatening may distinguish it from insult⁽²⁾.

Physical harassment behavior intimidates, embarrasses, threatens and makes the uncomfortable. Is an act where someone inappropriately touched you against your will. Physical harassment in the workplace is also known as workplace violence. Verbal harassment It is a type of harassment that makes employees feel less comfortable, humiliated, threatened and intimidated. Most of the time, people find it challenging to identify verbal harassment because of different reaction from people. In the is situation where the individual exposes themselves to another person without the consent of the victim is called Visual harassment. ^(2,3,4,5).

If a type of harassment involving the use of explicit or implicit sexual overtones, including the unwelcome and inappropriate promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favors. in this situation called Sexual harassment .Can also be called bullying Or personal harassment When The victim subjected to unwanted remarks, insults, offensive and derogatory statements. Simply, it's bullying in its most basic form and it's not illegal but can be damaging nevertheless.⁽⁶⁾.

Harassment directs multiple repeating obscenities and derogatory comments at specific individuals focusing, for example, on the targets race, religion, gender, nationality, disability, or sexual orientation. This often occurs in chat rooms, through newsgroups, and by sending hate e-mail to interested parties. Called Online harassment⁽⁷⁾. While Street harassment Is a form of harassment, primarily sexual harassment that consists of unwanted sexualized comments, provocative gestures, honking, wolf-whistling, indecent exposures, stalking, persistent sexual advances, and touching by strangers, in public areas such as streets, shopping malls and public transportation. Phenomena of offensive, belittling or threatening behavior directed at an individual worker or a group of workers. Called Workplace harassment, it can be verbal, physical, sexual, racial, or bullying.^(7,8).

A culture that implies acceptance , Poorly managed policies and procedures Excessive stress , Indecent dressing , Exposure to sexual materials , use of illicit drugs and activities in secluded environments are the main Causes of harassment^(1,7,9).

Victims of sexual harassment often suffer emotional and psychological harm, including stress, depression, and anxiety. They often experience decreased confidence and self-esteem. Fear and decreased confidence can cause some people to withdraw from the workplace and disengage

from co-workers. They are more likely to be tardy, absent, distracted, and neglect duties.. The hostility created by harassment causes absenteeism, low morale, gossip, animosity, stress, and anxiety among staff. The intensity of workplace harassment is positively correlated with the level of alcohol use and Post traumatic stress disorder: it is commonly known as a “war wound”^(1,2,10).

WHO republished prevalence of harassment in different region varies from country to other , it is averages out to one every 1-2 minutes . In Africa as general women ages 16-19 are four time more likely than the general population to be victims of harassment or sexual assault . South Africa has the highest rape rate in the world 66,196 incidents in per100,000 people according to a survey conducted by the south Africa medical research council while 27,3 is prevalence rate in Egypt ⁽¹¹⁾.

Materials and Methods

Study design:

Descriptive cross-sectional community based study was conducted in period extended from (November2021 to June 2022) aimed to assess awareness and attitude of female secondary school about harassment.

Study area and setting :

The study was carried out in Shendi town which is located in the River Nile State. It is bounded by Khartoum state to the south, Elddamer locality to the north, River Nile to the west and Kasala state to the east. The total area of the city is about 72Km². It is situated on the main River Nile. The study conducted in Dar –Almaali female secondary school which located in square 14 near to mosque Alroddaa, established in 2002 , there're 8 classes in the school (first and second level have 4 class and third level have 4 classes).

Study population

included female student of Dar Almaali school their age ranged between (13-17) years. Total number of students 320(first level include 80 students second level 70 and third level 170)

Sampling technique and sample size :

Systemic sampling technique was the method used for sampling (Table 1), the total number of the female selected for the study was 100.

Table 1: study population according to class level

Class level	Formula	Sample size	Population %
First level	$(80/320)*100$	25	80 (25%)
Second level	$(70/320)*100$	22	70 (22%)
Third level	$(170/320)*100$	53	170 (53%)
Total		100	320 (100%)

Data collection tool

The data was collected through Astructured questionnaire and scale of adaptation, which was formulated by the researcher, based on the literature review

1- A structured questionnaire sheet included:

Part I : Demographic characteristics of the study group

Part II: female knowledge about harassment

2- scale of attitude ; which include four point of adaptation level(Strong agree, agree ,Strong disagree, disagree) used to assess attitude of study group.

Data collection Technique

- The objectives of the study were explained to the head masters and teachers.

The questionnaire was completed by the students after explanation of the objectives and their consent.pilotingwas done ,then the researchers distributed questionnaire for students . The student fill questionnaire by them self .

Data analysis

Statistical Package of social sciences(SPSS)version(24) were used and scoring system to estimatedknowledge as good , faire or poor .

The score of three to four points (75- 100%)is rated as good

The score of two points the knowledge is faire (50%)

The score of one point or zero (0-25%) the knowledge is poor .

Data presentation

Tables and figures were used to present the results

Ethical consideration: The data collection started after taken permission from the faculty research committee then director of Dar Almaali secondary school and female student themselves.

Results

Table (1): Distribution of the study group according to their awareness about Definition& types of Harassment

N=100

Definition of Harassment	Frequency	Percentage
Good knowledge	63	63%
Faire knowledge	29	29 %
Poor knowledge	8	8%
Types of harassment		
Good knowledge	29	14 %
Faire knowledge	51	51 %
Poor knowledge	20	20 %
Total	100	100 %

Table (2): Distribution of the study group according to their awareness about Causes & place of harassment

N=100

Causes of harassment	Frequency	Percentage
Good knowledge (Improper upbringing)	41	41%
Faire knowledge (Tight and illegal clothing)	38	38%
Poor knowledge (Alcohol and drug abuse mental illness)	21	21%
Place of harassment		
The streets	55	55 %
Public markets	30	30 %
Public transport	13	13 %

Place of study (schools)	2	2%
Total	100	100 %

Table (3): Distribution of the study group according to their awareness about perpetrators of harassment,Harassment images&subjected to harassment

N=100

Perpetrators of harassment	Frequency	Percentage
Good knowledge	69	69 %
Faire knowledge	24	24 %
Poor knowledge	7	7 %
Harassment images		
Intended touch	39	39%
Vocabulary (sounds of kisses and whistles).	23	23 %
Gestures (biting the lips, sticking out the tongue	22	22 %
Direct and indirect speech	16	16%
subjected to harassment		
Good knowledge	60	60 %
Faire knowledge	34	34 %
Poor knowledge	6	6 %
Total	100	100%

Table(4) : Attitude of Study group regarding important point of harassment

Items	Strong agree		Agree		Strong disagree		Disagree	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
Harassment is awed spread phenomenon	70	70	24	24	6	6	0	0
Harassment is a crime	77	77	22	22	0	0	1	1
Harassment is a mental illness	66	66	22	22	12	12	0	0
Girls and women are the reason why men harass them	38	38	33	33	17	17	12	12
Watching pornographic films reason of harassment spread	72	72	26	26	2	2	0	0
Ignoring is the best protection against harassment	49	49	26	26	17	17	8	8

Table(5): Attitude of study group regarding female dress style and reactions to harassment

N=100

Items	Strong agree		Agree		Strong disagree		Disagree	
	F	P%	F	P%	F	P%	F	P%
female dress, style and morals a reason for being harassed								
Gestures and chewing gum in an exciting way	65	65%	24	24%	11	11%	5	5%
staggering in walking and swaying	59	59%	32	32%	7	7%	2	2%
fluency in speech	42	42%	42	42%	10	10%	6	6%
laughing out loud in the streets	57	57%	27	27%	7	7%	9	9%
female reactions to harassment								
cursing and ostracism	43	43%	27	27%	14	14%	16	16%
Multiplication	45	45%	31	31%	15	15%	9	9%
Ignore	39	39%	32	32%	18	18%	11	11%
report to a relative	40	40%	44	44%	4	4%	12	12%
About being harassed on the way to school								
changing the road	52	52%	19	19%	16	16%	13	13%
change of school	12	12%	19	19%	38	38%	31	31%
frequent absences	6	6%	17	17%	43	43%	34	34%
If you see a harassment situation								
I will ignore the matter, it doesn't concern me.	14	14%	6	6%	48	48%	32	32%
I will intervene to end the harassment	54	54%	35	35%	3	3%	6	6%
I will report the harasser	55	55%	29	29%	5	5%	11	11%

Discussion

In This study two third (63%) of study group had good knowledge about definition of harassment , while only 29% have faire knowledge . this information similar to (Croch, M. A.et al , [1] which state that :harassment it is violating some body or privacy) and (harassment it is feeling uncomfortable and insecure and form of unwanted words , respectively . approximately third (29%) had good knowledge about types of harassment , this information similar to literature which state that (Phenomena of offensive, belittling or threatening behavior directed at an individual worker or a group of workers Called Workplace harassment, it can be verbal, physical, sexual, racial, or bullying.^(7,8). Majority of study group had good and faire

knowledge about causes of harassment because they think improper upbringing are the main cause followed by tight and illegal clothing , while most of them (98%) they aware about place of harassment as public area (transport , markets and streets) as in table 2.

about two third of study group had good knowledge about perpetrators of harassment, Harassment images & subjected to harassment this information agree with literature which state that ;Mainperpetratorsstrangers , Classmate, lover or fiancé while Intended touch is one top of harassment images ⁽¹⁰⁾

Regarding attitude the study revealed that More than two third of study group 72% and about half of them their attitude regarding harassment were positive because they strongly agree with watching pornographic films are reason of spread of harassment and ignoring is the best protection against harassment (as in table 4) . while more than half had positive attitude regarding female dress style as reason of harassment because they strongly agree to Gestures and chewing gum in an exciting way , staggering in walking and swaying and laughing out loud in the streets ,this agree with Ahmed Fouad study which reported that (67%) of study population had positive attitude toward street verbal harassments ⁽¹²⁾

About reaction to harassment their positive attitude distributed in many response like multiplication, reporting to relative and ignoring . while their reaction if they see situation of harassment concentrated on ignoring and reporting about harasser

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