

Safe City Free of Violence against Women and Girls Initiative

Findings of Safe Cities Baseline Survey, Delhi 2010

A Joint Initiative of
Dept. of Women and Child Development, Delhi Govt., JAGORI,
UNIFEM and UN HABITAT

Research study undertaken by New Concept with support from
JAGORI

Presented at the Press Conference, July 8th 2010



What is Women's Safety

Women's safety initiatives focus on prevention strategies and policies which aim to reduce violence and risk of violence

- Through creating safer social, physical and institutional environments
- Promoting women's participation in community and public life
- Involving diversity of women in local decision making processes.

Safe City Free of Violence against Women Initiative

- Pilot project in Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram.
- Creating a baseline for understanding nature of violence against women in urban spaces in Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram.
- Creating partnerships for sustainable initiatives to create safer cities free of violence.

Expected Outcomes

Establishment of a strategic framework for rights based interventions and partnerships for creating a safer city for women and girls in Delhi

- Enhanced capacity of local government and civil society to address issues of creating a safer city for women and girls in Thiruvananthapuram
- Increased visibility and advocacy on women's safety concerns across select cities

Objectives of the research

- ❑ To identify forms of violence/harassment faced by women in public spaces
- ❑ To determine key factors that play a role or contribute to enhanced safety and inclusiveness for women
- ❑ To gain understanding of ways in which women respond to harassment and lack of safety
- ❑ To gain deeper understanding of women accessing police and other service providers in safeguarding their rights
- ❑ To identify spaces that are perceived and experienced as unsafe or inaccessible to women
- ❑ To determine how women respond to harassment and lack of safety
- ❑ To gain insights into the perception of men about women's safety in the city

Sample

❑ Survey Design

- Purposive sampling method was used to collect information from respondents of diverse occupational categories spread across locations in Delhi.
- Intercept survey technique was used to select respondents - women and men including common witnesses in public places. The respondent's willingness was taken into consideration before administering questions.
 - *Common witnesses included both men and women who by virtue of their work or occupation are situated near public places and have a high probability of being witnesses to acts of sexual harassment on women*

❑ Sample Size

- **Total sample size:** 5010
- **Respondents:** Women, Men and Common Witness (age group: above 16)

Sample break-up

Female		Male		Common Witness	
Occupation	Sample	Occupation	Sample	Occupation	Sample
High Level- Executives/ Mgrs/ TL/ HM, Senior Teachers	478	High Level- Executives/ Mgrs/ TL/ HM, Senior Teachers	136	Bus conductors, Auto drivers, Parking lot care-takers etc	125
Mid Level/ Junior Level/ Receptionists, Sales Girls	480	Mid Level/ Junior Level/ Receptionists etc	107	Shopkeepers etc	125
Factory Workers	470	Factory Workers	142		NA
Other Workers - Construction site/ Street working/ domestic help	708	Other Workers - Construction site/ Street working/ domestic help	208		NA
Home Makers	486		NA		NA
Students- School going (16 to 18 years- XI to XII standards)	483	Students- School going (16 to 18 years- XI to XII standards)	144		NA
Students College going (18 years & above)	481	Students College going (18 years & above)	127		NA
Others	230	Others	80		NA
Total	3816		944		250

Survey Areas

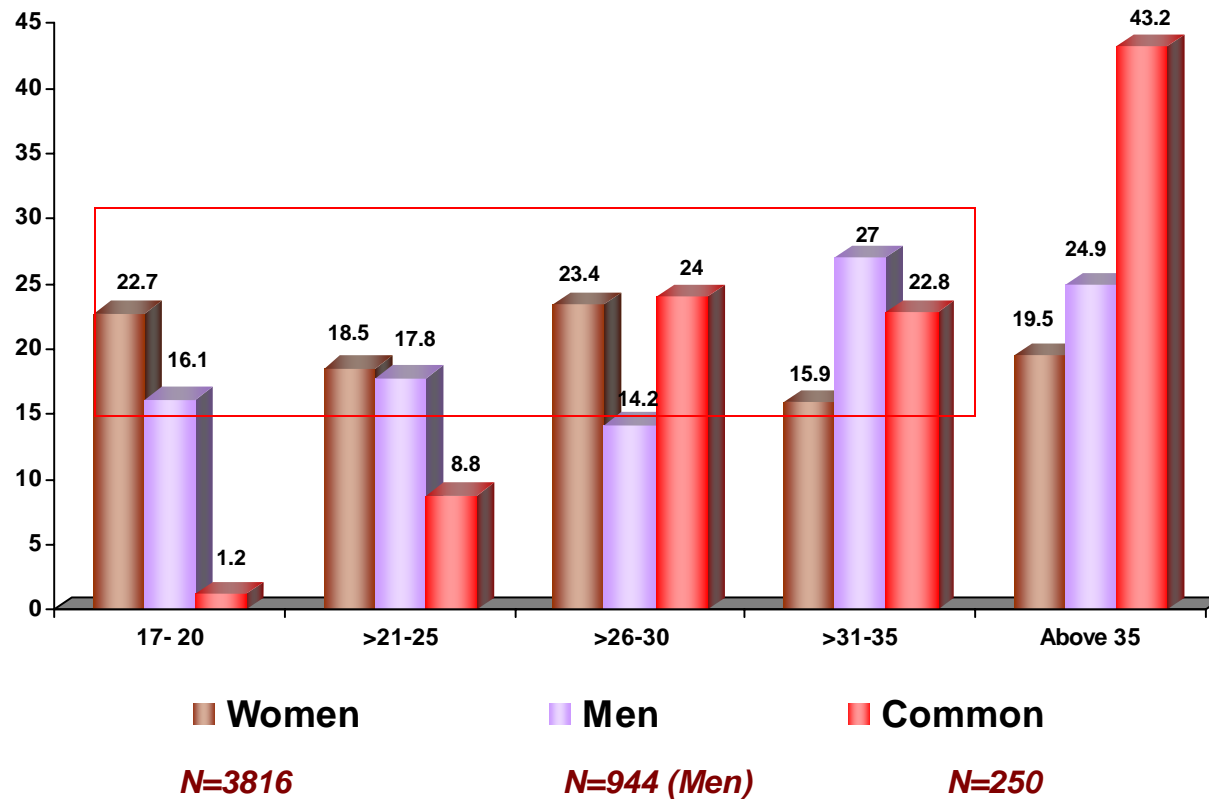
District	Area
Central	Chandini Chowk
	Karol Bagh
East	Mandaoli
	Anand Vihar
New Delhi	Connaught Place
	Lodi Gardens
North	Azadpur
	Sadar Bazaar
	Azadpur
	Sadar Bazaar

District	Area
South	Okhla Industrial Area
	Greater Kailash
	Siri Fort Area
	New Friends Colony
	Sarojini Nagar
	Jamia Nagar
South West	South Campus
	Dwarka
North West	Rohini
North East	Shahdara
West	Anand Parbat
	Punjabi Bagh

“demographic profile”

Age group

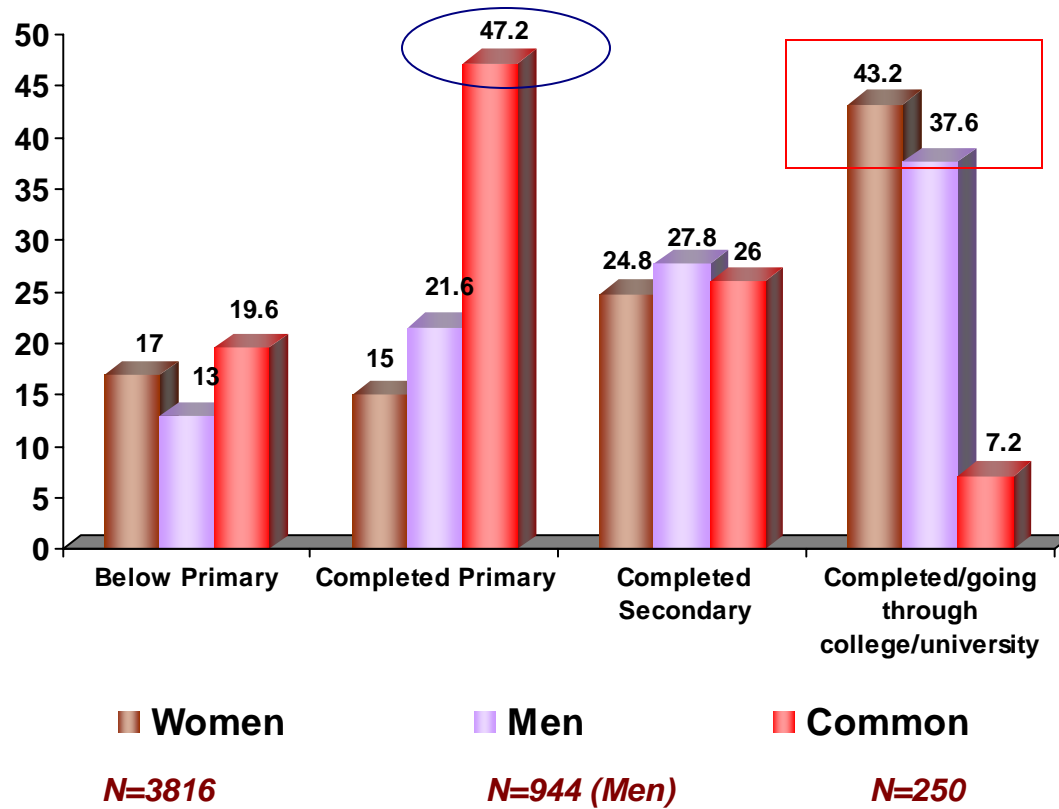
All figs in %



The sample comprises a fairly young population with more than 80 percent women, 75 percent of men and more than 50 percent of common witnesses below 35 years

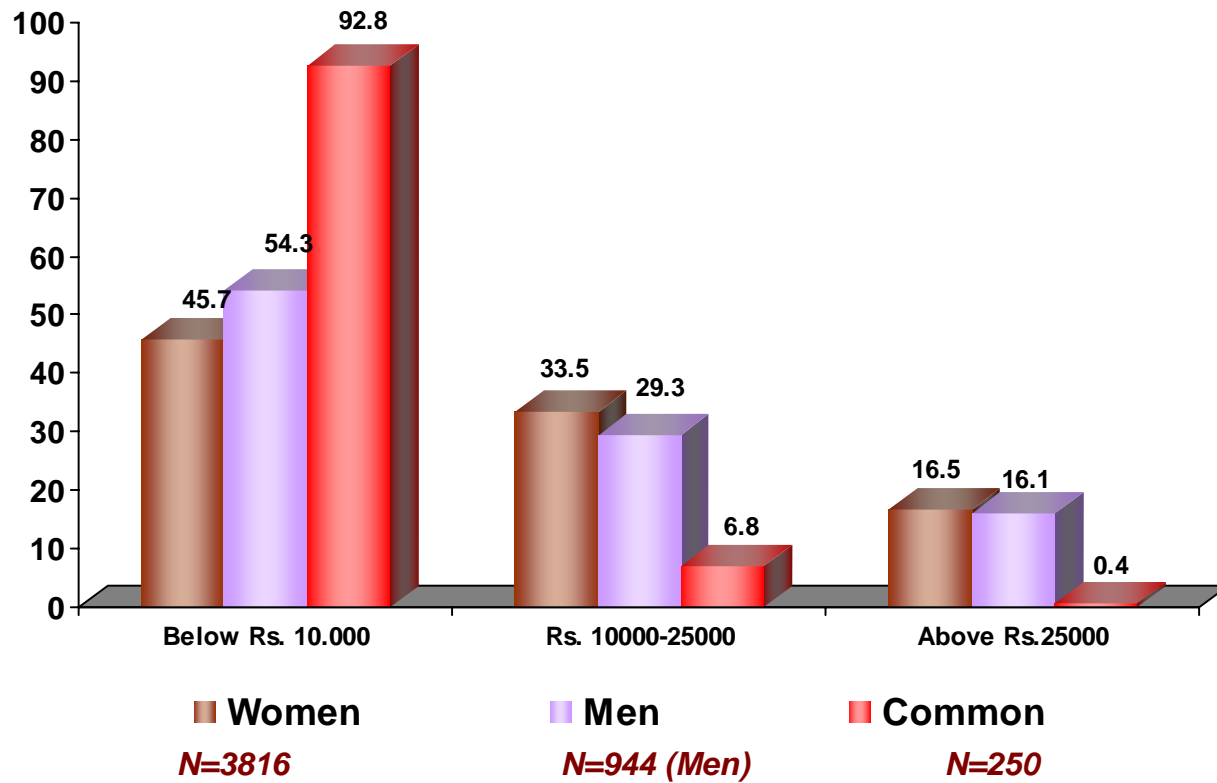
Education

All figs in %



Income

All figs in %



Occupation

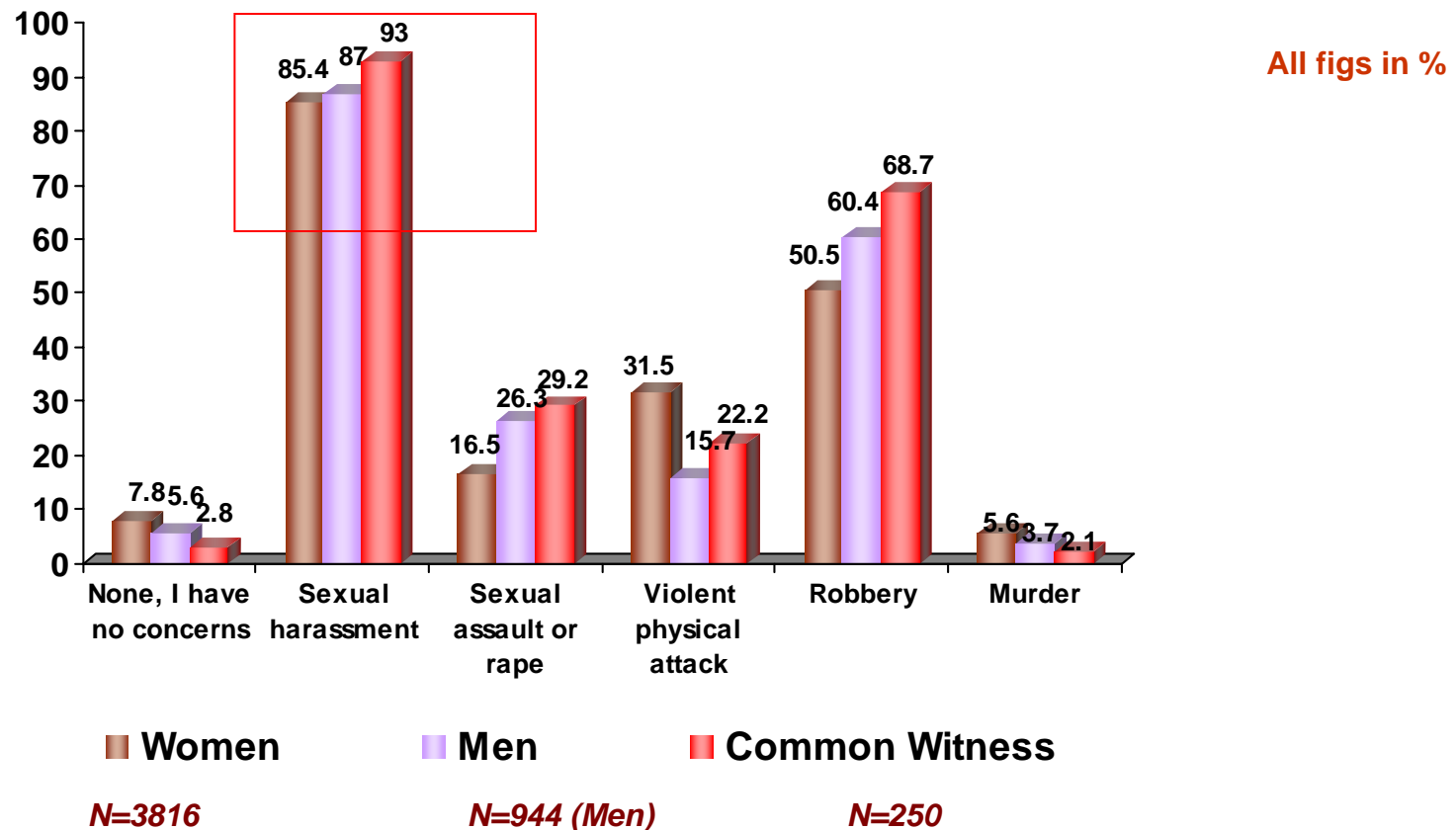
Occupational Categories (All figs in %)	Women N=3816	Men N=944	Common Witness N=250
High Income Executives/Mgrs/TL/HM/Senior Teachers/Professors	12.5%	14.4%	0
Mid level income/Junior Level/Receptionists, Sales Girls/Junior Teachers	12.6%	11.3%	0
Factory Workers	12.3%	15.0%	0
Other Workers/Unorganised workers	18.6%	22.0%	0
Home Makers	12.7%		0
Students(18 Plus-college going)	12.7%	15.3%	0
Students (18 Yrs, school going XIth and XIIth Standard)	12.6%	13.5%	0
Others	6.0%	8.5%	0
Bus-Conductors, Auto Drivers, Parking lot care-takers Etc.		0	50
Shop Keepers etc		0	50

"safety concerns for women in public spaces"

Factors contributing to non-safety

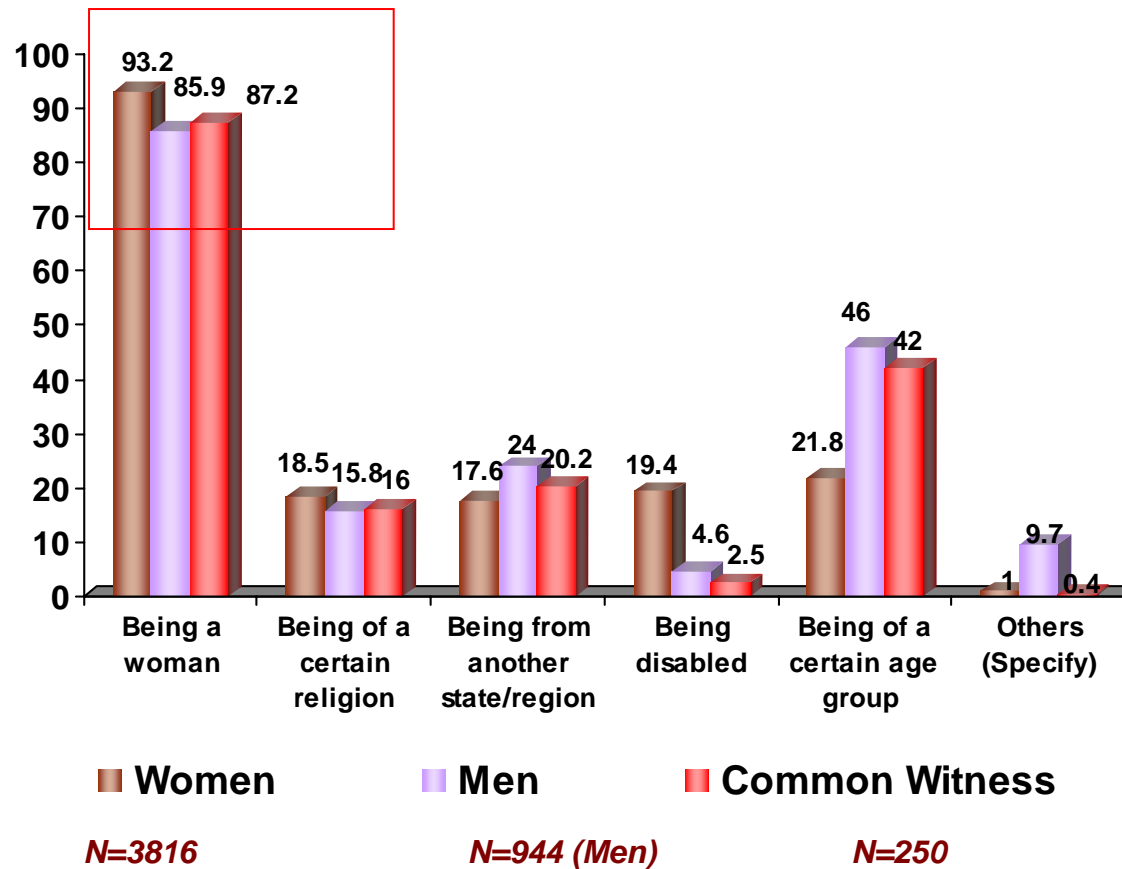
Contributing factors to women feeling unsafe (All figs in %)	Women N=3816	Men N=944	Common Witness N=250
Crowded public transport/bus stops/Stations	54	46.6	57.2
Men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs	49.2	57.5	56.8
Lack of clean and safe public toilets	44	39.6	43.2
Lack of effective/visible police	37.1	43.1	37.2
Poor lighting	25.5	23.9	23.6
Poor maintenance of open public spaces	21.8	25.3	22
Lack of vendors or stalls/people in the area	17.4	6.8	8.4
Lack of/poor signage or information	16.7	28.5	21.2
Lack of respect for women from men	16.4	18.2	17.2
Others (Specify)	1	0.5	2

Safety risks perceived by women, men & common witness



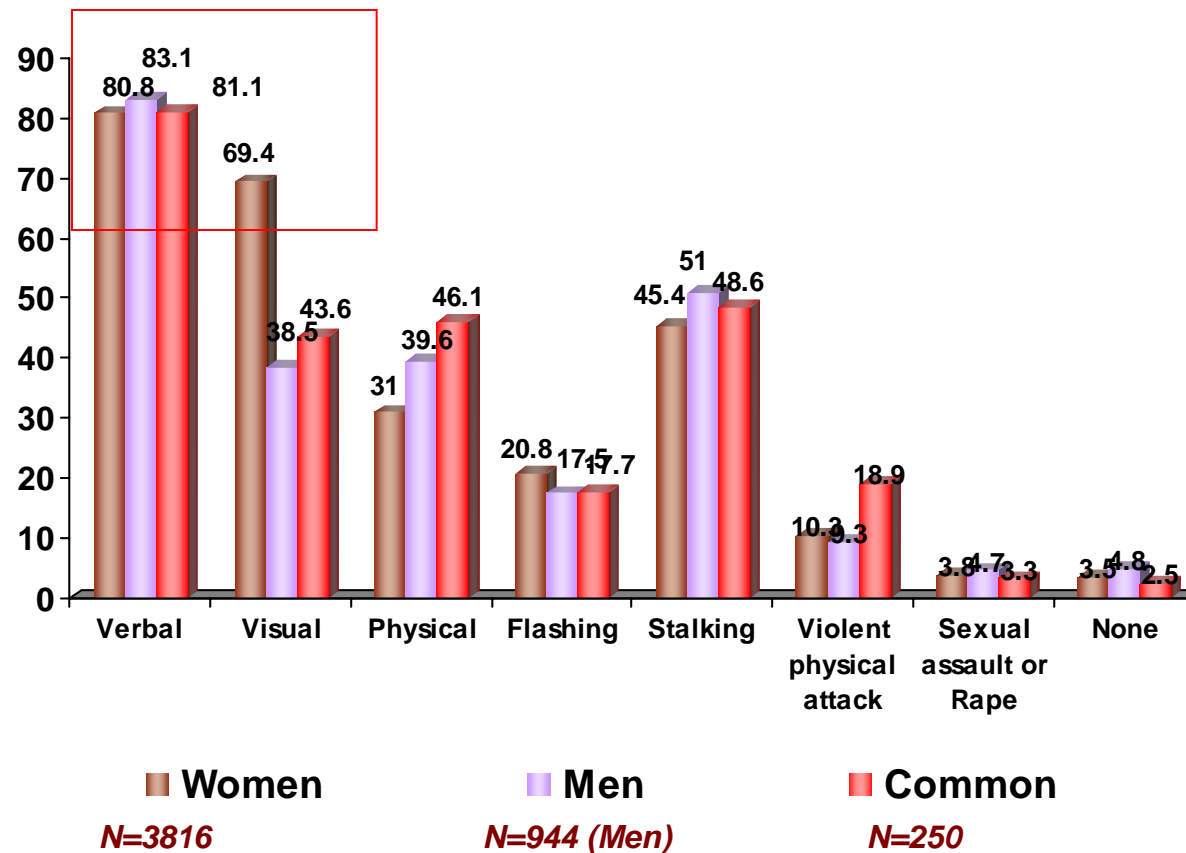
- High percentage of respondents cutting across categories believed that sexual harassment of woman is the most important factor affecting safety of women
- The percentage is higher among men & common witness as compared to women
- Approximately 50 % women, 60 % men and 69 % women reported robbery as a risk factor

Factors affecting women's safety

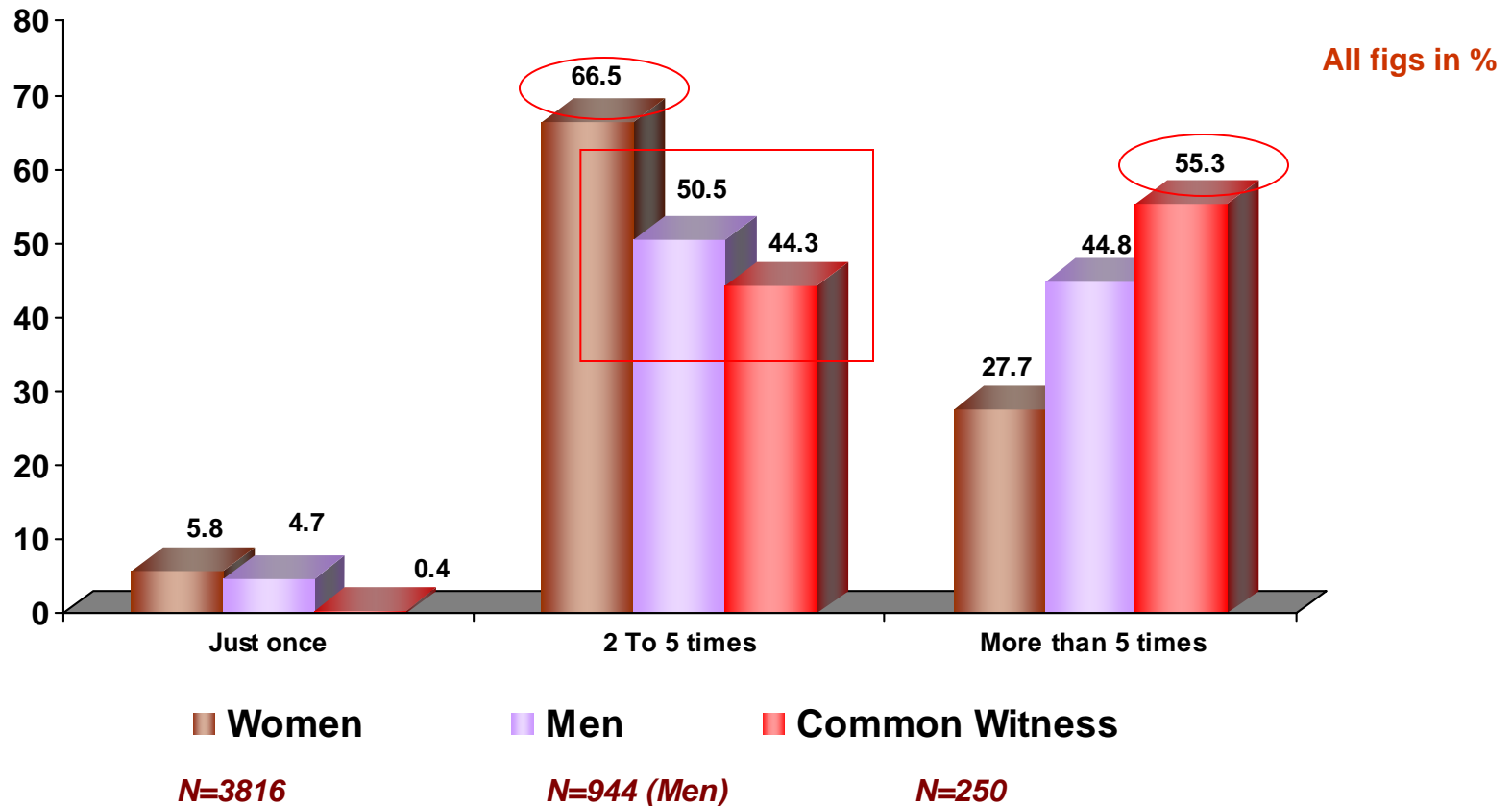


- Women are more vulnerable between 15-30 years

Experience of sexual harassment by women and as witnessed by men

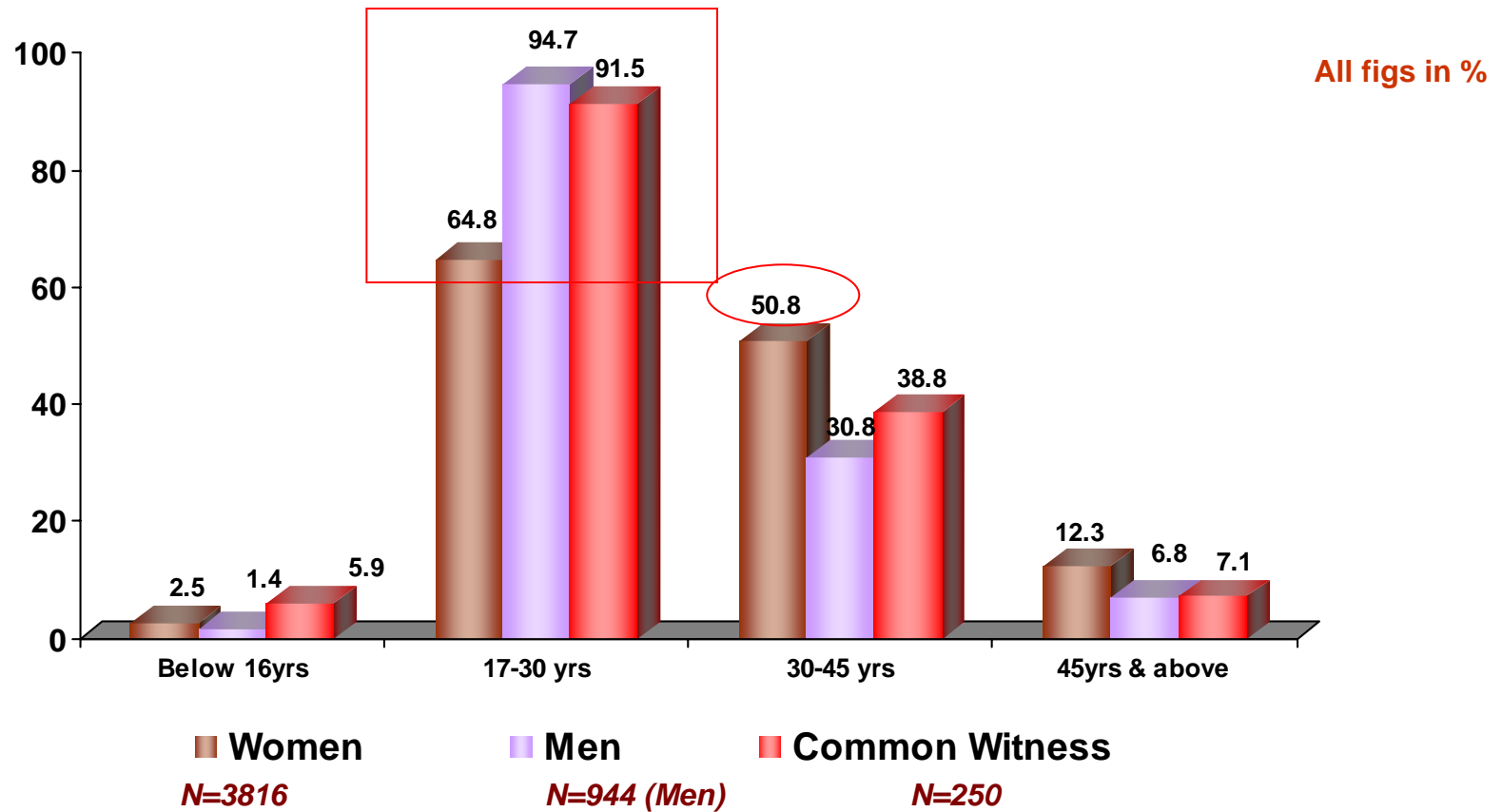


Sexual harassment faced in the past year

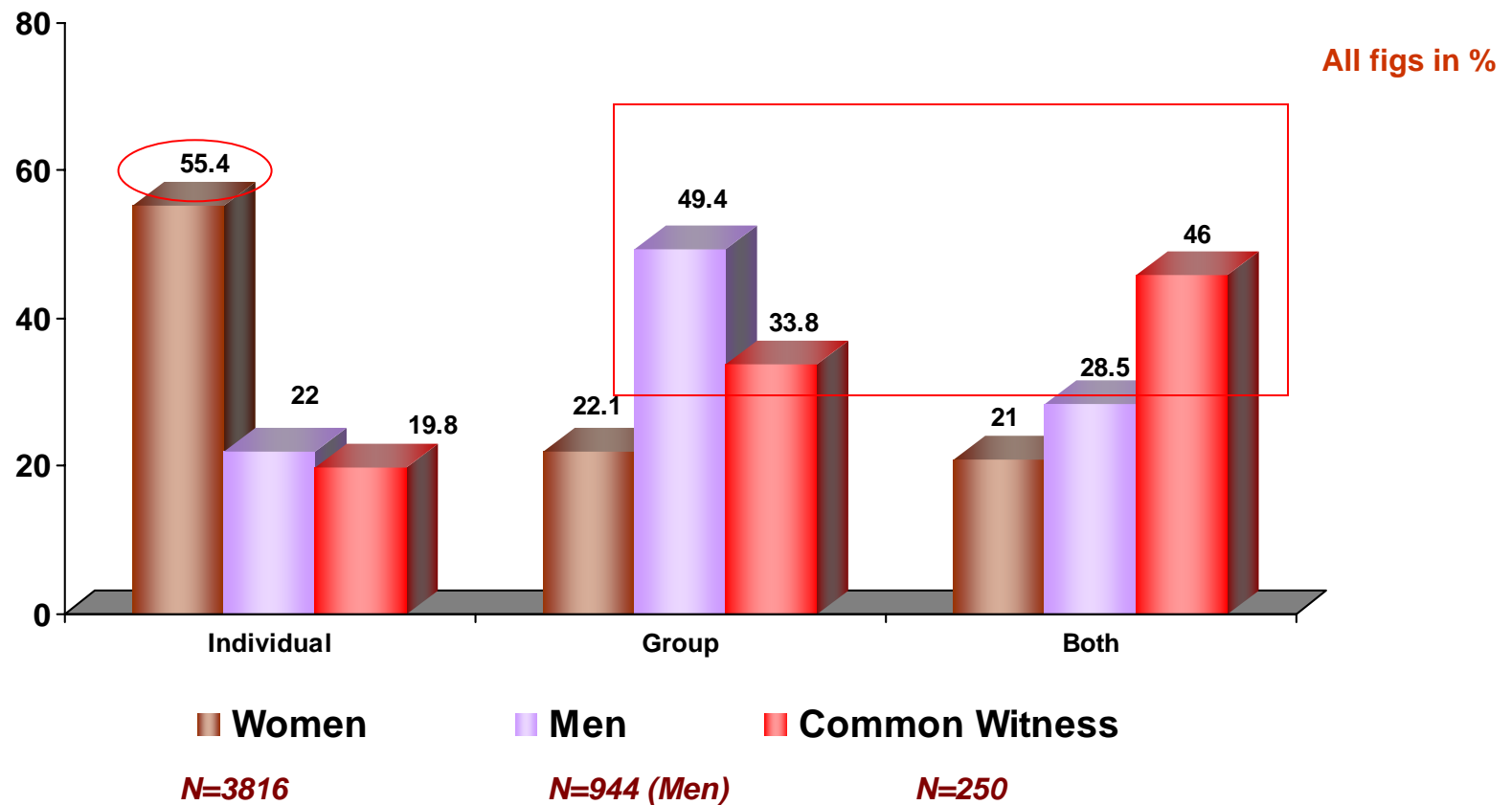


- Almost two out of every three women faced sexual harassment between 2-5 times in the past year. Almost every second male respondent witnessed the same.
- In fact more than 50% common witnesses had seen SH on women more than 5 times in the past year

Information about perpetrator – Age group

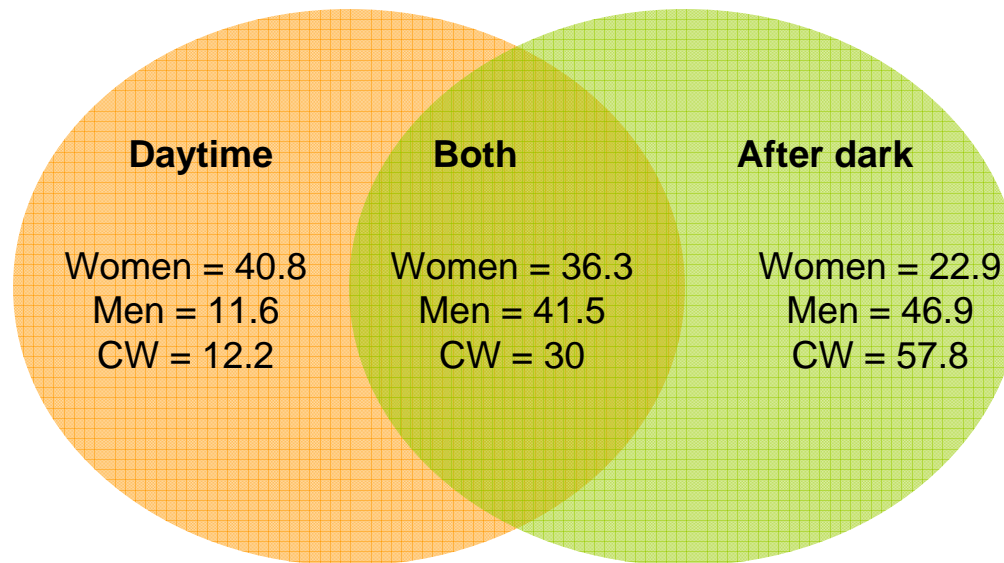


Information about perpetrator – Individual/group



When incidents took place

All figs in %

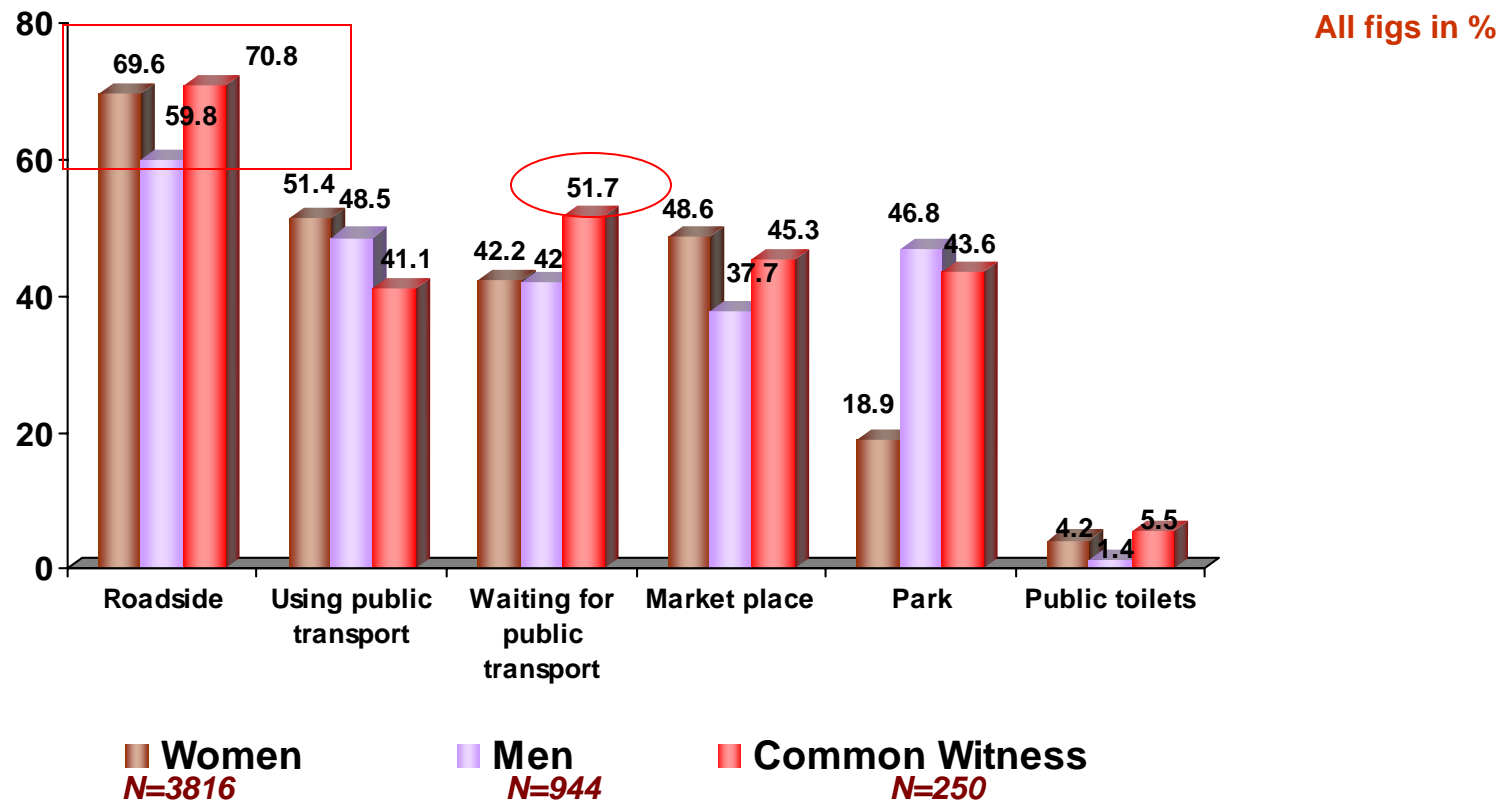


N=3816 (Females)

N=944 (Men)

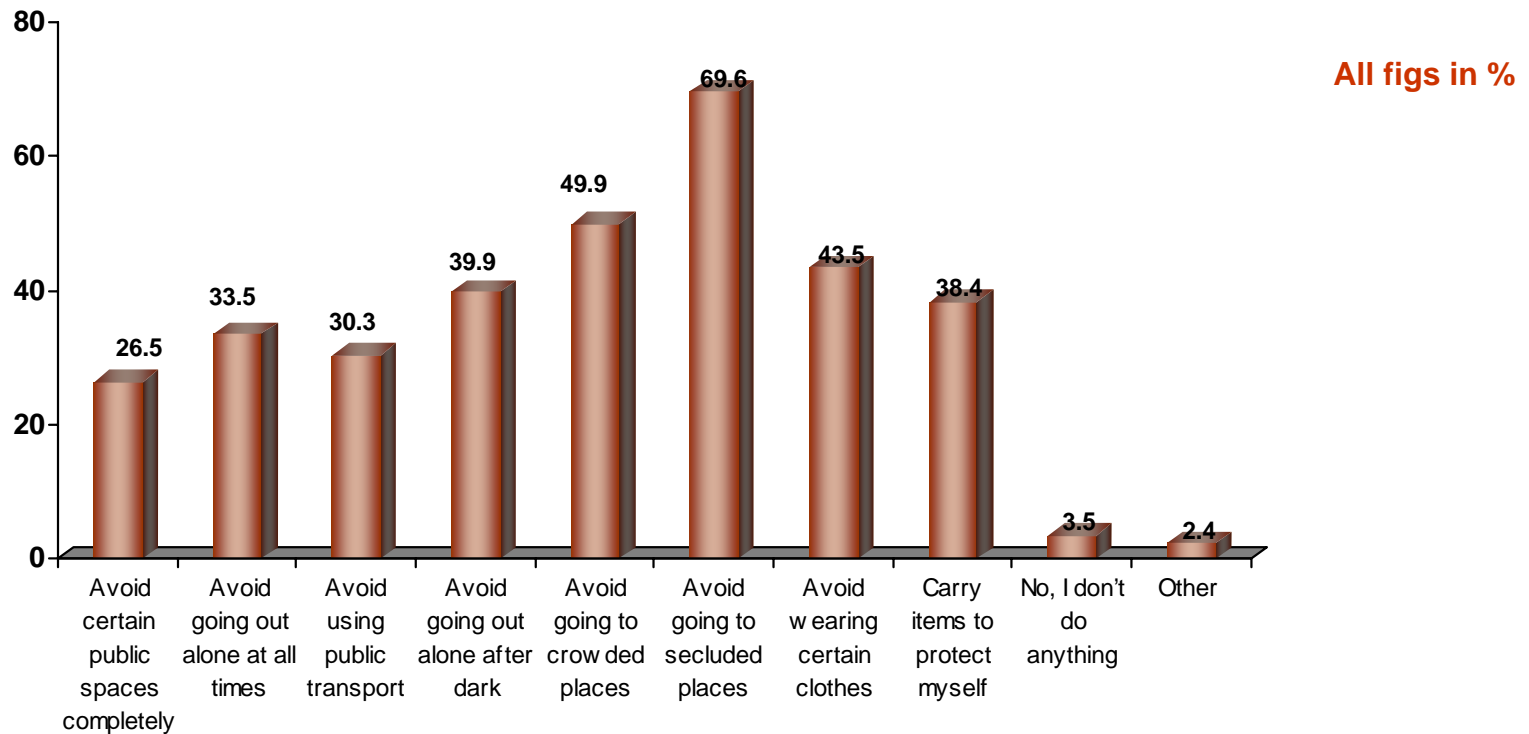
N=250 (CW)

Where incidents took place



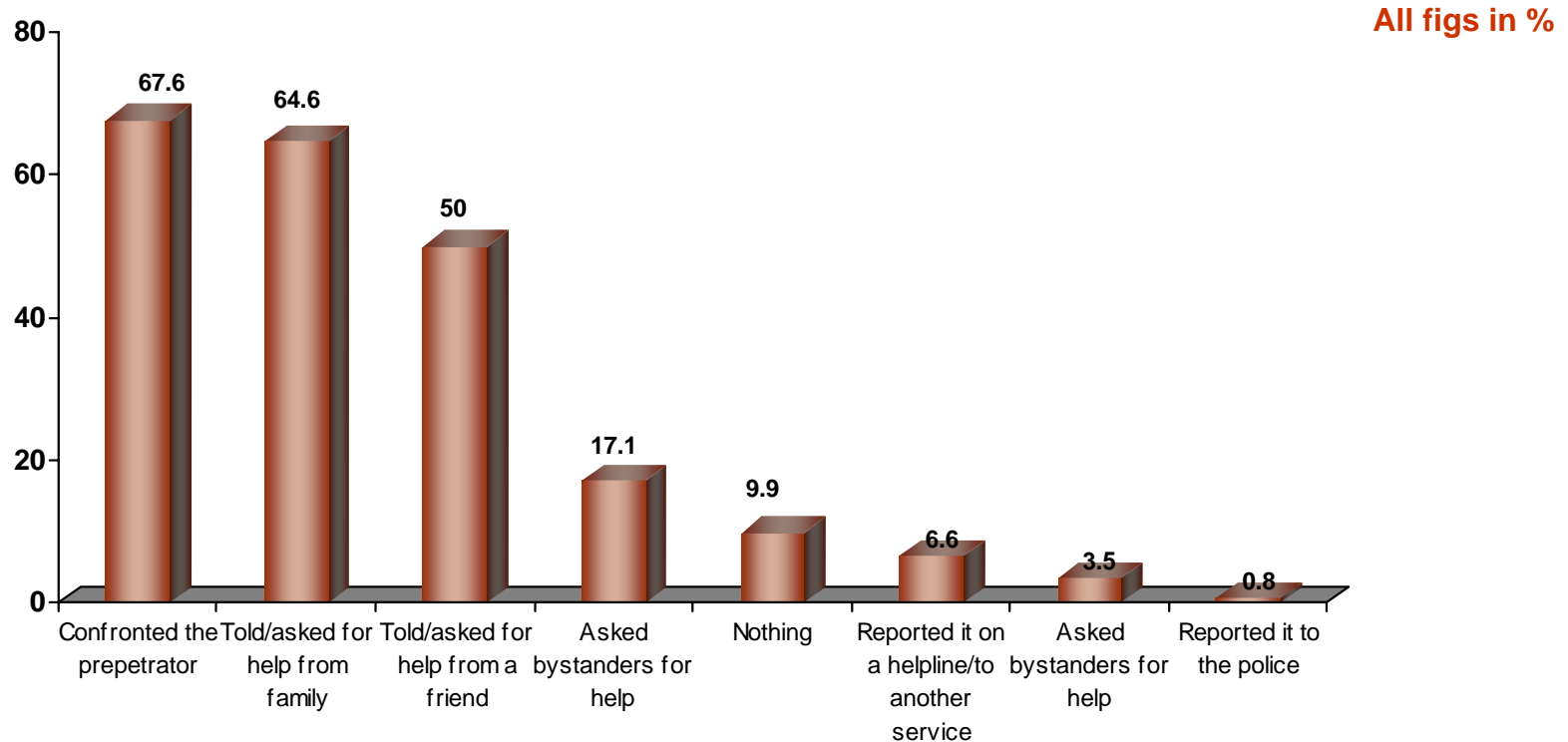
- The largest number of incidents took place on the roadside, followed by public transport, waiting for public transport and at market place

What do women do to avoid sexual harassment



- To avoid sexual harassment, around 70 % of the women reported that they avoid going to secluded places, 50 % avoid going to crowded places, 43.5 % avoid wearing certain clothes while around 40 % avoid going out alone after dark.

Action taken when faced with sexual harassment



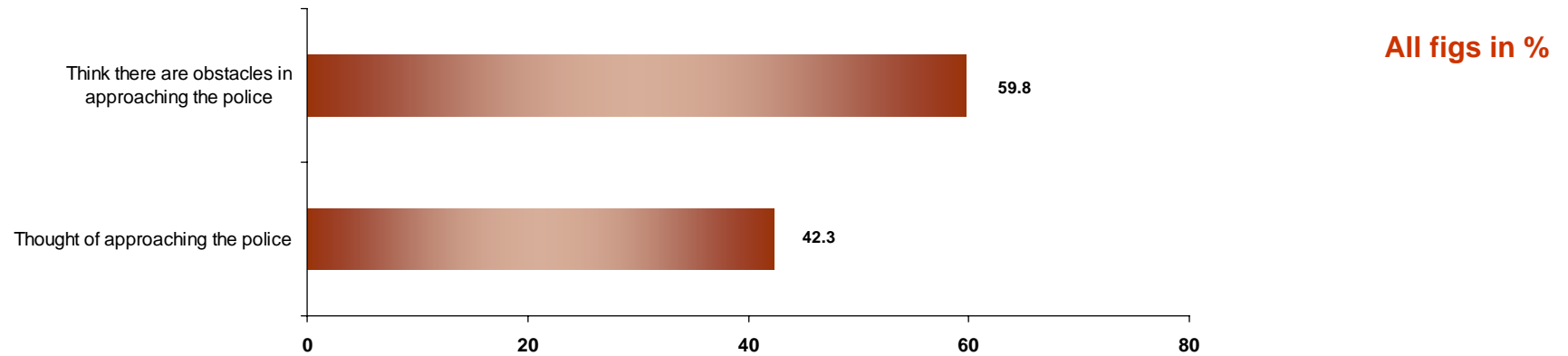
- Interestingly, 68 % of the women reported to have confronted the perpetrator in some way; 65 % asked for help from their family while 50 % approached friends for help.
- Less than 1% had reported any incident to the police

Action taken when faced with sexual harassment - occupation wise (women)

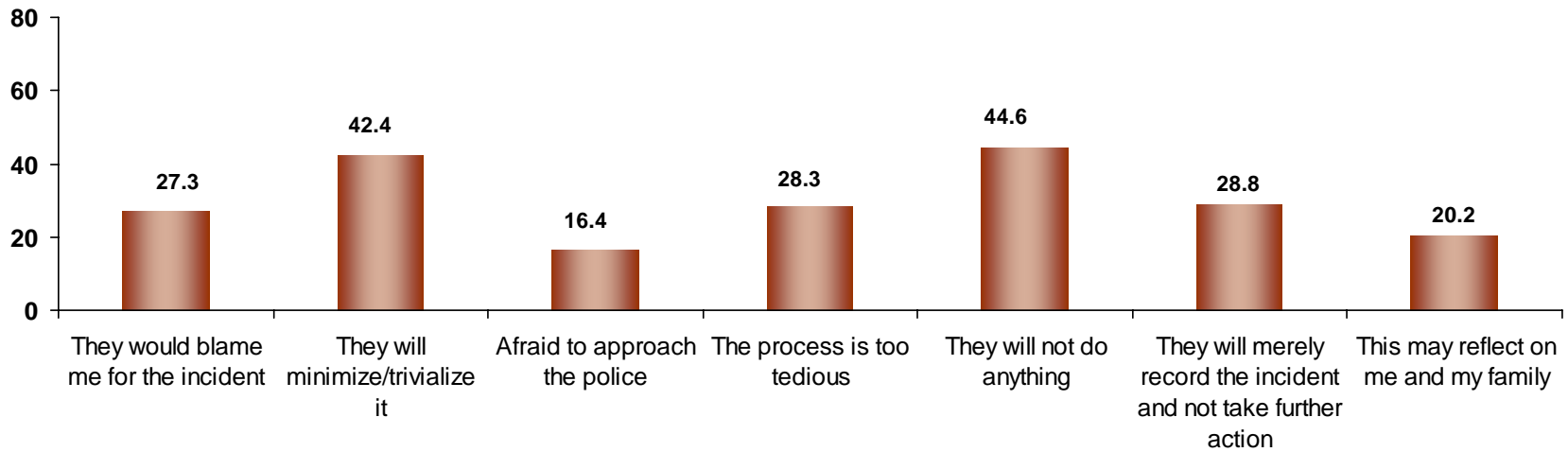
Areas (All figs in %)	HL N=431	M/JL N=448	FW N=439	OW N=617	HM N=442	S-Coll N=458	S-Sch N=451	Other N=206
Nothing	8.6	12.3	10	12.3	9.5	6.3	9.7	8.7
Confronted the perpetrator	74.7	72.1	67.4	69.0	69.5	59.2	59.5	71.8
Asked bystanders for help	13.9	16.1	18.2	16.4	21.9	17.2	11.7	26.7
Reported it on a helpline/to another service	7.7	8.3	9.8	3.4	7.9	9.2	1.8	6.3
Told/asked for help from family	61.3	54.9	59.5	67.6	65.8	65.1	77	64.1
Told/asked for help from a friend	46.6	48.2	43.7	39.9	37.8	71.4	64.4	51.0
Reported it to the police	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.6	1.5	0.2	0.0

- Women across the spectrum responded that they had confronted the perpetrator in some way, though this was least common among school and college students
- Very few people , less than 20% had asked for help from bystanders

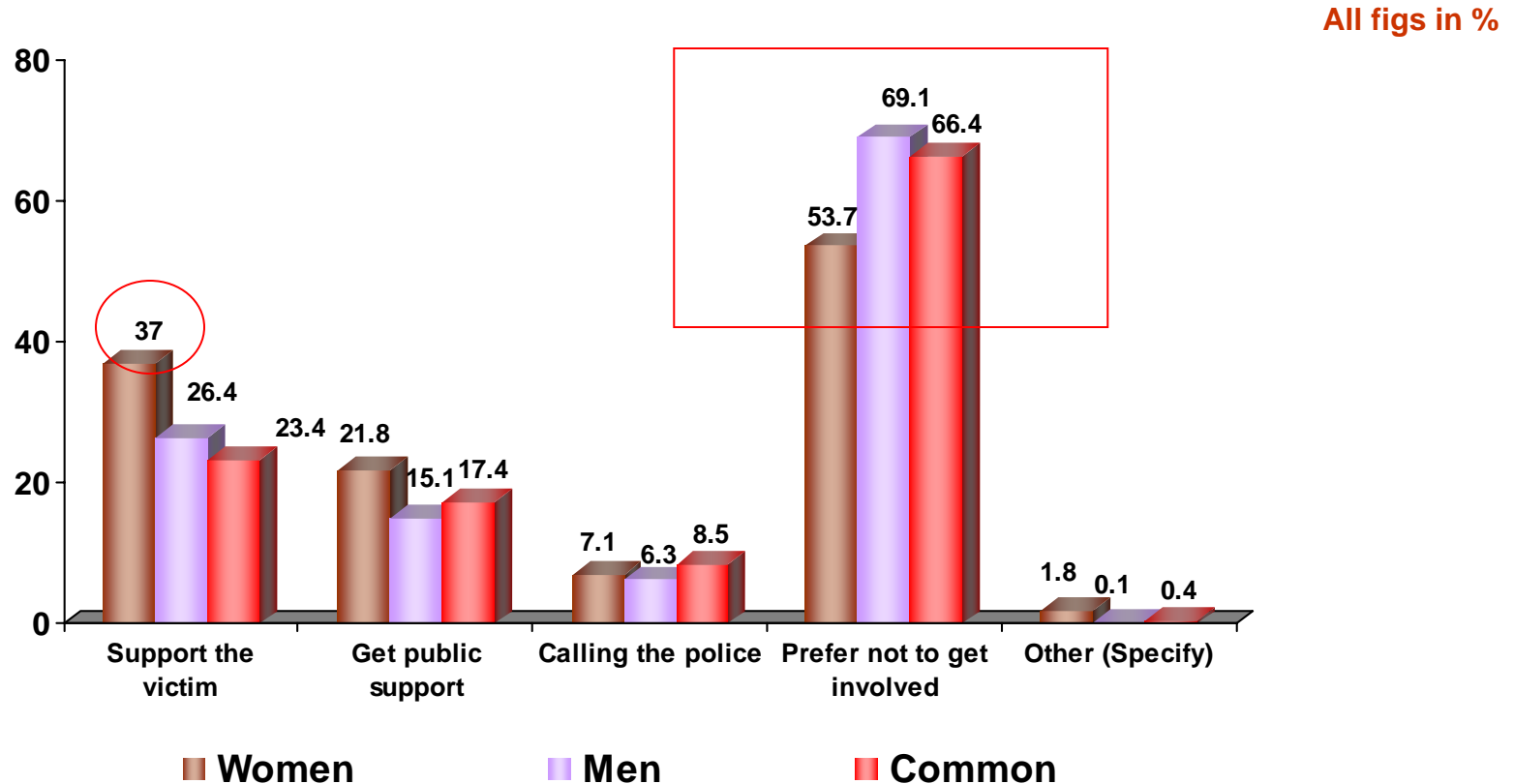
Perception of policing response



Obstacles perceived in approaching the Police



Response of bystanders to sexual harassment



- The fact that women prefer not to ask for help from bystanders is corroborated by this finding that majority of bystanders prefer not to get involved when they are witness to sexual harassment. This is high among men, women and witnesses.

Conclusions

- The roadside and inside public transport have emerged as the spaces where women are most vulnerable to facing some form of sexual harassment. Around 70 % women reported being harassed by the roadside while around 60 % men and 71 % common witnesses reported that they have seen women being harassed.
- Around 51.4 % women reported that they faced harassment using public transport while 49 % men and 41 % common witnesses reported that they have witnessed women being harassed.
- Large number of women also reported to be insecure in market places and while waiting for public transport etc.
- Men using or dealing with drugs and alcohol, lack of a vigilant police force are other contributing factors that added to women's insecurity.
- Distrust of the police force runs high among the citizens and most women did not think that they could approach the police in time of need. Only 0.8 % women reported incidents of sexual harassment to the police.

Recommendations

- 'Walk- able' and disabled-friendly pavements with adequate lighting
- Proper maintenance of key public spaces, including clean, safe and adequate toilets for both men and women:
 - male public toilets could be redesigned so that they do not open out on the street; women's toilets should ensure doors and privacy measures
- Improve public transport system with safety measures such as helplines for passengers, immediate response by the crew and a system in cases of distress and support within the buses.
- Advocate the use of helplines, widen the helpline network and publicize the existing helpline numbers in public places through stickers and booklets. Redress complaints of sexual harassment effectively and immediately.
- Opening 24-hour eateries and allowing street vendors around busy spaces that provide some form of safety to women travellers at night and diversified use of space
- Gender sensitizing conductors, drivers and the police.
- Deployment of uniformed as well as plain-clothes police personnel in public places.
- Concerted efforts to sensitize people including the youth as partners in creating safer cities and conducive environments;