

Psycho-social problems among the adolescent girls experiencing sexual harassment in Punjab

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■ **ABSTRACT :** The present study to determine the differences in anxiety, security-insecurity and emotional maturity among rural school going adolescent girls was taken up in one block of Ludhiana district of Punjab state. The sample consisted of 200 respondents who were in the age range of 16-18 years. A Comprehensive Anxiety Test developed by Sharma (1992), an adapted version of Security-insecurity Scale developed by Shah (1989) and Emotional Maturity Scale developed by Singh and Bhargav (1990) were used to assess the level of anxiety, security and emotional maturity, respectively. Sexually harassed adolescents were found to be having medium and high level of anxiety compared to sexually non-harassed adolescents. Statistically also there were highly significant differences. None of the adolescents belonging to sexually harassed group had low level of anxiety. None of the adolescents belonging to sexually non-harassed group had low level of security whereas only one adolescent girl in sexually harassed group was found to be having high level of security. Sexually harassed adolescents were found to have unstable emotional maturity whereas majority of the sexually non-harassed adolescents were having stable emotional maturity. Statistically also there were highly significant differences.

■ **KEY WORDS:** Adolescent, Indicator, Non-verbal, Physical, Sexual harassment, Verbal

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Sexual harassment involves non-verbal, verbal, physical, or visual sexual attention, intimidation, or coercion that is unwelcome and unwanted and often has a negative impact on the psycho-social health of the victim (Bartlett and Rhode, 2006). Although prevalence studies are sparse and measurement methods vary, sexual harassment is thought to be very common, with 50 per cent to 100 per cent of women reporting victimization (Leach and Sitaram, 2007). Sexual abuse is a form of physical or mental destruction of a child, usually by a person in a position of belief or authority

with sexual intention (Kumar *et al.*, 2012). Estimating the occurrence of child sexual abuse is very difficult as there are so many cases that go unreported. Researchers in India estimate that 18.00 per cent to 50.00 per cent of the country's population may have experienced some type of sexual abuse in their lifetime. There are so many victims (between 30.00% and 87.00%) who never disclose their sexual abuse whether in or outside the family (Deb and Mukherjee, 2011).

Victims of sexual harassment show different types of symptoms during and for years after the harassment

has occurred and often it is the emotional and psychological symptoms that affect the degree of damage the victims experience (Carson *et al.*, 2013). The confidence of the women who have been harassed is affected to a great extent when they are in public places, and they also report to have high levels of distress and anxiety, still the focus of society is on the actions of victims and the perpetrators are overlooked (Bates, 2015). Sexual harassment can put the victim at the risk in terms of her emotional and mental health. It can further lead to the loss of self-esteem and it may even compromise personal relationships (Anonymous, 2015).

According to Kapoor and Dhingra (2014) women, who have suffered sexual harassment show unusual characteristics in their behaviour such as frightened, guilty, weak, annoyed, embarrassed, miserable, frozen, and lack of self-confidence. And as a result, these characteristics highly influence the lives of women in many negative ways. Many studies have found that sexual harassment can affect a student's self-esteem. Students with low self-esteem view themselves as unworthy and unlikable and further develop anxiety. If sexual harassment continues, a student may even develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Not only that, sexual harassment also puts the women socially inept and dull to destroy their morale. It also creates an intolerable situation for the women and children constantly through which it is impossible to receive the fresh air of normal life. It spreads social insecurity among the victims. The victims of sexual harassment often feel uncomfortable, insecure, less dignified, humiliated, angry, degraded, scared, traumatized when they are teased. They also feel insecure while going out (Islam, 2015). The consequences (e.g. emotional distress, anxiety, and depression) experienced by peer victims are often long lasting and detrimental (Konchenderfer-Ladd and Wardrop, 2001). Individuals with a history of victimization and poor social relationships have more emotional problems as compared to the individuals who had not faced sexual harassment (Bond *et al.*, 2001).

Both the psychological and physical impact of sexual harassment have an adverse effect on academic grades (Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre, 1997). Child sexual abuse has a profound impact on the working of the brain, where a child's brain becomes damaged by the abuse he/she has suffered (Minzenberg *et al.*, 2008). The effects of sexual abuse include dissociation, memory

impairment and reduced social functioning (Whitehead, 2011). Sexual abuse can also cause physical penalty for victims like sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. Due to these physical consequences of the abuse victim's emotional stability is adversely affected (Whitehead, 2010). Sexual harassment is a problem which disturbs a human to a great extent by making one develop a feeling of worry, nervousness or unease about something with an uncertain outcome that is anxiety; a sense of vulnerability or instability which threatens one's self-image or ego that is insecurity; and it can also cause a damage to one's ability to understand, and manage one's emotions that is emotional maturity. In light of the above cited facts, the present study was planned to identify the indicators of sexual harassment experienced by the adolescent girls in the age group of 16-18 years.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in one block of Ludhiana district of Punjab state on a sample comprising of 200 rural school going adolescent girls (16-18 years) selected from various Government Senior Secondary Schools, during the session 2015- 2016. The sample was selected from schools of four villages located in one block of Ludhiana district. A list of all the blocks of Ludhiana district was procured from district Revenue Officer, Statistical Branch, Ludhiana. Out of existing 12 blocks in the district, one block (Ludhiana-1) was selected randomly by using simple random sampling technique. Further, a list of Government Senior Secondary Schools existing in this block was procured from District Education Officer. There were eight such schools in the selected block, out of which four schools in different villages *viz.*, Lalton Kalan, Pamal, Baddowal and Alamgir were randomly selected. There were 450 girls in total, in all the selected schools, out of which a final sample of 200 adolescent girls *i.e.* 50 from each school (25 girls each in the age group of 16-17 years and 17-18 years) was selected by using simple random sampling procedure.

The following tool was used in the present investigation.

Comprehensive anxiety test :

The level of anxiety of the selected adolescents was evaluated by using Comprehensive Anxiety Test developed by Sharma (1992). The test contains 90 items. Each item of the test is answered either by 'Yes', or by

'No'. All positive responses were awarded one score whereas zero score was awarded for negative responses. The total of all the positive responses was considered to be the total anxiety score of the individual. High scores on the test indicate high comprehensive anxiety whereas low scores on the test indicate low comprehensive anxiety. The test-retest reliability of the scale was found to be 0.94 which ensures a very high reliability of the test.

Security-insecurity scale :

An adapted version of Security-insecurity scale developed by Shah (1989) was used to assess the level of security-insecurity among the school going adolescent girls. It contains 75 items distributed over eight different dimensions of security *viz.*, family security, school security, peer group security, learning environment security, prospective context security, examination context security, self acceptance security and existence related security. There are three alternative choices for every item; always, sometimes, never. The scale contains both positive and negative statements. The statement numbers 16, 19, 27, 30, 32, 39, 41 and 43 are positive statements (indicative of security) whereas remaining statements are negative. The scores for positive statements have been allocated as- Always=2, Sometimes=1, Never=0 and for negative statements, it is reversed as Always= 0, Sometimes= 1, and Never= 2. Higher score achieved by the respondents indicates higher security among the adolescents. The split-half reliability of the scale was found to be 0.79 for male, 0.70 for female, 0.81 for urban and 0.74 for rural students. Thus the reliability was found highly satisfactory. Validity was found to be 0.79 which was highly significant.

Emotional maturity scale :

Emotional maturity among the adolescents was

assessed by using Emotional Maturity Scale developed by Singh and Bhargava (1990). It consists of 48 items covering the basic five dimensions; emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment, personal disintegration and lack of independence. The scale consists of 10 items in each dimension except only one dimension *i.e.* lack of Independence which has 8 items. The responses are scored positively by giving weight-age of 5 to 1 (very much to never). Higher the score on the scale, lesser is the degree of emotional maturity and lower score indicates high maturity. The test-retest reliability of the scale was measured by administering it upon a group of students (n=150) including male and female. The product moment 'r' between the two testing was 0.75.

Data were collected by personally approaching the adolescents in schools itself. A close rapport was established with the adolescent girls and they were explained about the purpose of the study. The adolescents were requested to be honest and were assured that their identity would be kept confidential and information they shared would be used for research purpose only.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data presented in Table 1 indicate the per cent distribution of the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents with respect to their anxiety level. The anxiety levels of the respondents were categorized as low, medium and high on the basis of the scores obtained by the adolescents on the anxiety scale. It is evident from the data that a higher per cent of the respondents (61.62%) in the age range of 16-17 years belonging to sexually harassed group had high level of anxiety and 38.37 per cent of the respondents had medium level of anxiety whereas, there was no respondent in the age range of 16-17 years who had low level of anxiety. It was found that equal number of the

Table 1 : Distribution of the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents with respect to their anxiety level (n=200)												
Anxiety level	Adolescent girls								Total			
	16-17 years (n ₁ =100)				17-18 years (n ₂ =100)				SH (n ₁ =177)		SNH (n ₂ =23)	
	SH (n=86)		SNH (n=14)		SH (n=91)		SNH (n=9)					
f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	
Low	0	0.00	10	71.42	0	0.00	5	55.55	0	0.00	15	65.21
Medium	33	38.37	2	14.28	31	34.06	2	22.22	64	36.15	4	17.39
High	53	61.62	2	14.28	60	65.93	2	22.22	113	63.84	4	17.39

Note: SH = Sexually harassed, SNH = Sexually non-harassed

respondents (14.28%) in the age group of 16-17 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group had medium and high level of anxiety whereas, 71.42 per cent of the respondents in the age range of 16-17 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group were having low level of anxiety.

Similarly, on probing the data regarding respondents in the age group of 17-18 years belonging to sexually harassed group, it was found that more than sixty five per cent of the respondents (65.93%) had high level of anxiety followed by 34.06 per cent of the respondents who had medium level of anxiety whereas, there were no respondents in the age group of 17-18 years who were having low level of anxiety. It was found that equal number of the respondents (22.22%) in the age group of 17-18 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group had medium and high level of anxiety whereas, 55.55 per cent of the respondents in the age range of 17-18 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group were having low level of anxiety.

It could be divulged from the above data that majority of the respondents (63.84%) belonging to sexually harassed group were having high level of anxiety whereas among the adolescents belonging to sexually non-harassed group a higher per cent of the respondents (65.21%) had low level of anxiety.

Data in Table 2 represent the mean rank score of the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents relating to their anxiety. Mean rank score obtained by the sexually harassed respondents on comprehensive anxiety test were found to be higher than the mean rank score of the respondents belonging to sexually non-harassed group. A Mann Whitney U test was administered to find out the differences in the anxiety level of sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed adolescents. Statistically also highly significant differences were observed in the higher level of anxiety ($z = 3.03$; $p < 0.01$) of the sexually harassed and sexually

non-harassed respondents. However, there were no significant differences in the medium level of anxiety among the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed adolescents. It could be divulged from the data in above table that the sexually harassed adolescents were more anxious as compared to sexually non-harassed adolescents. These results are supported by the studies conducted by Fergusson *et al.* (2008) and Putnam (2003) who stated that the sexually harassed individuals are more anxious in comparison to not harassed individuals. Paolucci *et al.* (2001) also reported that girls who were sexually harassed had higher level of anxiety as compared to sexually non-harassed girls.

Data presented in Table 3 denote the age differences among the adolescent girls on different levels of anxiety. Mean rank score obtained by the adolescents in the age group of 16-17 years belonging to sexually harassed group on different levels of anxiety were higher than the mean rank score obtained by the adolescents belonging to sexually non-harassed group. Significant differences were found between sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents having high level of anxiety ($z = 2.20$; $p < 0.05$). It was found that sexually harassed respondents had higher level of anxiety as compared to their counterparts. However, non-significant differences were found between the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed adolescents belonging to the age group of 16-17 years having medium level of anxiety.

On probing the data of adolescents in the age range of 17-18 years, the adolescents belonging to sexually harassed group having high level of anxiety had higher mean score than sexually non-harassed adolescents whereas, respondents having medium level of anxiety belonging to sexually non-harassed group had higher mean score as compared to the respondents belonging to sexually harassed group. Significant differences were found between sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed adolescents having high level of anxiety ($z =$

Anxiety level	Adolescent girls		z-value (by using Mann Whitney test)
	SH (n ₁ =177)	SNH (n ₂ =23)	
	Mean rank score	Mean rank score	
Low	-	9.00	-
Medium	34.72	31.00	0.36
High	60.79	8.50	3.03 ***

Note: SH= Sexually harassed, SNH= Sexually non-harassed

*** indicates significance of value at $P < 0.01$

2.07; $p < 0.05$). It could be divulged from the data that the respondents in the older age group belonging to sexually harassed group had higher level of anxiety as compared to the respondents belonging to sexually non-harassed group. Data revealed that there were non-significant differences found between the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed adolescents belonging to the older age group having medium level of anxiety.

Data presented in Table 4 indicate the per cent distribution of the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed adolescents with respect to their level of security. The level of security of the respondents was categorized as low, medium and high on the basis of the scores obtained by the adolescents on security-insecurity scale. It is evident from the data that majority of the adolescents (73.25%) in the age range of 16-17 years belonging to sexually harassed group had low level of security and 26.74 per cent of the adolescents had medium level of security whereas, none of the adolescent in this age group had high level of security. It was found that majority of the adolescents (85.71%) in the age group of 16-17 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group had high level of security whereas, 14.28 per cent of the adolescents in this age group belonging to sexually non-harassed group were having medium level of security.

Similarly, on probing the data regarding respondents

in the age group of 17-18 years belonging to sexually harassed group, it was found that more than sixty per cent of the adolescents (63.73%) had low level of security followed by 35.16 per cent of the adolescents who had medium level of security whereas, there was only one adolescent in the age group of 17-18 years who was having high level of security. It was found that majority of the adolescents (88.88%) in the age group of 17-18 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group had high level of security whereas, 11.11 per cent of the adolescents in the age range of 17-18 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group had medium level of security.

It could be divulged from the above data that majority of the respondents (68.26%) belonging to sexually harassed group were having low level of security whereas among the adolescents belonging to sexually non-harassed group majority of the adolescents (86.95%) had high level of security.

Data presented in Table 5 depict the differences in various dimensions of security among the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents. The various dimensions of security are family security, school security, peer group security, learning environment security, prospective context security, examination context security, self acceptance security and existence related security. Mean rank score obtained by the

Table 3 : Age differences in the anxiety level of the respondents experiencing and not experiencing sexual harassment (n=200)

Anxiety level	Adolescent girls					
	16-17 years (n=100)			17-18 years (n=100)		
	SH (n ₁ =86)	SNH (n ₂ =14)	z-values (by using Mann Whitney test)	SH (n ₁ =91)	SNH (n ₂ =9)	z-values (by using Mann Whitney test)
Mean rank score	Mean rank score	Mean rank score		Mean rank score		
Low	-	6.50	-	-	4	-
Medium	18.27	13.50	0.64	16.95	17.75	0.11
High	29.92	3.50	2.20**	32.37	5.50	2.07**

Note: SH= Sexually harassed, SNH= Sexually non-harassed
 ** indicates significance of value at $P < 0.05$

Table 4 : Distribution of the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents with respect to their level of security (n=200)

Level of security	Adolescent girls								Total			
	16-17 years (n=100)				17-18 years (n=100)							
	SH (n ₁ =86)		SNH (n ₂ =14)		SH (n ₁ =91)		SNH (n ₂ =9)		SH (n ₁ =177)		SNH (n ₂ =23)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
Low (49-75)	63	73.25	0	0.00	58	63.73	0	0.00	121	68.26	0	0.00
Medium (76-102)	23	26.74	2	14.28	32	35.16	1	11.11	55	31.07	3	13.04
High (103-129)	0	0.00	12	85.71	1	1.09	8	88.88	1	0.56	20	86.95

Note: SH = Sexually harassed, SNH= Sexually non-harassed

respondents belonging to sexually non-harassed group on all the dimensions of security were found to be higher than the mean rank score obtained by the respondents belonging to sexually harassed group. Statistically also highly significant differences were observed among the respondents experiencing sexual harassment and those who were not experiencing sexual harassment in all the dimensions of security; family security ($z = 6.89$; $p < 0.01$), school security ($z = 4.46$; $p < 0.01$), peer group security ($z = 5.68$; $p < 0.01$), learning environment security ($z = 4.90$; $p < 0.01$), prospective context security ($z = 5.63$; $p < 0.01$), examination context security ($z = 6.76$; $p < 0.01$), self acceptance security ($z = 5.43$; $p < 0.01$) and existence related security ($z = 6.08$; $p < 0.01$). It could be concluded from the above data that the adolescents who were sexually non-harassed felt more secure in their families, at their schools, within their peer groups, learning environment, in context to their future prospects, in relation to their examination fear, self acceptance and in relation to their existence as compared to sexually harassed girls. The results are corroborated with the findings of the study conducted by Pant and Sharma (2005) who stated that the subjects who faced sexual harassment had marked degree of insecurity and inferiority in them. These results are also in agreement with the study by Krishankumar *et al.* (2014) who revealed that the feelings of insecurity and isolation at home, of being disliked depressed were significantly more in adolescents who had experienced sexual abuse, compared to those who had not.

The data presented in Table 6 indicate the age differences among the adolescents on different

dimensions of security. It is evident from the data that adolescents in the age group of 16-17 years and belonging to sexually non-harassed group had overall higher mean rank score as compared to the adolescents belonging to sexually harassed group. Statistically also highly significant differences were observed among the adolescents belonging to sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed group ($z = 5.96$; $p < 0.01$). Similarly, adolescents in the age group of 17-18 years and belonging to sexually non-harassed group had higher mean rank score as compared to their counterparts. Statistically also highly significant differences were found between the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed adolescents ($z = 4.90$; $p < 0.01$). It could be divulged from the data in the above table that the sexually non-harassed adolescents in both the age groups were more secure than sexually harassed adolescents.

Mean rank score obtained by sexually harassed adolescents in the age group of 16-17 years belonging to sexually harassed group on all the dimensions of security were found to be lower than the mean rank score obtained by the adolescents who were sexually non-harassed. Statistically also highly significant differences were observed among the adolescents belonging to sexually harassed group and those belonging to sexually non-harassed group in the age group of 16-17 years on all the dimensions of security *viz.*, family security ($z = 5.69$; $p < 0.01$), school security ($z = 3.14$; $p < 0.01$), peer group security ($z = 4.33$; $p < 0.01$), learning environment security ($z = 3.65$; $p < 0.01$), prospective context security ($z = 4.31$; $p < 0.01$), examination context security ($z = 4.92$; $p < 0.01$), self acceptance security (z

Table 5 : Differences in various dimensions of security among the respondents experiencing and not experiencing sexual harassment (n=200)

Dimensions of security	Adolescent girls		z-value (by using Mann Whitney test)
	SH (n ₁ =177)	SNH (n ₂ =23)	
	Mean rank score	Mean rank score	
Family	90.38	178.37	6.89***
School	94.01	150.43	4.46***
Peer group	92.18	164.57	5.68***
Learning environment	93.31	155.85	4.90***
Prospective context	92.26	163.89	5.63***
Examination context	90.78	175.33	6.76***
Self acceptance	92.64	161.02	5.43***
Existence related	91.64	168.67	6.08***
Total	89.09	188.33	7.14***

Note: SH = Sexually harassed, SNH= Sexually non-harassed
***indicates significance of value at $P < 0.01$

=3.48; $p < 0.01$) and existence related security ($z = 4.45$; $p < 0.01$).

Similarly, mean rank score of the adolescents in the age group of 17-18 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group on all the dimensions of security-insecurity were noted to be higher than the mean rank score of the adolescents belonging to sexually harassed group. Statistically also highly significant differences were found among the adolescents belonging to sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed group on all the dimensions of security viz., family security ($z = 3.84$; $p < 0.01$), school security ($z = 3.27$; $p < 0.01$), peer group security ($z = 3.66$; $p < 0.01$), learning environment security ($z = 3.30$; $p < 0.01$), prospective context security ($z = 3.60$; $p < 0.01$), examination context security ($z = 4.58$; $p < 0.01$), self acceptance security ($z = 4.27$; $p < 0.01$) and existence related security ($z = 4.16$; $p < 0.01$). It could be inferred from the data in the above table that sexually harassed adolescents were more insecure when compared to their counterparts in both the age groups.

Data presented in Table 7 depict the per cent distribution of the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents with respect to their level of emotional maturity. The levels of emotional maturity among the respondents were categorized into stable, moderately stable and unstable. It is evident from the data that majority of the sexually harassed respondents were emotionally unstable and only few of the sexually harassed respondents (11.29%) were having moderate emotional stability and there were no respondents from sexually harassed group who were emotionally stable. On the other hand a higher per cent of the respondents (52.17%) belonging to sexually non-harassed group were emotionally stable and 39.13 per cent of them were emotionally unstable and very few of the respondents belonging to sexually non-harassed group were moderately emotionally stable.

Further the data reveal that majority of the adolescents (89.53%) in age group of 16-17 years belonging to sexually harassed group were having

Table 6 : Age differences among the respondents experiencing and not experiencing sexual harassment on different dimensions of security (n=200)

Dimensions of security	Adolescent girls					
	16-17 years (n=100)			17-18 years (n=100)		
	SH (n ₁ =86)	SNH (n ₂ =14)	z value (by using Mann Whitney test)	SH (n ₁ =91)	SNH (n ₂ =9)	z values (by using Mann Whitney test)
	Mean rank score	Mean rank score		Mean rank score	Mean rank score	
Family	43.92	90.89	5.69***	47.01	85.78	3.84***
School	46.87	72.79	3.14***	47.56	80.22	3.27***
Peer group	45.46	81.46	4.33***	46.69	83.11	3.66***
Learning environment	46.26	76.57	3.65***	47.50	80.83	3.30***
Prospective context	45.49	81.25	4.31***	47.25	83.39	3.60***
Examination context	44.91	84.86	4.92***	46.42	91.78	4.58***
Self acceptance	46.51	75.00	3.48***	46.66	89.28	4.27***
Existence related	45.34	82.21	4.45***	46.77	88.22	4.16***
Total	43.52	93.36	5.96***	46.03	95.72	4.90***

Note: SH = Sexually harassed, SNH= Sexually non-harassed
***indicates significance of value at $P < 0.01$

Table 7 : Distribution of the sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents with respect to emotional maturity (n=200)

Level of Emotional Maturity	Adolescent girls								Total			
	16-17 years (n=100)				17-18 years (n=100)							
	SH (n ₁ =86)		NH (n ₂ =14)		SH (n ₁ =91)		NH (n ₂ =9)		SH (n ₁ =177)		SNH (n ₂ =23)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%
Stable (50-88)	0	0.00	8	57.14	0	0.00	4	44.44	0	0.00	12	52.17
Moderately stable (89-106)	9	10.46	1	7.14	11	12.08	1	11.11	20	11.29	2	8.69
Unstable (107-240)	77	89.53	5	35.71	80	87.91	4	44.44	157	88.70	9	39.13

Note: SH = Sexually harassed, SNH= Sexually non-harassed

unstable emotional maturity and 10.46 per cent of the adolescents were having moderately stable emotional maturity. On the other hand, more than half of the adolescents (57.14%) in the age group of 16-17 years belonging to sexually non-harassed group were having stable emotional maturity, 35.71 per cent of the adolescents were having unstable emotional maturity and only 7.14 per cent of the adolescents were having moderately stable emotional maturity.

Persual of the results further showed that majority of the adolescents (87.91%) in the age group of 17-18 years belonging to sexually harassed group were having unstable emotional maturity and 12.08 per cent of the adolescents were moderately stable. When the data belonging to sexually non-harassed group in the age group of 17-18 years was observed it was evident that equal per cent of adolescents (44.44%) were having stable and unstable emotional maturity and rest of them (11.11%) were having moderately stable emotional maturity. It could be inferred from the data in the above table that most of the sexually harassed adolescents had unstable emotional maturity whereas a higher number of the adolescents who were sexually non-harassed had stable emotional maturity.

Data presented in Table 8 indicate the differences in various dimensions of emotional maturity among the respondents experiencing and not experiencing sexual harassment. The dimensions of emotional maturity were illustrated as emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment, personality disintegration and lack of independence. It is apparent from the data that the overall mean rank score obtained by the sexually harassed respondents was higher than the mean rank score obtained by the sexually non-harassed respondents.

Statistically also highly significant differences were noticed among the respondents who were sexually harassed and those who were sexually non-harassed ($z = 3.75$; $p < 0.01$). It could be inferred from the above data that sexually harassed respondents were less emotionally mature than sexually non-harassed respondents.

Mean rank score obtained by sexually harassed adolescents on all the dimensions of emotional maturity viz., emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment, personality disintegration and lack of independence were found to be higher than the mean rank score obtained by the adolescents who were sexually non-harassed. Statistically also highly significant differences were observed among adolescents who were sexually harassed and those who were sexually non-harassed in all the dimensions of emotional maturity; emotional instability ($z = 3.42$; $p < 0.01$), emotional regression ($z = 3.19$; $p < 0.01$), personality disintegration ($z = 5.39$; $p < 0.01$), lack of independence ($z = 3.02$; $p < 0.01$) and social maladjustment ($z = 2.02$; $p < 0.05$). These findings are supported by Miller (2013) who also reported that girls who faced any form of sexual harassment have comparatively weaker emotional state than adolescents who have not being sexually harassed. The results are also in agreement with studies by Lieshout *et al.* (2016) and Ginley *et al.* (2016) who reported that sexual harassment lead to emotional problems among those being sexually harassed.

Data presented in Table 9 indicate the age differences among the respondents experiencing and not experiencing sexual harassment on different dimensions of emotional maturity. Mean rank score obtained by sexually harassed respondents in the age group of 16-17

Table 8 : Differences in various dimensions of emotional maturity among the respondents experiencing and not experiencing sexual harassment (n=200)

Dimensions of Emotional maturity	Adolescent girls		z-value (by using Mann Whitney test)
	SH (n ₁ =177)	SNH (n ₂ =23)	
	Mean rank score	Mean rank score	
Emotional instability	105.54	61.70	3.42***
Emotional regression	105.20	64.33	3.19***
Social maladjustment	103.47	77.65	2.02**
Personality disintegration	108.45	39.35	5.39***
Lack of Independence	104.94	66.37	3.02***
Total	106.03	57.93	3.75***

Note: SH= Sexually harasses, SNH= Sexually non-harassed

** and *** indicate significance of values at $P < 0.05$ and < 0.01 , respectively

Table 9 : Age differences in emotional maturity among the respondents experiencing and not experiencing sexual harassment (n=200)

Dimension of emotional maturity	Adolescent girls					
	16-17 years (n=100)			17-18 years (n=100)		
	SH (n ₁ =86)	SNH (n ₂ =14)	z value (by using Mann Whitney test)	SH (n ₁ =91)	SNH (n ₂ =9)	z value (by using Mann Whitney test)
	Mean rank score	Mean rank score		Mean rank score	Mean rank score	
Emotional instability	54.94	23.21	3.80***	51.04	45.06	0.59
Emotional regression	53.87	29.79	2.88***	51.30	37.00	1.42
Social maladjustment	52.87	35.96	2.02**	51.19	43.50	0.76
Personality disintegration	55.83	17.75	4.56***	52.96	25.61	2.70***
Lack of independence	55.02	22.71	3.88***	50.31	52.39	0.20
Total	54.43	10.78	3.94***	51.47	40.67	1.06

Note: SH= sexually harassed, SNH= Sexually non-harassed

** and *** indicate significance of values at P<0.05 and < 0.01, respectively

years on emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment, personality disintegration and lack of independence were found to be higher than the mean rank score of the respondents who were sexually non-harassed. Statistically also highly significant differences were observed among younger adolescents belonging to sexually harassed group and those belonging to sexually non-harassed group in emotional instability ($z = 3.80$; $p < 0.01$), emotional regression ($z = 2.88$; $p < 0.01$), personality disintegration ($z = 4.56$; $p < 0.01$) and lack of independence ($z = 3.88$; $p < 0.01$) and social maladjustment ($z = 4.56$; $p < 0.05$).

Similarly, mean rank score of sexually harassed respondents in the age group of 17-18 years on all the dimensions of emotional maturity were noted to be higher than the mean rank score of the respondents who were sexually non-harassed. Statistically also highly significant differences were found among the older adolescents belonging to sexually harassed group and those belonging to sexually non-harassed group in personality disintegration ($z = 2.70$; $p < 0.01$). However, there were non-significant differences found among sexually harassed and sexually non-harassed respondents in the age group of 17-18 years on emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment and lack of independence. It could be concluded from the data in the above table that the sexually harassed adolescents in both the age groups had higher level of emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment, personality disintegration and lack of independence as compared to the sexually non-harassed adolescents.

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