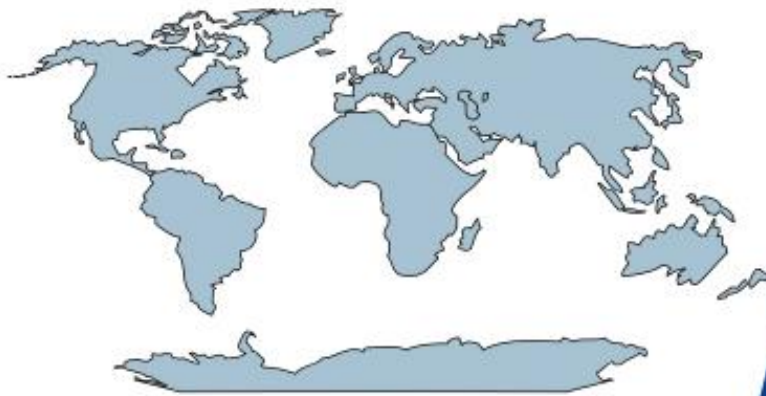


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**AWARENESS ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT CONCEPT AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO  
PROTECT IT: A STUDY ON COLLEGE STUDENTS**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome or inappropriate behaviours that are sexual or sex-based in nature from a person (of the same gender or not) to another person that affects their ability to learn, study, work, or participate in school or work activities. The harassment can be physical or verbal. The conduct can make a person feel embarrassed, sad, scared, pressured, upset, uncomfortable, humiliated, or angry, and interferes with their ability to focus on what they are doing or to feel safe at school or work. It can happen on or off school grounds, in person or through other ways, such as by email or social media. It can range from mildly annoying comments or actions to unwanted touching and, in extreme cases, sexual activity forced upon a person without their voluntary or lawful consent, known as sexual assault, sexual violence, or rape. In most modern legal contexts, sexual harassment is illegal.

Awareness about sexual harassment should be created in colleges therefore a study is done to know if college students are aware about sexual harassment, the study is not designed to do so and does not have a sufficiently representative sample to draw definitive conclusions.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. Do the college students know what is the meaning of Sexual Harassment?
2. Sexual harassment is not just about physical contact. It can occur at anytime when a person is uncomfortable with another person's approach, sexually coloured or gender related remark. Are students aware of it?
3. Do students experiencing offensive sexist remarks, jokes or stories or being treated differently because of one's sex are sexual harassment?
4. Other forms of actions like attempts to establish a romantic relationship and unwanted touching is considered to be verbal and physical harassment?

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**

This study is undertaken to fulfil following objectives:

1. To understand the context of sexual harassment.
2. To find out the various forms of actions which are considered to be sexual harassment.
3. To study the level of understanding of the college students for sexual harassment
4. To evaluate whether the students are aware of mechanism to protect themselves against sexual harassment.

**CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

Sexual Harassment: Any of the following (directly or by implication) shall mean sexual harassment:

- Physical contact and advances;
- A demand or request for sexual favors;
- Making sexually colored remarks;
- Showing pornography;
- Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

Any of the following circumstances may also amount to sexual harassment: (1) Implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in the victim's employment; (2) Implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in the victim's employment; (3) Implied or explicit threat about the victim's present or future employment status; (4) Interference with the victim's work or creating a hostile work environment for her; and (5) Humiliating treatment likely to affect the victim's health or safety

Sexist Hostility/Sexist Gender Harassment – four items: This subscale assesses experiences of a sexist environment, including offensive sexist remarks and treating people differently because of their sex.