

A Study on the General Perceptions Regarding the Safety of Women in Public Places in Bangalore

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ABSTRACT

Given that women are frequently the victims of crimes, this study aims to look into the perspectives of both men and women on women's safety in Bangalore's public areas as well as their opinions on day to day wearable smart safety bands for women.

In order to address the urgent problem of women's safety in public areas in Bangalore, this abstract offers a summary of a thorough study. The study explores the many difficulties faced by women and provides a thorough analysis of the elements putting them at risk. The study also examines practical methods such as use of advanced technology (smart safety bands) to lessen these dangers and make surroundings safer for women. In order to promote the safety and empowerment of women in public spaces across Bangalore, the findings emphasize the significance of a comprehensive approach encompassing the government, civil society, and the technology.

This paper also provides a summary of a study that examines how men and women in Bangalore perceive women's safety in public spaces differently. Due to an increase in recorded cases of harassment and violence against women, safety issues in public places have received a lot of attention lately. This study uses a mixed-methods approach to capture the complex viewpoints of both genders, including both primary and secondary data

I. INTRODUCTION

Women are currently the most vulnerable in Bangalore's public areas. Bangalore was placed third in terms of being a safe city for women in a

2014 annual study by a well-known online travel site, but it is clear that women face prejudice on public transportation and in many other settings. Not just in Bangalore, we've all heard about the horrific gang rape that happened in Hyderabad in 2019 and terrified the whole country, the case of the woman who was raped and killed in a moving bus in New Delhi, and many more horrific incidents. Even though the government has implemented very harsh measures against criminals, neither crime rates nor public anxiety have decreased. This is impeding the country's development and the empowerment of women since it prevents women from moving freely throughout the nation, crushing their aspirations to be independent. In order to better grasp the problem, we made an effort to compare men's and women's perspectives on the safety of women in public areas and how can a smart safety band help to tackle such a safety issue.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The descriptive and analytical components of this essay predominate.

In this study, we will use data from both primary sources as well as secondary data from published articles (scholarly studies, and newspaper articles about women's fears and concerns about public safety)..

Our target respondents will be both men and women residing in Bangalore.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

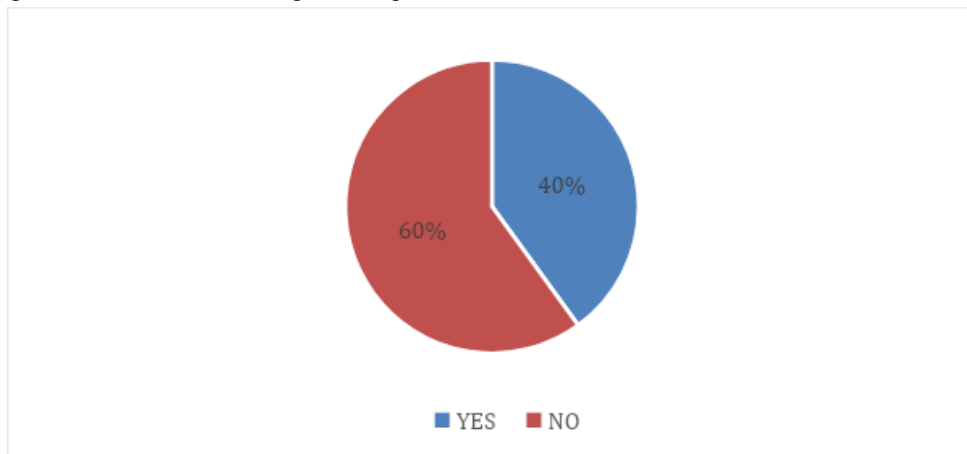
Determine how safe women feel in various public spaces such as streets, parks, public transportation etc

Investigate the safety of women using public transport including buses, trains, and subways and identify potential areas of improvement.

Explore the use of safety apps and technology such as panic buttons and location sharing features and their impact on women safety.

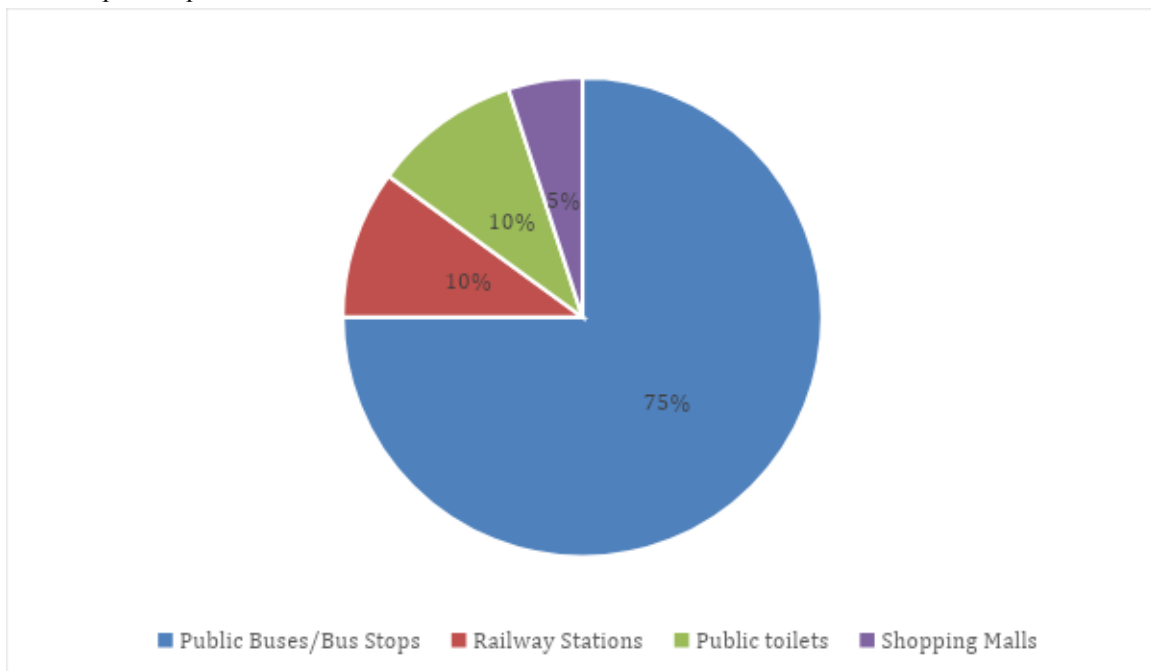
II. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

1. In Bangalore, are women safe to go out in public?



According to the survey results, exactly 60% of respondents chose "NO," and 40% chose "YES," showing that more than half of respondents believe women in Bangalore cannot be safe in public areas

2. In which public spaces do women feel the most unsafe?

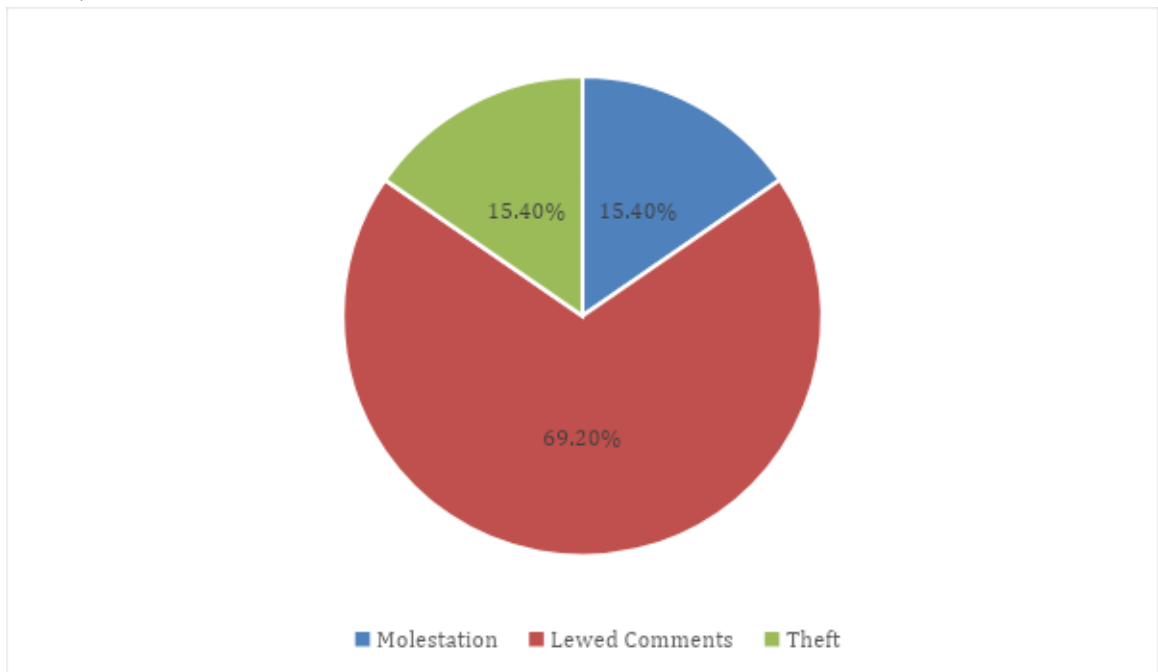


We can see from the graph above that 75% of respondents believe that public buses and bus

stops are the most dangerous places for women to be in the general public. It's interesting to note that not a single responder expressed the opinion that public parks are unsafe, a cause for celebration! We discovered that ladies find a lot of drunken individuals about or in the bus stops/railway stations, which makes them really uncomfortable.

Generally speaking, public transit will be congested, which could either work to a criminal rogue's benefit or provide an opportunity to mistreat a women and many women also claim that there would be a lack of public support to a female in such circumstances.

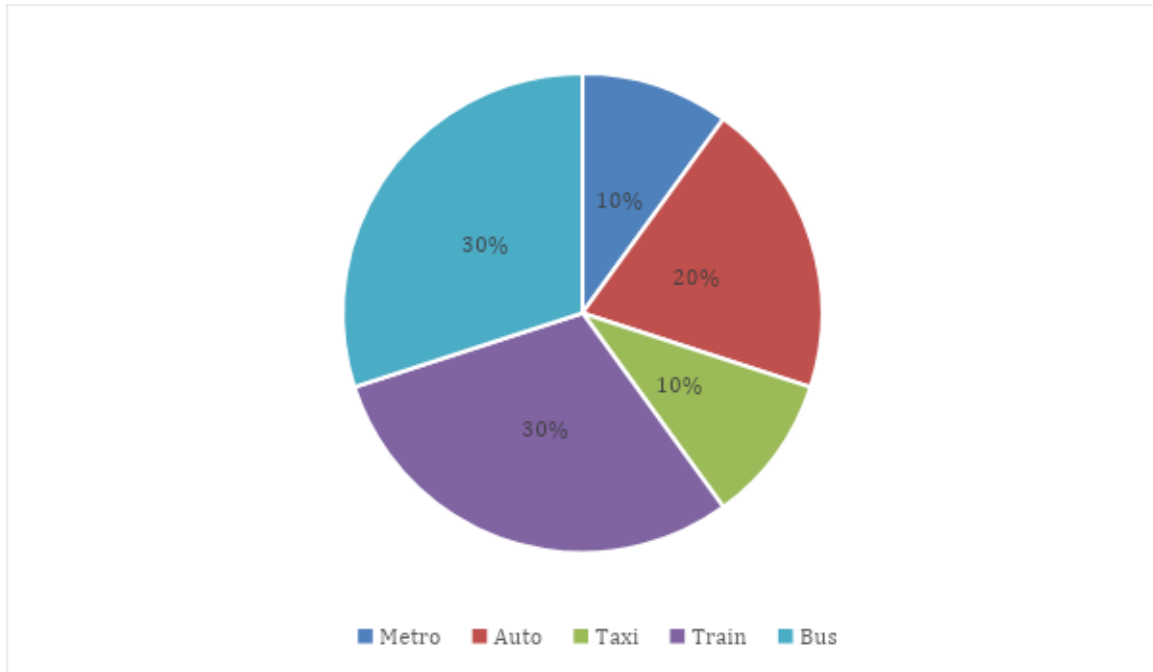
3. Have you ever faced the following situations when you are at the public places(directed only to the women)?



We learned from the comments that not all women have experienced the aforementioned circumstances. Taking into account only the women who experienced the aforementioned circumstances, we discovered that 15.4% of the women are victims of molestation, and a further 15.4% of women are victims of theft (many have claimed that it occurred when they were alone in

public places and that this theft has injured the women both physically and mentally),for instance, when a thief yanks a necklace off a woman's neck ,or while the woman struggles to defend and safeguard her possessions. More over half of the respondents, or 69.2% of them, reported having experienced similar nighttime taunts and filthy remarks

3. Which public transport do women feel unsafe to commute?

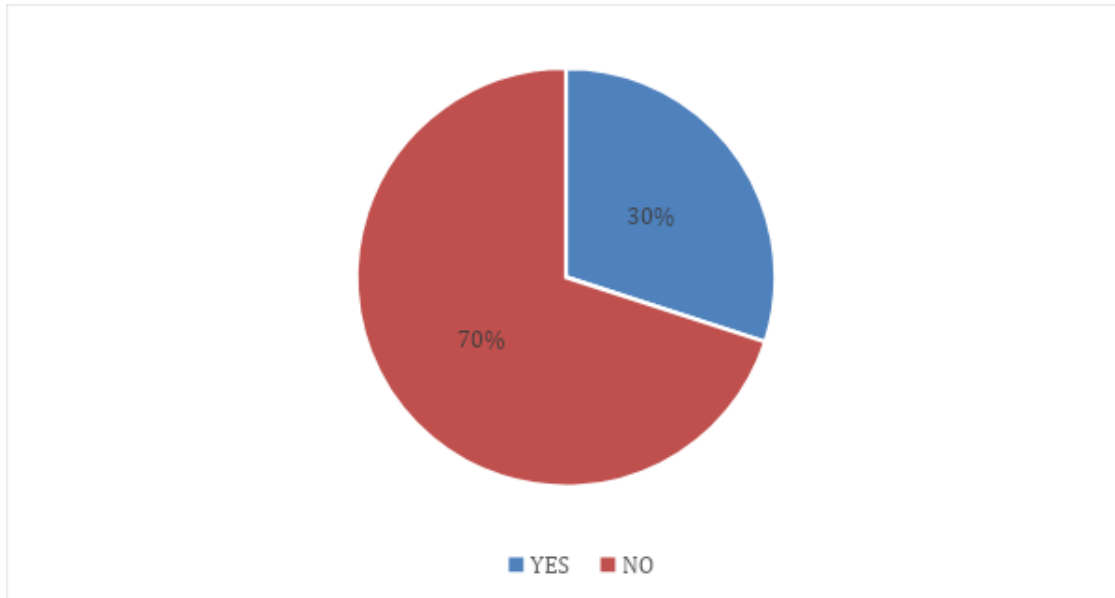


4.

From the above graph we can observe that women feel the most unsafe in bus and train, but when considering metro trains the opinions are that although it is not totally safe, but it gives the respondents the thought that people being very self-conscious and dignified in metro trains. So only 10% of respondents have claimed that metro is an

unsafe public transport. Around 20% of the respondents and 10% of respondents feel unsafe in autos and taxis respectively. When asked for the reasons it seemed to be women are left isolated in the taxis which isn't safe unless the child lock is enabled and many feel unsafe in autos and taxis when they are travelling alone.

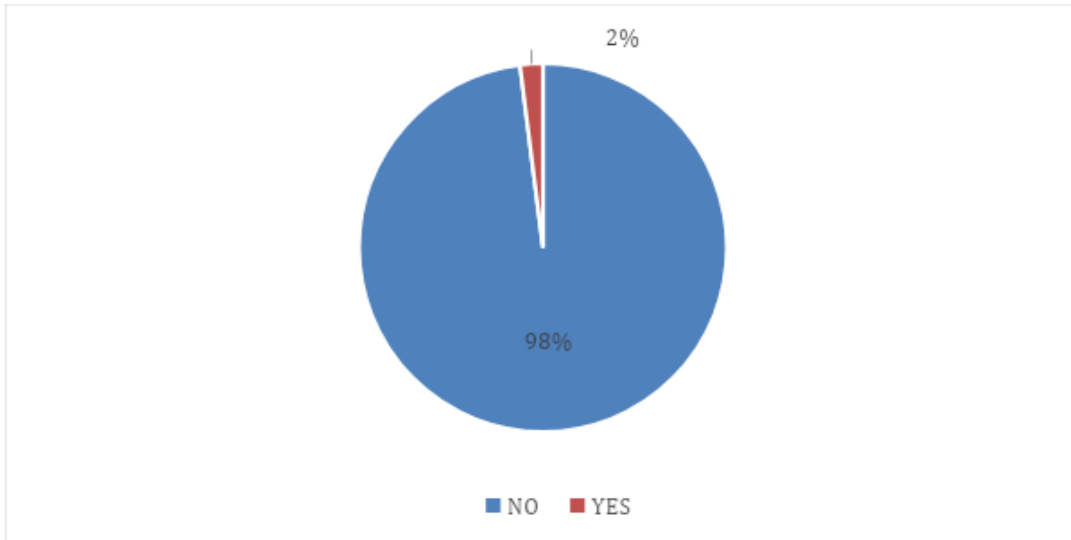
5. Would you or your family allow the female members of your family to commute or roam alone at the night time?



From the graph we can observe that nearly 70% of the family do not allow the female figures of their family to commute alone during night time. When asked for the reasons the most prominent reason is “ SAFETY ISSUES”as they care about the women in the family and do not want any harm or violation to happen against them. Here we can also tell that around 70% of the families are living in an apprehensive state regarding the safety of the women members of their family.

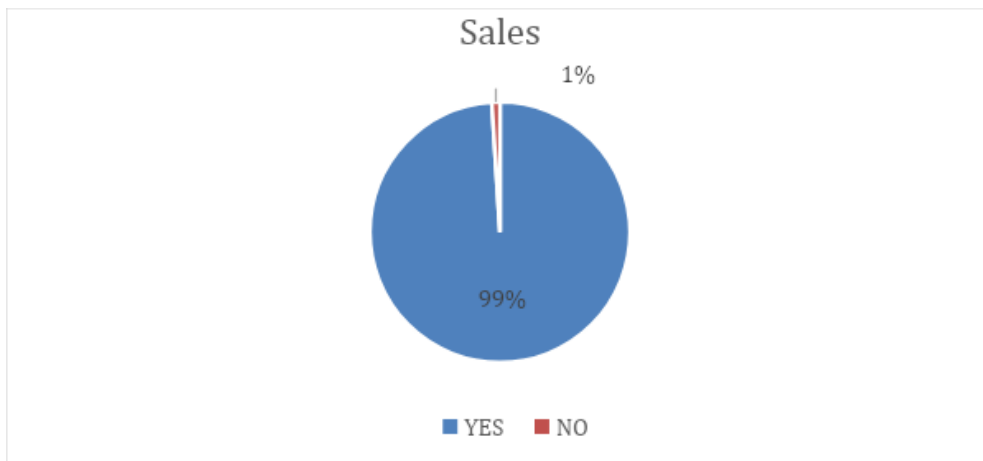
Around 30% of the respondents have responded that they do allow the female members of their family to commute alone at night emphasizing that not only at night, many women were unsafe at day time also , especially early mornings. The respondents have emphasized the rights of the women claiming that both men and women have equal rights and freedom to live as per they wish, women should be independent and one should instill courage in her to tackle the situation instead of causing a fear in her by locking her indoors.

6. How many women in Bangalore know defensive techniques ?



We discover that nearly 98% of Bangalore's female population lacks defensive training, which leaves them more open to harassment.

7. What are your opinions towards a daily use self defensive smart bands?



Here too, we see that 99% of people support this idea, emphasizing that the devices need to be affordable and accessible to all the women at each corner of Bangalore, which, if implemented correctly, could have a tremendously positive effect on society mainly because the main problem of 'fear' as stated previously will be reduced to a vast extent, fuelling their wish to be independent and make such a significant contribution to society. Implementing wearable smart safety bands for women can provide an extra layer of security and peace of mind. Here are some suggestions for their implementation:

SOS Button: Include a prominent SOS button on the band that, when pressed, triggers an emergency alert. This alert should be sent to trusted contacts, local authorities, or a designated security service. When someone tries to take off the band, forcefully, the alert ought to be louder.

Immediate dialling: Immediate dialling 100 when pressed.

GPS Tracking: Integrate GPS technology into the band to allow wearers to share their real-time location with selected contacts. This feature can be particularly useful in case of emergencies or if the wearer feels unsafe.

Safety Alarms: Incorporate loud alarms or distress sirens into the band, which could be both automatic or pressed manually in case of emergency

Audio and Video Recording: Include the capability to record audio and video when the SOS button is pressed. This can serve as evidence in case of incidents and provide a record of the situation.

When physically squeezed, certain dangerous compounds, like pepper spray or chili powder, might be released.

Fashionable Design Options: Offer a variety of design options to cater to different tastes and styles, making the band more appealing and likely to be worn regularly.

Affordability and Accessibility: Making sure the bands are affordable and accessible to a wide range of users, including those from different economic backgrounds

8. Men who were asked about how they felt about crimes against women all said they were very saddened by how women are treated and that it is unfair. Men's mindsets need to change, and they need to be taught to treat women with respect and gratitude. This includes teaching boys to treat girls with respect from a young age. In order to make a woman brave and to make criminals fearful, one must make an effort.

III. CONCLUSION:

As stated women's safety is a significant problem not only in Bangalore, but in many different parts of our nation which demands attention at the highest priority to be managed and to bring about change.

But this won't alter until and until a person's mindset does. A criminal takes advantage of women's fear. It is very important and necessary to instill courage in her, empower her. It is necessary to entirely and permanently stop the daily increase in the number of crimes against women. Various efforts from the Government such as -Campaigns on women safety conducted by the Bengaluru police in 2023, creating awareness among the women regarding the safety measures/ initiatives implemented by the city police such as 112 emergency number, KSP application.- Initiatives such as ' Be together Bengaluru' was launched in partnership with Durga India an NGO

in 2020 that works towards preventing sexual harassment of women in public places , and - many more has been initiated. The government has also implemented stronger security measures by adding more surveillance cameras to public areas, hiring more security personnel and many more.

Numerous safety tools already exist, but few women are aware of them. Education needs to be provided to her in this aspect. She needs to be taught of defensive techniques as well.

By using smart safety bands, a powerful or robust protection could be given with all these layers of protection. With technology advancing in every industry, it is important to use and develop it for women's safety. It might serve as the strongest deterrent for abusers.

Finally it can be concluded that it requires the contribution of the government , the technology, men and the women in reducing and stopping the violence against the women in our country.

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