



Campaign in Behrampura

Behrampura, Ahmedabad
April 2017 –April 2018

About Safecity

Safecity is a platform that crowdsources personal stories of sexual harassment and abuse in public spaces. This data which maybe anonymous, gets aggregated as hot spots on a map indicating trends at a local level. The idea is to make this data useful for individuals, local communities and local administration to identify factors that causes behavior that leads to violence and work on strategies for solutions

Abstract

Safecity's Behrampura chapter is about empowering the community with right tools to report and curb sexual harassment. It brings together all stakeholders to fight the issue of sexual harassment and eradicate it from the area.

Table of Contents

Pg. No.

1. Campaign Description.....	3
1.1 Background.....	3
1.2 Existing Issues.....	3
1.3 Current Impact.....	4
2. Campaign Objectives.....	5
2.1 Goals.....	5
2.2 Target Audience.....	5
3. Campaign Methodology and Challenges.....	6
3.1 Methodology.....	6
3.2 Challenges.....	9
4. Campaign Activities.....	10
5. Campaign Coverage and Data Collected.....	15
6. Impact and Conclusion.....	16

1. Campaign Description

1.1 Background

Safecity conducted a campaign in Behrampura area, Ahmedabad from April 2017 till April 2018. The area consists of mixed population of Hindus and Muslims with people from different denominations. The level of education is low, community is more patriarchal, and education for girls and giving them opportunities and a platform to express themselves or voice their opinions is not considered important here.

The area has witnessed incidents of sexual harassment in past and these are still ongoing. The community is inundated with issues such as lack of gender awareness, sexual harassment in public spaces, rigid mentality pertaining to women and girls etc. (discussed in detail in next sections) due to which the incidents of sexual harassment not just take place, but are intentionally overlooked. Safecity's campaign was an effort towards addressing these issues and many more.

1.2 Existing issues

1. **Lack of gender awareness and sensitivity:** As the area is male dominated society, women have very less freedom of expression and the subject of sexual harassment is taboo
2. **Lack of mobility for women:** Women are not allowed to go out of the house to earn their livelihood. Girls are not encouraged to study further as they believe girls have to take care of household chores. Few incidents of sexual abuse and rape in this area in the past have scared the parents from sending their daughters into those unsafe areas and distances further away from their homes
3. **Rigid mentality pertaining to women and girls:** Majority of people living in this area are from Marwari, Muslim community, and their attitude towards girl's education and their social mobility is conservative

4. **Narrow lanes in Chepi-rog hospital areas:** Lanes are very narrow in community area and there are no street lights. Girls find this place very unsafe especially at night time
5. **Sexual harassment in public spaces:** Women from the area face sexual harassment when they travel by public transport buses and also on heavily crowded roads

1.3 Current Impact

These incidents of sexual violence have had far reaching impact on the women living in the area. It has affected their daily choices and restricted them from continuing their education and live an independent and free life. Here are few examples of the same:

1. Mobility and accessibility

- a. Zero to limited access to public spaces
- b. Strong sense of fear and apprehension among women in accessing public spaces
- c. The community is patriarchal and girls are not allowed to continue their education

2. Physical, emotional and psychological

- a. Society-based pressure and shame inflicted on women who have faced/reported sexual violence
- b. Despite being victims of abuse, women were not ready to openly share their experiences of sexually harassment

3. **Sexual harassment is still considered a taboo** and as a result it is not discussed freely in families making it difficult to collect reports and document incidents

2. Campaign Objectives

2.1 Goals

The campaign aimed to reduce / remove sexual violence in Behrampura area by increasing awareness on sexual harassment, individual and collective legal rights and laws against sexual harassment.

Following were the main goals of the project:

1. Increase awareness on sexual harassment, individual and collective legal rights and laws against sexual harassment
 - a. Encourage people to report sexual harassment in public spaces through training and development
 - b. Women didn't know what constitutes sexual harassment (most women considered only rape to be sexual harassment)

2. Address sexual harassment in public spaces using data and technology
 - a. Engage community members to take ownership of the campaign for systemic and social change
 - b. Address the absence/lack of bystander intervention
 - c. Collate the information to showcase location-based trends

3. Increase community participation
 - a. Engage community members in brainstorming sessions
 - b. Improve community members' involvement in devising an effective solution to curb sexual harassment cases

2.2 Target Audience

1. Women, Girls and Community Members
2. NGOs like Niswan, Saath, Marg, Safar, Jan Adhikar Manch, and others
3. Other members of the community

3. Campaign Methodology and Challenges

3.1 Methodology

The campaign was conducted in multiple phases to ensure accurate diagnostics and develop a comprehensive solution for the above mentioned problems. This was achieved by designing a community based campaign, conducting workshops to educate the community, creating resources on laws and other gender action rights, and facilitating reporting of sexual violence on the crowd map.

This was done in partnership with NGOs during their gatherings to create awareness on sexual harassment and Safecity. Partner NGOs include Niswan, Saath, Marg and Safar.

Focus on 3 areas where the local Behrampur Gender Resource Centre is involved:

- i. Behrampur Gender Resource Centre
- ii. Chapi Rog Rasoolkadiya Chawl
- iii. Gansahida Kabristan Slum Quarter

1. Diagnostic

- a. Conducting surveys and collecting data in and around Behrampur area along with a manual mapping exercise identifying safe and unsafe areas, workshops in the community and with partner NGOs among others (covered in detail under Activities Conducted- page 10)
- b. Identifying types of harassment that occurred, times of the day and days of the week which are most unsafe
- c. Organizing focused group discussions, parents' and community meetings

2. Networking with NGOs at Ahmedabad: Safecity partnered with the following NGOs to create awareness on sexual harassment and Safecity:

- a. NISWAN
- b. SAATH
- c. MARG
- d. SAFAR

3. Developmental Trainings, Awareness workshops and focused discussions (including one-to-one discussions):

a. Conduct a series of awareness workshops to educate the community

We conducted about 41 workshops across the above mentioned communities which focused on the following:

- i. Gender and Stereotypes
- ii. Understanding sexual violence and its impact
- iii. Gender and Laws including POCSO, POSH and IPC
- iv. Filing of FIR and Reporting
- v. Using Safecity for reporting and finding solutions
- vi. Body image and self esteem
- vii. Community engagement and facilitating dialogue

b. Create resources for the community on Laws and legal aid help & Others on Gender action and rights:

We conducted 7 big events during which some lawyers were invited to educate and create awareness on law and legal aid. Additionally regular interactions/conversations on understanding gender and rights have been conducted across the communities with the help of movies, street plays and other activities based on art.

c. Facilitate reporting of sexual violence on the crowd map.

The community engagement and workshops have involved getting them to report cases of sexual violence on the crowdmap. Considering that the community is mostly Muslim, the access to public spaces by the girls and women is restricted and hence the reports collected are 62.

3.2 Challenges:

- a. Restrictions laid down on girls: The community is highly patriarchal and issues as girl education and expressing / voicing of their opinions are not given importance
- b. Taboo around discussing sexual harassment: Families did not allow their girls to participate in the surveys given the topic of discussion
- c. Low to no access to public places: Girls / Women don't have access to public places very often and hence many incidents went unreported
- d. Low to zero awareness in regards to rights: The awareness level of women living in the area with regards to their rights and the spectrum of abuse was extremely low
- e. Unwillingness to speak openly about the incidents of abuse: Despite being the victims of abuse, the women were not ready to openly accept the fact that they are being harassed and abused
- f. No emphasis on girl child education: Girls in the area had high aspirations for themselves but not much emphasis was laid down on education them. Unfortunately, most girls only studied the their 10th standard

4. Campaign Activities

Following different activities were carried out with the community to spread awareness regarding the Safecity project and to empower women from community. Pictures from each of these activities have been attached in the following pages.

Activity 1 **Movie screenings in Community:** To create awareness among community women and adolescent girls regarding sexual harassment and gender equity, a series of movie screenings were organised at community spaces. Screenings were followed by group discussions.

Activity 2 **Workshops in the community and with partner NGOs:** Series of workshops were carried out through the year with other NGOs and community teachers on various issues such as the law related to sexual harassment, gender and social justice, sex education, sexual harassment, safety and security for their capacity building and bringing sustainability in the initiative.

Activity 3

Activity 3 - Area Mapping: Through the exercise of drawing, the women and girls mapped safe and unsafe area with their community spaces. Through this area mapping activity a discussion on the same was carried out later on for women to deal with the unsafe areas and how to be more situationally aware & and how to make those spaces safe.

Activity 4 **Community Workshops:** To increase awareness and removing misconceptions pertaining to gender, several workshops with community women were carried out regularly. The meetings focused on building leadership among the community women, so that they could take up initiative in addressing sexual harassment and raise awareness regarding the same and take action upon it without fear.

Activity 5 Website and Mobile app usage for reporting SH: Sessions were carried out with women to explain how the Safecity website and mobile app can be used for registering sexual harassment complaints.

Activity 6 Networking workshop with partner NGO's: Meetings with partner NGOs such as Jan Adhikar Manch, Safar, Janvikas, Sahyog, Niswa, HMI, Parvaaz to involve them in the project and spread awareness on sexual abuse and increase reporting of such incidents so as to be able to facilitate interventions at the community level.

Activity 7 - Play, Posters and Charts: Used the Kite flying festival (Uttarayan) as a means for creating awareness by drawing and sections of the law on the kites. Plays on safe and unsafe touch, posters and women's day celebration were carried out to reach out to more women within the community.

Activity 8 Paintings on community walls: This exercise was initiated by the community women and groups. It helped them in increasing awareness among the local community people regarding sexual harassment and it gave them options on how to seek help in case of abuse.

Activity 9 Activities through GRC and women library: Safe and unsafe areas within the community were mapped with women in the GRC. Discussions on safety of women were carried out as well.

Pictures from the campaign

Activity 1



Pictures from movie screening

Workshop in community with partner NGOs



Activity 2

Activity 3



Pictures from mapping exercise

Pictures from the campaign

Activity 4



Pictures from community workshop

Pictures from Website and Mobile app usage session



Activity 5

Activity 6



Networking workshops with partner NGOs

Pictures from the campaign

Activity 7



Play, Posters and Charts

Paintings on community walls



Activity 8

Activity 9

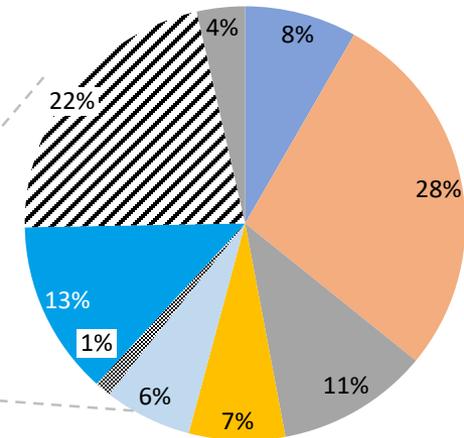


Activities through GRC and women library

5. Campaign Coverage and Data Collected



Total people reached	1500	
Total (Women Girl)		
Type of event	#Events organized	People reached
Community Workshops	41 workshops	915 (455 460)
Events / Gatherings	7 big events	321 (161 160)
Partnered gatherings with NGOs	8 gatherings	263 (118 146)
#Reports on sexual violence	62	



Key Highlights

- Most occurring category reported – Commenting and Stalking
- Time highest activity reported – 10 am; most cases occur in 2nd and 3rd quarter of the day
- Day of week with highest reports – Thursday
- Most likely linked categories – Commenting followed by catcalls/whistles
 - If commented, chances of a person being stalked increase
 - If stalked, chances of touching/groping exist

6. Impact and Conclusion

Community overview: Demographics of Behrampura community are very different from the other communities we have worked in other parts of the country. The community is highly patriarchal and factors like education for girls and expressing / voicing of their opinions are not given much importance. Most of the women and girls don't even step out of the house and their access to public spaces is very restricted. Their awareness levels with regards to their rights and the spectrum of abuse is extremely low and due to their limited access to spaces they don't necessarily face the violence we see elsewhere.

Our Initiative: We spent a good amount of time in building up the capacity of a point of contact in the community to work within the space of technology and people. She has been trained to open and sustain conversations around a topic which is otherwise taboo in the respective communities. It has been challenging yet exciting, watching the work being facilitated with impact stories within the limited the time frame of a year.

Impact of Initiative: Girls have high aspirations, some of them want to become doctors, lawyers, pilots and IPS, but unfortunately were not slowed to study beyond 10th standard. We took up this conversation with girls and their parents which made them realise that they need to let their daughters continue their education to enable them in realizing their dreams of becoming more empowered and able individuals. As a result of these interactions, almost 12 girls have been encouraged to continue their educations, 2 girls have taken up jobs and 62 reports of sexual harassment were reported.