A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN AVOIDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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ABSTRACT

The problem of sexual harassment is part of a whole syndrome of discrimination and exploitation that women subjected to in most societies. It is important not just because this form of oppression is more gender specific than most other, but also because women become even more vulnerable as they protest about it. Kerala, the most literate state is not exempted from it. According to crimes bureau’s statistics the reported crimes in Kerala is above the national rate of crimes against women. The veil of science cast over this particular form of exploitation makes it much harder to fight against or seek redressal for. This study mainly aims to give some suggestions considering sociology, political, governmental, psychological dimensions. The study was conducted with a sample size of 50 each from and working women and students from Kollam district.

Key Words: Sexual Harassment, Government, Kerala, Co-ordination

Introduction

Women’s self protection is becoming a necessity in today’s world. Today crimes against women are on the rise at an alarming rate, and every woman is a potential victim, be she a school girl, an old lady, or a wife. There are protective measures like police, law, order, and women commission etc enforced by the government itself. But it is very important a woman should be able to protect herself not only from physical harassment but also from emotional and psychological upsets. Immediate control of violence against women needs cooperation from the society, voluntary organization, and governmental agencies. Women should be given self -defense methods to protect themselves from exploitation.

Methodology of the Study

The study based on the following hypotheses

- It is effective to form purification police force integrated with women’s commission
- Government should take initiative to start classes on self- defense skills in school level itself.
Take steps to make strict censorship of movies, which create sexual demeaning to women in avoiding negative changes in male viewers.

Ensuring the well functioning of vigilance committees under women commission all over Kerala is necessary in avoiding sexual harassment.

Sample size of 50 each from working women and students from Kollam district. Secondary sources are journals, magazines, newspapers, websites etc. Chi-square is used to test the hypotheses.

Relevance of study

Violence against women is not a myth but a reality. The condition of Kerala women is very much shocking. We must apply special criteria to examine women’s plight and also apply special means to solve them. Complete reorientation of social norms and values, a rethinking for evaluation of changing situations and women conditions there in should be started changes are required not only in the social codes but in legal codes also. Above all a women needs to appreciate the fact that she herself is worth defending, as is her body. No one has the right to violate it. Indeed, self-dependence protection skills should learn earlier.

Scope of the study

In Kerala women continue to be constant victims of domestic violence, family violence, violence in the community and work places. Violence against women constitutes a violation of their human rights and victims of such violence need special attention and comprehensive assistance. Which should include legal aid and counseling and government must affirm the dignity of women, as a priority action. Violence against women exists in various forms in every day life in all societies. Such violence is a major obstacle to the achievement of equality and progress of women in society.

Hypothesis Testing

Chi-square Test 1

Null Hypothesis (H₀): It is not effective to form purification police force integrated with women’s commission

Alternate Hypothesis (H₁): It is effective to form purification police force integrated with women’s commission

Expected Frequency = \( \frac{\text{Row Total} \times \text{Column Total}}{\text{Total no. of observations}} \)
Percentage of opinion of respondents

Table 1 – Need of purification police force integrated with of women’s commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Working Women</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Disagree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Disagree</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Agree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Agree</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Data

Calculated value of chi-square

\[ \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} = 11.3409 \]

Degrees of freedom

\[ = (r-1) (c-1) = (5-1) (2-1) = 4 \]

Table value of \( \chi^2 \)

\[ = 9.488 (at 5\% level of Significance) \]
Inference

Since calculated value is higher than table value, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus it is effective to form purification police force integrated with women’s commission

Chi-square Test 2

Null Hypothesis ($H_0$): Initiative to start classes on self defense skills in the school level itself is not an effective measure in preventing crimes against women.

Alternate Hypothesis ($H_1$): Initiative to start classes on self defense skills is an effective measure in preventing crimes against women.

Percentage of opinion of respondents

Table 2- Opinions about starting classes on self-defense skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>O</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Disagree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Disagree</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor disagree</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Agree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Agree</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Data
Calculated value of chi-square

\[ \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} \]

\[ = 17.898 \]

Degrees of freedom

\[ = (r-1) (c-1) \]

\[ = (5-1) (2-1) = 4 \]

Table value of \( X^2 \)

\[ = 9.488 \text{(at 5% level of Significance)} \]

**Inference**

As calculated value is less than table value, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus introducing classes on self defense mechanism in schools is effective in preventing crimes against women.

**Chi-square Test 3**

**Null Hypothesis (H₀):** Strict censorship of movies which create sexual demeaning to women is not effective in avoiding negative attitude changes in male viewers.

**Alternate Hypothesis (H₁):** Strict censorship of movies which create sexual demeaning to women is effective in avoiding negative attitude changes in male viewers.

**Percentage of opinion of respondents**
Table 3 – Strict censorship of movies which create sexual demeaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Working Women</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Disagree</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Disagree</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Agree</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Agree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Data

Calculated value of chi-square

\[ \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} \]

= 9.547

Degrees of freedom  
= (r-1)(c-1)

= (5-1)(2-1) = 4

Table value of \( \chi^2 \)
= 9.488 (at 5% level of Significance)

Inference

Since calculated value is higher than table value, null hypothesis is rejected. Thus strict censorship of movies those create sexual demeaning to women is effective in overriding negative attitude changed in male viewers.

Chi-square Test 4

Null Hypothesis (H0): Ensure the well functioning of vigilance committees under women’s commission all over Kerala is not effective in avoiding sexual harassment.

Alternate Hypothesis (H1): Ensure the well functioning of vigilance committees under women’s commission is effective in avoiding sexual harassment.
Percentage of opinion of respondents

Table 4 – Ensure the well functioning of vigilance committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Disagree</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Disagree</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor disagree</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Agree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely Agree</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Data

Calculated value of chi-square

\[ \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} \]

\[ = 10.698 \]

Degrees of freedom

\[ = (r-1)(c-1) \]

\[ = (5-1)(2-1) = 4 \]

Table value of \( \chi^2 \)

\[ = 9.488 \text{(at 5% level of Significance)} \]
Inference

Here, the calculated value is higher than table value. So null hypothesis is rejected. Thus ensuring well functioning of vigilance committees under women’s commission all over Kerala is effective in avoiding sexual harassment

Conclusion

Women victims of violence should be given special attention and comprehensive assistance. To this end, legal measures should be formulated to prevent violence and to assist women victims. National machinery should be established in order to deal with the question of violence against women within family and society, preventive policies should be elaborated and institutionalized forms of assistance to women victims provided. Overcoming the problems of violence would involve, a massive education programme including teaching society equality between men and women and the police, legislation and judiciary addressing all sort of violence as crime.

References


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