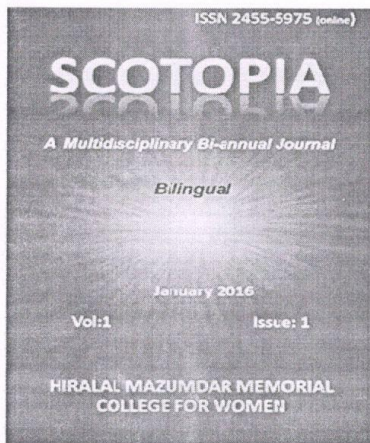




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VIOLENCE IN PUBLIC PLACES: A CASE STUDY OF YOUNG WOMEN OF BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH IN INDIA

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Abstract

Some women in India have made progress and reached the highest positions in politics, sports, business and education. However the larger society remains patriarchal, feudal, traditional and male dominated and looks down upon women. Especially in north India men view women as commodities to be enjoyed and harassed at home as well as in public spaces. It is believed that almost every middle class and lower class woman in India has faced molestation and harassment at public places. Experiences of abusive and vulgar language and actions and indecent touching of sensitive areas of bodies in crowded buses, trains, markets, picture halls, roads, colleges are very common for young women living in north India. However most of these unpleasant experiences get unreported to the authorities and families as young women realize the bitter truth that if they will complain they will be blamed for wearing attractive dresses and makeup or going out all alone at odd hours etc and as a result their freedom to move around freely will be restricted by the family. However these unpleasant experiences become hurdles in the life of young women and create an atmosphere of fear among them. A study was conducted on 62 women students of M Phil studying at Banasthali Vidyapith, a university for women located in rural area of Rajasthan near Jaipur, to find out the reality in 2008.

Key Words: *violence, women, public space, harassment.*

Introduction