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SPEAKING FOR CHANGE: WOMEN'S SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In many cities women and girls face violence not only in their homes and in relationships, but also in public spaces due to poor urban design and poor management of public spaces. Whether it is due to threats, intimidation, harassment, sexual attacks or rape, all aggression seriously inhibits women from moving around the city because they feel unsafe. Women and girls are often targets of violence due to their vulnerability, and this vulnerability perpetuates their position in society. A major challenge in India is ensuring the safety of one - half of its citizens. The case for ensuring safety of women gains special significance in this era of planning for an inclusive society. It is not uncommon to find that experiences of women in a India are significantly different from their male counterparts. This happens in spite of the fact that numerically, women are almost the same as men. These approaches result in debarring women from exercising their fundamental rights as citizens. But more importantly, they hinder their spontaneity in carrying out normal activities. The present paper is an attempt to highlight violence against women and suggests some measures to prevent these crimes.

Keywords: *Safety, Empowerment, Violence, Crimes*
