

# Media Report

January 2019



## NO MORE BOUNDARIES Baseline Survey Narrative Analysis



The state of Haryana has been on the wrong end of the news in recent years, and rightly so, for the high number of cases of violence against women. The statistics do not make for good reading - 1.6 gangrapes for every one lakh women (National Crime Records Bureau, 2015), 1.9 dowry deaths per lakh population and the third-highest rate in India regarding in stalking women at 2.7 cases per lakh population. On the parameter of female literacy however, we see that Haryana's female literacy rate (75.4%) is much better than the national average (68.4%). But when it comes to employment, the figures reveal the true story. Women's restricted mobility and access to public places especially in rural Haryana is one of the major factors affecting their participation in the workforce.

With this in mind, PRIA and Martha Farrell Foundation conducted a baseline survey with 1225 participants (641 boys and 584 girls) in 10 schools and 5 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) of Sonapat, Haryana as part of the [#NoMoreBoundaries](#) project, sponsored by Ab in Bev. In schools, students from classes 9-12th participated in the programme whereas in the ITIs both young girls and boys pursuing various courses took the survey.

### **Key Findings from the Report**

#### **Section 1: Perceptions on Violence Against Women in Public spaces**

**Winking, whistling, passing comments at girls are harmless and a part of a teenage boy's growing up process.**

It was found that 60% of total participants said "No" to the above statement. This is a positive indication that a higher number of males at 62% said no as opposed to females at 58%. On further enquiry, it was found that more young girls at 41% (between ages of 13 to 15) had reacted positively (Yes and maybe) to the statement than young boys at 35%. Furthermore, it was found that a majority percentage (64%) of girls (in the 18 years or above category) reacted positively to the statement. All of the girls in this category study at the ITIs.

**A girl invites eve teasing by man and boys only because of their provocative dress or behaviour**

In response to the above statement, it was found that a majority of boys at 56% (yes and maybe) answered affirmatively to the opinion that provocative clothing is responsible for women's harassment. Even though a majority of girls (51%) do not support the statement, this is countered by the substantial percentage (49%) who does think affirmatively about the statement. Within the younger age groups, that of 13-15 and 16-18, more boys agreed to the above statement whereas majority of girls answered otherwise. In the above 18 age group, both girls and boys said no with a majority of 55% and 53% respectively.

**Pooja is teased by a group of boys every day on her way to the school. She doesn't tell her family as she fears they will stop sending her to school. Do you think Pooja is right in doing so?**

This statement directly references the dilemma of young girls facing harassment when they are attempting to access public spaces. Interestingly, 85% of the boys and girls interviewed, believed that Pooja should tell her parents about the harassment that she is facing. This opinion was held by a higher number of young girls with 87%, than young boys. (84%)

**Section 2: Perceptions about Customary Practices in the Community and the household**

**It is okay for the man's family to charge dowry from the girl**

Encouragingly, 20% of young boys and 17% of young girls answered positively to the statement. A large majority of both girls and boys (81%) did not agree with the tradition of dowry. However, this could be subject to change in the near future as the number of males who agreed with the practice of dowry increased with the increase in age. Interestingly, this runs counter to that of the young girls, because as their age increased, so did the tendency to say no to the above statement.

**A man has the right to tell his wife what she can do and what she cannot.**

A majority of boys and girls 58% agree with the statement. Additionally, more young boys than young girls have shown their acceptance towards the defined gender role. 35% of young girls and boys disagreed with the statement, which could be sign of the change in attitudes. What is worrying is that the number of women who agree to the above statement seems to increase as they grow older. It begins with 50% in the 13-15 age bracket, 57% in the 16-18 group and then it shoots up to 82% in the 18 and above age group.

**It is okay for the wife to earn more than the husband.**

The overall affirmative response by boys and girls (55%) is a very promising sign. It was also encouraging to see girls across all age groups overwhelmingly answer in agreement to the above statement. But at the same time, the response from the boys were generally mixed, with 46%, 33% and 21% saying yes, no and maybe respectively to the above statement.

**It is okay for the husband to hit his wife to discipline her if the dinner is served a little late or if the food doesn't have salt.**

67% boys and 78% of all young girls interviewed answered in the negative to the question. While these may seem like great numbers, it is hardly an improvement over the results obtained from a previous survey conducted by PRIA, where it was found that 90% of boys and girls did not agree with the statement, and of these, 88% were the opinion of boys and 90% was the opinion of the girls. (PRIA, 2015) A large minority (almost 1/5<sup>th</sup>) of the total participants surveyed answered yes to the given statement, but what is definitely encouraging is that as their age increases, both boys and girls begin to develop the voice to say no to domestic violence.

**A woman's greatest happiness lies in taking care of her family.**

This statement was asked to understand the attitudes towards traditional gender roles among the youth of Haryana. It was found that a large percentage, 85% boys and 91% of young girls, agreed to this statement, thus indicating that they adhere to the gender roles ascribed to a woman within the household. It was intriguing to notice that 100% of all the girls who were 18 and above answered positively to the above statement.

### **Section 3: Awareness on Adolescent Health**

#### **What do you know about menstruation in women?**

The fact that a large majority of the participants (72%) answered “nothing” or “little” with girls performing just a few percentage points better than the boys (63% vs 80%) speaks volumes about the lack of adolescent sex education and reproductive health awareness in school. Furthermore, if we look at the age-based data, 64% of the girls in the 13-15 age brackets and 56% of the girls in the 16-18 age brackets admitted that they have little to no information regarding menstruation.

### **Section 4: Perceptions about Gender Roles**

All the participants including young boys and young girls were asked to list down the things that both of the genders can't do. The following findings emerged from the above:

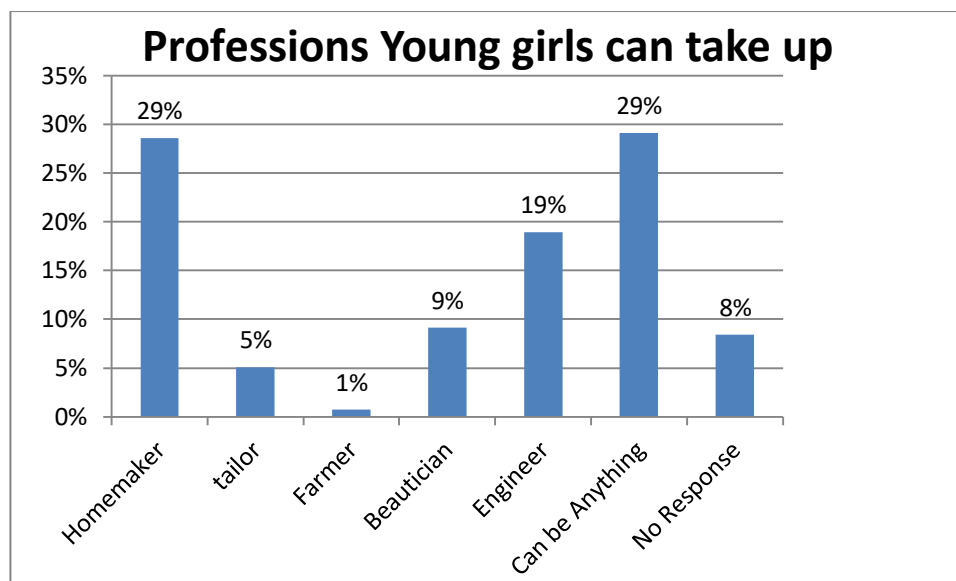
- **Boys can do anything but domestic chores**  
A lot of the boys when asked the question answered that “boys can do anything” but when asked about domestic chores such as sweeping, cooking, taking care of the house etc. a lot of the boys answered in the negative.
- **Access to Public Space**  
This question emphasises the main crux of this report, which is a woman's inability to access public spaces. There is a fear of violence coupled with age-old social norms which impose certain restrictions on a woman to loiter around, without having a predetermined “reason” such as shopping, dropping children to school, etc.
- **Harassment, Violence and Power**  
Due to their “lack of physicality”, a large number of boys expressed that only boys were capable of violent crimes such as rape and murder, and that girls were not capable of abusing, eve-teasing, harassing or having alcohol.

## Section 5: Access to Livelihood Opportunities

### **Women should not take up jobs which involves Travelling**

53% of the youth (53% of all boys) did not show support to the above statement indicating that they think that women **should** avail of employment opportunities which involve travelling and accessing public spaces. But at the same time, 47% overall agreed to the above statement including 35% of all boys and 34% of all the females. In the 18 and above age bracket, which is composed mostly of people enrolled in the ITIs, the break up was similarly close, as 54% of all males and 51% of all the females agreed with the statement that women **should not** take up employment which involves considerable travel.

### **Beliefs about participation in Stereotypical Career choices**



Out of the 92% youth who answered the survey, 43% feel that young girls can only take up jobs as Homemaker, Tailor and Beautician. The latter two are the stereotypical work opportunities that the youth see women doing around them. It is interesting to note that the option of being a ‘home maker’ received majority of the responses (29%) among the above. At the same time though, the option that girls could be anything received the same percentage of votes, which shows a society that is in two minds about what it wants its women to be. A further 19% were also of the opinion that women could become engineers, a typically male-dominated career-choice.

## **Conclusion**

Rural Haryana is a society where spaces for young boys and girls are specifically demarcated according to their gender as is evident by their perceptions and beliefs. This study, which explores the attitudes and perceptions of youths in the context of Violence against Women in public places, indicates as much. Intriguingly, a lot of the results are extremely close, suggesting a society which is in the midst of a dilemma, whether to keep hold of the old traditions and norms or to adapt to the new senses of morality and liberty that modernity has prescribed. Only time will tell which direction Haryana might swing but despite the eventualities, it is of utmost importance to create safe spaces for women and young girls to explore their personhood.

## Bibliography

- **National Crime Record Bureau**  
<http://ncrb.nic.in/StatPublications/CII/CII2015/chapters/Chapter%205-15.11.16.pdf>
- **National Family Health Statistics 2015-16**
  - [http://rchiips.org/NFHS/pdf/NFHS4/HR\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://rchiips.org/NFHS/pdf/NFHS4/HR_FactSheet.pdf)
- **Economy Report, GOI**
  - [http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/reports\\_and\\_publication/statistical\\_publication/social\\_statistics/Chapter\\_4.pdf](http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/reports_and_publication/statistical_publication/social_statistics/Chapter_4.pdf)
- **PRIA, “How Safe are we?” (2015) Report of Youth led Safety Audit conducted in Sonapat Haryana**
- **The Times of India** . (2013 , February 27). Crimes against women up in Haryana . Retrieved March 17, 2015, from India :  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Crime-against-women-up-in-Haryana/articleshow/18703170.cms>
- **Vikalp Sanstha**, “ Working with Young Child Brides”  
<http://vikalpindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Working-With-Young-Child-Brides.pdf>
- **Ghosh Munmun, Ghosh Arindam** (2014), “Analysis of Women’s Participation in Agriculture” IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)Volume 19, Issue 5, Ver. IV(May. 2014), PP 01-06e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845
- **Phadke Shilpa**, (2011), “Why Loiter?: Women and Risk on Mumbai Streets
- **International Labour Organization**, “Employment by Status in Employment Report”  
[http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_STE\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_STE_EN.pdf)



© 2019 PRIA. The text may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes, provided credit is given to PRIA. To obtain permission for uses beyond those outlined in the Creative Commons license, please contact PRIA Library at [library@pria.org](mailto:library@pria.org). Please use the following citation:

**PRIA (2019). Research Report: No More Boundaries: Baseline Survey Narrative Analysis**



**Participatory Research in Asia/Martha Farrell Foundation**

42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110062

Ph:+91-011-29960931/32/33

Web: [www.pria.org](http://www.pria.org) / [www.marthafarrellfoundation.org](http://www.marthafarrellfoundation.org)