

# SATAT- ONGOING PROJECT



## Free of Violence Safe Metropolitan Spaces for Women and Girls: A Study in Delhi



**STOP**  
Violence Against Women

### OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the proposed project is to make the city of Delhi safer for women. At the same time, it can also provide a model to be adopted and adapted by other cities

### Specific Objectives

To study the perceptions of Safe and Unsafe Zones by women

To understand the notions of being unsafe and the vulnerabilities of different women from different socio-economic strata.

To understand what "safety" means to women/ girls and other vulnerable groups

To undertake a Vulnerability Mapping through the survey building in/on the experiences of violence, the perceptions of Safe/ Unsafe for different categories of women

## Statement of the Problem

Over the last few years, the issue of women and girls' safety and social security has come to the forefront in different parts of India. Everyday there are newspaper reports about the harassment and insecurity that women and girls face in India and the constant state of 'fear' that they have to live in. Women and girls are vulnerable to violence both within and outside the home- especially in streets, squares, parks, urban slums and public transport systems. This lack of safety for women, both experienced and perceived, significantly undermines their '**Right to the City**' – the right to move around freely; to use and access public spaces and services; to make choices about their place of residence, work, or leisure; and more broadly, to make the best of the opportunities the city has to offer.

### Conceptual Framework

Patriarchy:

Gender Violence and Security

Social Security

Vulnerability

Power Relations: Women' decision making, safety, security, and their perceptions about safety security, violence: domestic (private homes,) public places,

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## About the project

The present project focuses on violence in the public domain, including sexual harassment; staring, physical and sexual assault, rape, stalking, passing lewd comments etc. Women and girls experience various forms of sexual harassment, molestation and violence in public spaces, and often fail to report it due to fear of censure or restriction of movement by their families, or simply because they believe the issue would be trivialised by the police. Some groups of women are particularly vulnerable, for example women hawkers, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) or call centre workers, and journalists. Some areas, such as unlit or secluded spaces, are perceived as more dangerous, although most women note that they could be harassed at virtually any time of the day or night. These forms of violence demand different responses and strategies precisely because of their location in the public space. These are all not just governance issues which can be addressed through short and medium-term policy interventions, improved infrastructure, advocacy, training and capacity building but sociological and anthropological understanding of social values and culture needs to be explored. The study will be qualitative and quantitative in nature across cross section of respondents in Delhi.

Constitutional law of India acts as guardian and protector of dignity of women (A-21) and contains numerous provisions (A-14, 15(4), DPSP) in this regard. Indian penal code having a number of provisions (s-375,354,498A), Domestic Violence Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, Medical Termination of Pregnancy

