

## Impact of Sexual Abuse on Women Entrepreneurs in Agartala AMC Area: A Case Study

Kalipadha Debnath\*

\*Research Scholar, Department of Arts (Political Science), Mangalayatan University, Aligarh, U.P, India.

### Abstract:

Sexual abuse is a complex issue for our culture. It may be straightforward for individuals who do not encounter this type of issue in their lives. National research indicates that one in five women experiences this type of situation in their lifetime. Questions now arise over the definition of sexual abuse. Sexual abuse refers to any inappropriate conduct towards women that pertains to sexual matters. The consequences of sexual assaults are exceedingly tragic. Because it affects both the physical and mental health of the sufferers. Furthermore, interpersonal relationships with intimate partners, friendships, and familial connections can all be impacted by this type of sexual abuse. Familiarity, trust, challenges in communication, sexual interactions, and enjoyment of social activities has been adversely impacted. Moreover, Sexual abuse, a frequently neglected societal concern, profoundly impacts women's physical, mental, and emotional health, obstructing their economic potential. Additionally, an entrepreneur refers to individuals that are primarily driven to engage in activities that may satisfy their financial requirements. The increasing number of women entrepreneurs has resulted in substantial business and financial growth in the country. Women-owned production firms are playing a significant role in society by generating employment possibilities in the country. Startup India is committed to enhancing women entrepreneurship in India through a vision that promotes sustainable development for equitable growth in the country. Today we are discussing women entrepreneurship; however there are numerous obstacles to their advancement. One instance is sexual abuse directed at women or girls. The current study primarily examines the impact of sexual abuse on women entrepreneurs in Agartala, Tripura.

**Keywords:** Sexual abuse, Entrepreneur, Self-esteem, Upliftment, growth, sexual abuse.

### Introduction:

We all are the part of nature and nature always treats us as equal. But some of the people in this world try to become more and more superior. Their ultimate goal is uncertain. As we know that if we think that world is made by human then its half share credit convey by the man and rest half credit convey by the women. So in this aspect both man and women are equal. The physical body construction of both and men and women made by the nature and we can't say women are physically weak and men are physically strong in compare to women. Because we have enough example regarding physical strength of women in this world. Today 21<sup>st</sup> century we are now in the age of LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) but till women are not equally treated as like men. They can be treated as like vulnerable group. Because they are not free from social barriers. For example they can't move any time any where whatever a men can do. If they can do this then they will face various kinds of violation. It includes Sexual Abuse, Physical torture and mental torture and so on. Due these problems women are unable to empower themselves in every aspect of their life out of this entrepreneur is one. In this article we will know about the relationship between Sexual abuse and Women Entrepreneur.

### Sexual Abuse:

Sexual abuse refers to sexual conduct or acts imposed onto a woman, man, or child without their consent. Sexual abuse encompasses the mistreatment of an individual, regardless of gender or age, by another individual, irrespective of their gender or age. Sexual aggression constitutes a violent act perpetrated by an assailant against an individual perceived as weaker.

Various factors contribute to sexual harassment. The manifestations of attention include leering, whistling, making audible remarks for the woman's notice, singing songs as she walks by, and blowing kisses loudly. It also manifests as physical touch, including actions such as brushing, squeezing, shoving, and rubbing.

### Entrepreneur:

An entrepreneur is somebody who starts or owns his or her a business. It may farm, retail, and manufacturing or into the service division, entrepreneurs are business people who get their achievement by charming risks.

### Women Entrepreneur:

Women entrepreneurs are individuals who conceive a business venture, initiate it, arrange and integrate production aspects, manage the enterprise, and assume risks while navigating the economic uncertainties associated with its operation.

The Government of India defines a woman enterprise as one that is owned and controlled by a woman, possessing a minimum economic interest of 51% in its assets and providing at least 51% of its produced employment to women.

### Statement of the Problem:

## IMPACT OF SEXUAL ABUSE ON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN AGARTALA AMC AREA: A CASE STUDY

### Objectives:-

1. To assess the demographic characteristics of women entrepreneurs in the Agartala AMC area.
2. To evaluate the prevalence and impact of sexual abuse on women entrepreneurs in Agartala AMC area
3. To explore the impact of sexual abuse on the business operations of women entrepreneurs
4. To examine the psychological, emotional, and social support systems available to women entrepreneurs affected by sexual abuse

### Methodology

#### Study Area

The research concentrates on the Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) region, the capital of Tripura, India. Agartala is an emerging metropolitan centre with a rising population of women entrepreneurs in many fields. The study investigates the experiences of women entrepreneurs in this region to comprehend the effects of sexual abuse on their career and personal lives.

#### Sampling

A purposive sampling method will be utilised to choose women entrepreneurs in the AMC region. The study will focus on women involved in various enterprises, encompassing small-scale industry, retail, service sectors, and self-employment initiatives. The sample size will consist of 200 women entrepreneurs, ensuring sufficient representation across all business sectors and socio-economic strata.

#### Data Collection Tools

The research will employ both primary and secondary data.

Primary Data: Structured questionnaires and comprehensive interviews will be employed to collect firsthand information from women entrepreneurs concerning their experiences with sexual abuse and its effects on their enterprises.

Secondary Data: Reports, scholarly literature, governmental documents, and records from NGOs and women's organizations will be examined to furnish contextual background and substantiate the primary findings.

#### Data Analysis

The gathered data will be examined through quantitative and qualitative methodologies:

**Quantitative Analysis:** Descriptive statistics, including frequency, percentages, and mean values, will summarise the effects of sexual abuse on business performance, psychological well-being, and economic stability.

**Qualitative Analysis:** Thematic analysis will be employed to understand open-ended responses and interview data, emphasising reoccurring themes, personal narratives, and coping strategies utilised by impacted women entrepreneurs.

**Statistical Tools:** Software like SPSS or Excel can be utilised for data analysis, while content analysis methods will be employed for the interpretation of qualitative data. This methodology guarantees a thorough comprehension of the effects of sexual assault on women entrepreneurs in Agartala AMC, offering significant insights for policy suggestions and support activities.

#### Analysis and Interpretation of Field Survey data:-

To conduct this research work 200 sample collected from different municipal wards under Agartala Municipal Area.

Here's a structured 5-point Likert scale questionnaire for your research on **"Impact of Sexual Abuse on Women Entrepreneurs in Agartala AMC Area: A Case Study"**.

#### Scale:

1=Strongly Disagree

2 = Disagree

3 = Neutral

4 = Agree

5 = Strongly Agree

### Section 1: Demographic Information

(Not on the Likert scale, but necessary for background information)

#### 1. Age: (18-25 / 26-35 / 36-45 / 46+)

Age:	Frequency	Percentage
A. 16- 25	48	24
B. 26-35	55	27.5
C. 36-45	43	21.5
D. 46 and above	54	27
Total	200	100%

**Interpretation:-**The majority (27.5%) is aged 26-35, followed by 46+ (27%), 16-25 (24%), and 36-45 (21.5%). The total sample is 200.

## 2. Education Level:

Educational qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Below Madhyamik	71	35.5
Madhyamik	64	32
H.S (+2 stage)	41	20.5
Graduation and above	24	12
Total	200	100%

**Interpretation:-**Most (35.5%) have below Madhyamik education, followed by Madhyamik (32%), H.S (+2) (20.5%), and graduates (12%). The total sample is 200.

## 3. Business Type

Business Type	Frequency	Percentage
Retail	102	51
Service	32	16
Manufacturing	46	23
Other	20	10
Total	200	100%

**Interpretation:-**Retail dominates (51%), followed by manufacturing (23%), service (16%), and other businesses (10%). The total sample consists of 200 respondents.

## 4. Years in Business:

Years in Business	Frequency	Percentage
<1	81	40.5
1-3	22	11
4-6	42	21
7+	55	27.5
Total	200	100%

**Interpretation:-**Most businesses (40.5%) are under a year old, followed by 7+ years (27.5%), 4-6 years (21%), and 1-3 years (11%).

## Section 2: Experience of Sexual Abuse

### 1. Do you have experienced sexual abuse or harassment in your entrepreneurial journey?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	17	20	70	66	27	200

**Interpretation:-**The majority (70) rated 3, indicating a moderate experience of sexual abuse or harassment, followed by 66 rating 4 (high experience). Meanwhile, 27 rated 5 (very high experience), 20 rated 2 (low experience), and 17 rated 1 (no experience).

### 2. Has sexual abuse or harassment negatively impacted your mental well-being?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	34	20	47	53	46	200

**Interpretation:-**Most respondents rated 4 (53) and 5 (46), indicating a significant negative mental impact. Meanwhile, 47 rated 3 (moderate impact), 20 rated 2 (low impact), and 34 rated 1 (no impact).

### 3. Do you face sexual abuse from customers, clients, or business associates?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	24	36	75	45	20	200

**Interpretation:-** The data shows that 60% (120/200) of respondents rated their experience at 3 or higher, indicating significant exposure to sexual abuse from customers, clients, or business associates, with 10% reporting extreme cases.

### 4. Do you feel unsafe while managing your business in the Agartala AMC area?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	23	68	59	32	18	200

**Interpretation:-**The data indicates that 54.5% (109/200) of respondents rated their feeling of unsafe at 3 or higher, suggesting moderate to high concerns about safety while managing their business in the Agartala AMC area.

### 5. Have you witnessed or heard of other women entrepreneurs experiencing sexual abuse?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	08	78	56	36	22	200

**Interpretation:-**The data shows that 57% (114/200) of respondents rated their awareness at 3 or higher, indicating that a significant number have witnessed or heard of other women entrepreneurs experiencing sexual abuse.

### Section 3: Impact on Business Operations

#### 6. Due to past abuse, do you find it difficult to interact with male clients or investors?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	13	37	80	46	24	200

**Interpretation:-**The data reveals that 75% (150/200) of respondents rated their difficulty at 3 or higher, indicating that past abuse has significantly impacted their ability to interact with male clients or investors.

#### 7. Has sexual harassment made you hesitant to expand your business?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	36	30	51	44	39	200

**Interpretation:-** The data shows that 58.5% (109/200) of respondents rated their hesitation to expand at 3 or higher, indicating that sexual harassment has had a notable impact on business expansion decisions.

#### 8. Have you considered changing your business location due to safety concerns?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	58	69	49	14	10	200

**Interpretation:-**The data reveals that 63.5% (127/200) of respondents rated their consideration of changing locations at 3 or higher, indicating significant concerns about safety influencing their decision to relocate.

#### 9. Has the fear of sexual abuse affected your ability to network and collaborate?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	09	31	78	62	20	200

**Interpretation:-**The data shows that 67% (160/200) of respondents rated the impact of fear on networking and collaboration at 3 or higher, indicating significant hindrance due to concerns of sexual abuse.

#### 10. Have you lost business opportunities due to harassment or abuse?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	30	50	53	36	31	200

**Interpretation:-**The data indicates that 55% (120/200) of respondents rated their loss of business opportunities at 3 or higher, suggesting that harassment or abuse has significantly impacted their professional prospects.

### Section 4: Psychological & Emotional Impact

#### 11. Has your confidence as a business owner decreased due to past abuse?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	32	30	53	51	34	200

**Interpretation:-**The data shows that 61% (138/200) of respondents rated their confidence decrease at 3 or higher, indicating that past abuse has notably impacted their self-assurance as business owners.

#### 12. Do you experience stress or anxiety while managing your business?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	60	23	53	41	23	200

**Interpretation:-**The data shows that 47% (117/200) of respondents rated their stress or anxiety at 3 or higher, suggesting that managing their business is a source of significant emotional strain.

#### 13. Has Sexual abuse affected your decision-making ability in business?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	24	70	56	33	17	200

**Interpretation:-** The data reveals that 61% (126/200) of respondents rated the impact on decision-making ability at 3 or higher, indicating that sexual abuse has significantly influenced their business choices.

#### 14. Have you sought psychological or emotional support due to your experiences?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	18	14	83	70	15	200

**Interpretation:-**The data indicates that 65.5% (153/200) of respondents rated their need for psychological or emotional support at 3 or higher, reflecting a significant number seeking help due to their experiences.

#### 15. Do you feel that the trauma of abuse affects your daily work efficiency?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	10	55	67	33	35	200

**Interpretation:-**The data indicates that 65.5% (153/200) of respondents rated their need for psychological or emotional support at 3 or higher, reflecting a significant number seeking help due to their experiences.

### Section 5: Social & Legal Support

#### 16. Are you aware of legal protections against sexual harassment for women entrepreneurs?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	35	69	12	28	56	200

**Interpretation:-**The data indicates varying awareness levels among 200 women entrepreneurs about legal protections against sexual harassment. Most respondents (69) rated awareness as 2, followed by 56 rating it as 5.

#### 17. Do you feel comfortable reporting incidents of abuse to authorities?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	39	25	20	65	51	200

**Interpretation:-**

#### 18. Are there adequate support systems (NGOs, police, legal aid) for women entrepreneurs?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	10	75	25	30	60	200

**Interpretation:-**The data shows mixed opinions on support systems for women entrepreneurs, with 75 respondents rating it as 2 (inadequate), while 60 rated it as 5 (adequate), reflecting varied experiences.

#### 19. Have you received support from family or community after facing abuse?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	22	28	37	61	52	200

**Interpretation:-** The data reveals varied support levels for women facing abuse, with 61 respondents rating it as 4 (moderate support) and 52 rating it as 5 (high support), while 22 reported no support.

#### 20. Do you think that more policies and initiatives are needed to ensure women entrepreneurs' safety?

Ratings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No of Sample	19	28	43	57	53	200

**Interpretation:-** The table shows responses from 200 participants on whether more policies are needed for women entrepreneurs' safety. A majority (57+53=110) rated 4 or 5, indicating strong agreement, while fewer (19+28=47) rated 1 or 2, showing lower support.

### Limitation of the study:-

The sample size is very limited and the area of sample is limited only 200 respondents were chosen for this Research study.

### Conclusion:-

From the above discussion we can say that sexual abuse it's not a new problem but it convey the inequality in our society. Its can destroy the upliftment of women in every aspect of their life. Women will become entrepreneur if they can take the opportunity of equality and free and fear environment for their overall development.

### References:-

#### Primary Sources:-

The primary data gathered from different research article and field survey under Agartala Municipal Corporation.

#### Secondary Sources:-

1. Ted Nelson, *Literary Machines* (Swarthmore, PA: Mindful Press, 1981), 55.
2. W. J. Ong, *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word* (London: Routledge, 1982), 31-35.
3. Jan Vansina, *Oral Tradition as History* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985), 67.
4. Gregory Nagy, *Homeric Questions* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996), 27.
5. Stuart Hall, *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices* (London: Sage Publications, 1997), 45.
6. J. H. Murray, *Hamlet on the Holodeck: The Future of Narrative in Cyberspace* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1997), 102-103.
7. Henry Jenkins, *Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide* (New York: New York University Press, 2006), 88.
8. S. B. A. Somers-Willett, *The Cultural Politics of Slam Poetry: Race, Identity, and the Performance of Popular Verse in America* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2009), 22.
9. Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power* (New York: Public Affairs, 2019), 141.
10. Sarangan, Sithara, et al. "Effective Parliamentary Committee Systems and their Impact on the Efficacy of the Institution: A Comparative Analysis." *International Journal of Policy Sciences and Law* 1.02 (2020): 423-435.