

Análisis de la prevalencia y caracterización del acoso sexual técnico y declarado en las mujeres residentes en España: ¿cuáles son las consecuencias en el funcionamiento sexual femenino y la autoestima sexual?

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Resumen

El acoso sexual es un fenómeno complejo y multidimensional experimentado principalmente por mujeres, cuya prevalencia oscila entre un 13% y un 38%. La vivencia de experiencias sexuales negativas se relaciona con dificultades en el funcionamiento sexual. Los objetivos fueron: evaluar la prevalencia y caracterización de distintas conductas de victimización sexual y analizar cómo afectan en la sexualidad. Se administró una escala *ad hoc*, basada en la taxonomía del Instituto de la Mujer (2006) que evalúa 20 situaciones de acoso sexual técnico y declarado, el Índice de la Función Sexual Femenina de Rosen et al. (2000) y la versión breve validada en español por Wiederman y Allgeier (1993) de Sexuality Scale de Snell y Papini (1989) a 1286 participantes. Un total de 684 mujeres con edades comprendidas entre 18 y 68 años ($M=36,28$; $DT=9,62$) cumplían con los criterios de inclusión. Los resultados muestran una prevalencia de acoso sexual técnico leve, grave y muy grave entre 32-72%, 2%-42% y 7-37%, respectivamente. En su mayoría perpetrado por hombres desconocidos. La prevalencia de acoso sexual declarado oscila entre 47-95%. El miedo (86%), la ira (47%) y la tristeza (21%) fueron las emociones más prevalentes. Se encontraron relaciones negativas estadísticamente significativas entre frecuencia de acoso sexual técnico y funcionamiento sexual, siendo los dominios dolor y orgasmo (entre .094 y .222) los más perjudicados. Se encontró una relación positiva estadísticamente significativa entre acoso sexual técnico en situaciones más leves y deseo sexual (entre .088 y .189) y autoestima sexual (entre .105 y .140). En conclusión, existe una prevalencia mayor de la esperada y no solo las situaciones más graves tienen un impacto negativo en la sexualidad femenina. Se plantea la necesidad de actuar desde los distintos niveles de intervención: concienciando y sensibilizando, actuando sobre factores de riesgo y procurando reducir las consecuencias en la víctima.

Palabras clave: acoso sexual técnico, acoso sexual declarado, victimización sexual, percepción acoso sexual, mujeres.

Analysis of the prevalence and characterization of technical and declared sexual harassment among women residents in Spain: what are the consequences on the female sexual function and sexual self-esteem?

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Abstract

Sexual harassment is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon experienced mainly by women, whose prevalence ranges from 13% to 38%. Negative sexual experiences are usually associated with difficulties in sexual functioning. The aims were to assess the prevalence and characterization of different sexual victimization behaviours and analyse how they impact on sexuality. An *ad hoc* scale was administered, based on the taxonomy of the Spanish Institute for Women (2006), which assesses 20 situations of technical and declared sexual harassment, the Female Sexual Function Index by Rosen et al. (2000) and the short version validated in Spanish by Wiederman and Allgeier (1993) of Sexuality Scale by Snell and Papini (1989) to 1286 participants. A total of 684 women between the ages of 18 and 68 years old ($M=36.28$; $SD=9.62$) met the inclusion criteria. The results show a prevalence of mild, serious and very serious technical sexual harassment between 32-72%, 2%-42% and 7-37%, respectively. It is mostly perpetrated by strangers. The prevalence of declared sexual harassment ranges from 47-95%. Fear (86%), anger (47%) and sadness (21%) were the most prevalent emotions. Statistically, significant negative correlations were found between frequency of technical sexual harassment and sexual functioning, pain and orgasm domains (between .094 and .222) were the most affected. A statistically significant positive correlation was found, as well, between technical sexual harassment in milder situations and sexual desire (between .088 and .189) and sexual self-esteem (between .105 and .140). In conclusion, there is a higher than expected prevalence and not only the most severe behaviours have a negative impact on female sexuality. It has been set the need to act from the different levels of intervention: raising awareness and sensitizing, acting on risk factors and trying to reduce the consequences on the victim.

Keywords: technical sexual harassment, declared sexual harassment, sexual victimization, perception of sexual harassment, women.

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INTRODUCTION



HYPOTHESIS



Sexual harassment is a phenomenon frequently experienced, especially by women. In the last 12 months, between 13% and 38% of women in Europe have experienced some kind of sexual harassment (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2015). It is a complex phenomenon which is difficult to define due to the wide variability and subjectivity of the situations that compose it (Spanish Institute for Women, 2006). Sexual functioning could be damaged by unwanted sexual experiences (Kelley & Gidycz, 2019).

H1: More than 30% will have suffered sexual victimization, the most subtle modalities will be more frequent, perpetrated by unknown men, expressing emotions of anger and fear.

H2: The most serious situations will be related to difficulties in orgasm and sexual pain, and sexual self-esteem.

AIMS

To assess the prevalence and characterization of sexual harassment situations of different severity.

To analyse how sexual harassment affects sexual functioning and sexual self-esteem.

SAMPLE

Initial sample size = 1286

- ✓ Woman
- ✓ Adulthood
- ✓ Resident in Spain
- ✓ Clinical variables
- ✓ Criteria variables



Final sample size = 684
(M=36.28; SD=9.62)

- Education level: 69% higher education
- Main occupation: 62% working
- Nationality: 93.4% Spanish
- Wide representation

INSTRUMENTS

- Ad hoc scale based on the taxonomy developed by the Spanish Institute for Women (2006) that values 20 situations of technical and declared sexual harassment of different severity.
- Non-validated adaptation of Salusex UJI of the Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) by Rosen et al. (2000) assessing desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction and pain.
- Sexual self-esteem subscale from Wiederman and Allgeier's short version (1993) validated in Spanish from Sexuality Scale (SS) by Snell and Papini (1989).

METHOD

PROCEDURE

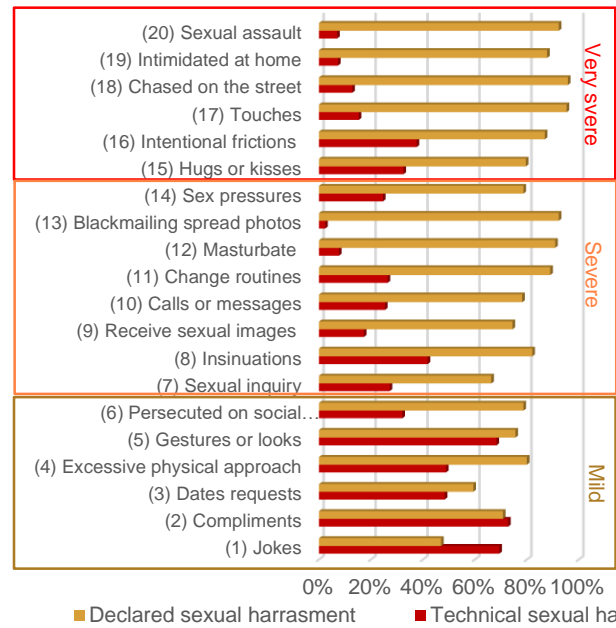
- Pilot test
- Collection and dissemination using Qualtrics platform,
- Informed consent, anonymous and voluntary participation in compliance with data protection regulations.

STATISTICS ANALYSIS

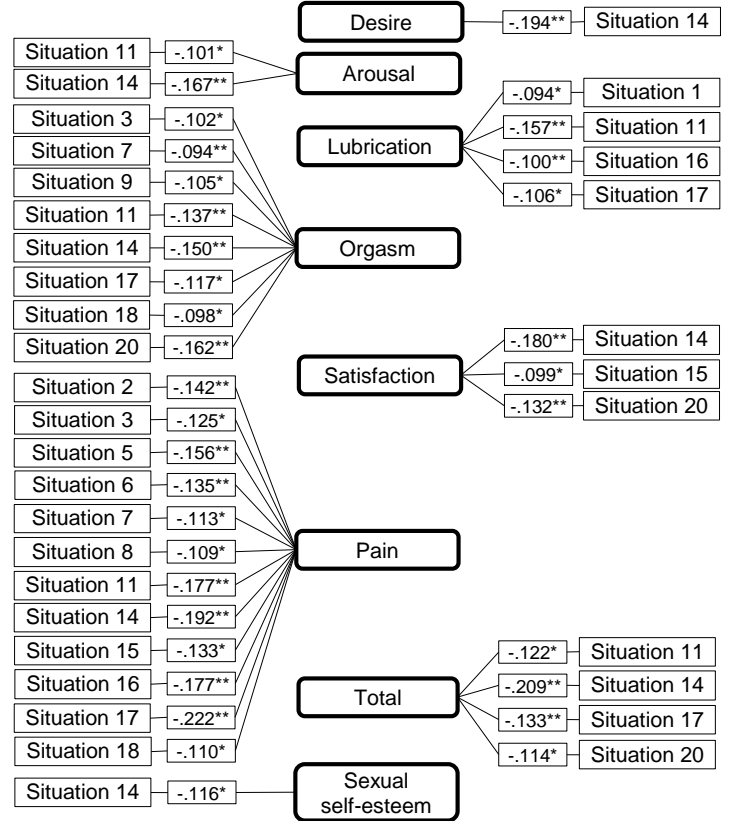
- ▶ H1: descriptive analysis
- ▶ H2: T-Test and Spearman correlation

RESULTS

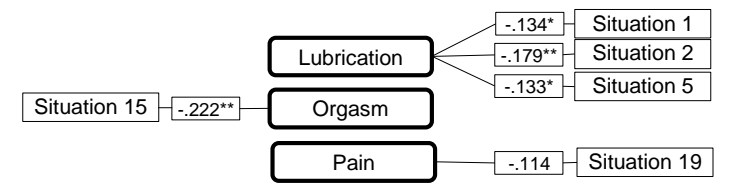
Technical and declared sexual harassment



Relationship between frequency of technical harassment and domains of sexual function



Relationship between frequency of declared harassment and domains of sexual function



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- The prevalence found is higher than the study of European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2015), this may be due to the different number of situations contemplated.
- In line with previous research, the most frequent forms of victimization are those categorized as mild, mostly perpetrated by strangers. Possibly because society is based on an ideological background that favours, justifies and normalizes the more subtle behaviours (Spanish Institute for Women, 2006; Herrera, Herrera, & Expósito, 2018).
- The relationship found between technical sexual harassment and sexual functioning shows that the most serious experiences of victimization are not necessarily the ones that cause the worst consequences. These consequences vary depending on their severity and on the victim (Guerrero, 2015; Pina & Gannon, 2012).
- Limitations: complexity of the phenomenon, non-validated questionnaire, wide age range and cultural diversity
- This research shows the importance of taking into consideration the wide range of situations that compose sexual harassment and the need to be aware of this problem so present in our society, revealing the importance of designing prevention and intervention programs that fit the reality of this phenomenon.

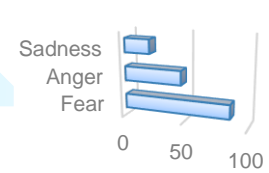
Sex of the stalker



Victim-harasser relationship



Emotions



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