

An Indian-Australian research partnership

Project Title:

Preventing Sexual Harassment in Indian Public Transport Spaces through Gender-Sensitive Co-Design with Women and Girls

Project Number

ID00897

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Research Clusters:

Research Themes:

Highlight which of the Academy's CLUSTERS this project will address? <i>(Please nominate JUST one. For more information, see www.iitbmonash.org)</i>		Highlight which of the Academy's Theme(s) this project will address? <i>(Feel free to nominate more than one. For more information, see www.iitbmonash.org)</i>	
1	Material Science/Engineering (including Nano, Metallurgy)	1	Advanced computational engineering, simulation and manufacture
2	Energy, Green Chem, Chemistry, Catalysis, Reaction Eng	2	Infrastructure Engineering
3	Math, CFD, Modelling, Manufacturing	3	Clean Energy
4	CSE, IT, Optimisation, Data, Sensors, Systems, Signal Processing, Control	4	Water
5	Earth Sciences and Civil Engineering (Geo, Water, Climate)	5	Nanotechnology
6	Bio, Stem Cells, Bio Chem, Pharma, Food	6	Biotechnology and Stem Cell Research
7	Semi-Conductors, Optics, Photonics, Networks, Telecomm, Power Eng	7	Humanities and social sciences
8	HSS, Design, Management	8	Design

The research problem

In 2018 the [Free to Be](#) project documented the urban experiences of women and girls in Delhi. This research sought to understand more about the experiences of girls and young women. *Free to Be* enabled young women to identify and share the location of public spaces that make them feel uneasy and scared or happy and safe. It was designed in collaboration with Crowdspot, Monash University XYX Lab and young women within the city. As well as Delhi, Free to Be has been implemented in Kampala, Lima, Madrid, Melbourne and Sydney.

The majority of the young women and girls from Delhi who participated in the research experienced many forms of sexual harassment on the streets of their city and when accessing public transport spaces. This was spread across the city and exacerbated by the high population density and number of people in transit. Apart from the clear distress that the harassment causes, there are serious consequences as to how women and girls can navigate the city, as it affected their ability to move around and access education and employment. In a number of instances the young women and girls stopped their study, quit work or moved house as a result of their experiences. The majority avoid certain parts of the city if they are on their own, or simply never go back there. Just under one-quarter of the young women and girls noted that they were used to harassment because it happens so frequently. The implications of this are that harassment is endemic in the populace and too often embedded in the very fabric of the city. For Delhi to be accessible to all who live there, this needs to be addressed.

Based on the findings of *Free to Be Delhi*, girls and young women and the Monash University XYX Lab made the following recommendations:

1. Safe spaces for girls and young women: dedicated spaces where young women and girls can go to and feel welcome and safe, away from constant concerns about the risks around them
2. Cities free of harassment: ensuring a zero-tolerance approach to harassment, through education and

enforcement, which allows girls and young women to move around freely

3. Sensitisation of police: Police and other law enforcement officials need to be aware of issues of harassment and support girls and women during the process. This requires improved awareness and education of service providers on these issues, as well as ensuring local law provide adequate protection.
4. Improved transportation: Given the high levels of risk on and around public transport systems, girls and young women want to see transport systems work more effectively for them, be cleaner and safer spaces with fewer risks from crowds.
5. Improved infrastructure: Good security, lighting and facilities, public toilets and sign posts were all noted by girls as essential to improving experiences of their cities.
6. Changing the attitudes of boys and men: Interventions which focus on engaging with boys and men and their attitudes towards safety for women
7. Particular considerations for the most vulnerable: there is a gap in knowledge about groups of vulnerable children, such as child domestic workers and street children, and those trafficked from other states to Delhi. Better data on the situation of these children, particularly young women and girls, and their experiences in public spaces would allow stronger understanding and programming to support them and prevent further violation and exclusions.

Project aims

The project will examine a series of hotspot in Dehli outlined in the 2018 report – New Dehli Railways Station, Pahargan and the Main Bazaar, Sadar Bazaar, Kashmere Gate and Chandi Chowk (socio-cultural and spatial conditions are identified and outlined below).

The specific aims of this project are to:

- Design new solutions to mitigate women and girl's experiences of sexual harassment in Indian public transport spaces
- Communicate the value of gender-sensitive solution-based approaches to urban public transport design and policy
- Engage women and girls in co-designing and contributing to public transport experiences
- Improve women's access to public transport space by designing and deploying a set of intersectional, gender-sensitive Toolkits to service providers and stakeholders

Case Study Sites:

New Delhi Railway Station - particularly along State Road

- Comments list crowding, the rush at busy periods and incidents such as sexual harassment.
- Central rail station
- 18 platforms
- Notable highly crowded, floating population

Paharganj along and around Main Bazaar

- Majority of pins do not include comments.
- Comments note eve-teasing, staring, stalking, 'bad experience', 'not safe.'
- Near centre of the city, bazaar & Central station with lots of low budget accommodation
- Transit area
- Lots of restaurants, cafes, backpackers, wholesale markets, dark alleys and lot of shops
- Notable highly crowded, floating population
- Many local businesses
- Overcrowding and anonymity provides cover for physical sexual harassment Sadar Bazar
- Comments note verbal harassment, crowded area, alcohol and drug consumption, eve-teasing, no security/lack of public help, touching, staring, theft.
- Market area with wholesale market, selling a range of products. Hard to access but affordable market so lots of shoppers go there
- Difficult to navigate for those unfamiliar with it
- Congested, so men take advantage
- Lots of hassling by sellers
- Hard to navigate

Kashmere Gate

- Contains a chief interstate bus terminal as well as a metro station where you can change between some of the metro lines
- Comments note theft, drug use, verbal abuse, touching, staring, 'cheap place,' not safe for girls.
- Floating, transitional population
- Crowded

Chandi Chowk

- Crucial part and the main street of Old Delhi
- The majority of comments list 'heavy rush' and theft.
- Large wholesale market place
- Prominent monuments
- Lots of alleys

Expected outcomes

The research findings will be communicated in a variety of ways, and accessible to a wide audience. The culminating output of the project will be a set of gender-sensitive public transport Toolkits – developed from the literature review, the interactive workshops and design thinking methods conducted during the project and the evidence of the varied interventions' effectiveness. The Toolkit/s will provide instruction for preventative strategies, and design and planning guidelines for public transport designers, and recommend any policy changes for public transport spaces in India.

- Toolkit A: for general public use, information, and dissemination. Available in hardcopy and on Monash And IITB University websites and agreed stakeholder websites.
- Toolkit B: for use by government and public transport service providers in policy development. For public dissemination in hardcopy and via government.
- Toolkit C: for use by Indian public transport stakeholders in future workshops around awareness training/awareness raising of the spatial factors of gendered sexual harassment on public transport in India. For public dissemination in hardcopy and via IITB and Monash University websites.

The Toolkits will be launched by both IITB and Monash University and Associate Professor Nicole Kalms (Monash). Key stakeholders will be present. Project team, participants, councils, affiliated organisations and press media will be invited.

How will the project address the Goals of the above Themes?

Describe how the project will address the goals of one or more of the 6 Themes listed above.

This proposed project will investigate more deeply aspects of the 2018 study with regard to:

- the gendered nature of safety design, space and strategies
- the perceived safety of the area around public transport spaces
- the lighting levels and infrastructural amenity of spaces
- the presence and gender of policing to enhance safety and reporting
- the safety issues when going to and from and waiting for public transport
- the perception of public transport spaces as more dangerous at night
- the number of incidents reported in broad daylight
- the impact of drug-affected or drunk people in public transport spaces

Potential RPC members from IITB and Monash

Provide names of the potential research progress committee members (RPC) and describe why they are most suited for the proposed project.

Capabilities and Degrees Required

List the ideal set of capabilities that a student should have for this project. Be as specific or as general as you like. These capabilities will be input into the online application form and students who opt for this project will be required to show that they can demonstrate these capabilities.

A foundational degree in Design, Architecture or Urban Design. Design knowledge and expertise and a high-level of ability in research, conceptual and writing skills

Select up to **(4)** keywords from the Academy's approved keyword list (**available at <http://www.iitbmonash.org/becoming-a-research-supervisor/>**) relating to this project to make it easier for the students to apply.

Public transport, gender, women, safety