

Women Safety Audit (WSA) Findings

Risks Factor Towards Women's Wellbeing

Combatting Gender Based Violence (CGBV) in Bangladesh project

A safe space for women is a place where women have secure access to their fundamental rights, information, essential services, and supports. In safe space, the women feel empowered and safer at any time. Combatting Gender Based Violence (CGBV) project in Bangladesh focuses on prevention of violence against women before it occurs. Creating a safe place for women in private and public domains is the key aspiration of the project outcomes. The Women Safety Audit has been conducted as part of the CGBV intervention involving stakeholders to identify key concerns and associated risks with women's safety in the project location.

Safety Walk is an effective tool in the Women Safety Audit (WSA) to increase awareness and protection for women and girls in indoor and outdoor. It helps decision-makers to understand how people experience violence in different manners. It gives validity to women's concerns and helps to build community safety. Therefore, Women's Safety Audit seeks to identify key concerns of safety and sexual violence against women and girls.

In the project, this tool was used to assess and explore the risk factors associated with safety of women at both public places (outside) and within workplace building (inside) and aimed to identify factors that lead to unsafety and come up with recommendations. This audit has been conducted at the Farid Group Factory and surrounding areas in Cumilla district.

Safety Walk Spots

The Farid Group factory is situated in the main road at Ramchandrapur, which is at the entrance of the Cumilla city and the bus stand and train station are located near to the factory. The Balutupa and Roghupur areas are adjacent to the factory.

General Information

Number of Workers: 304 (Male: 179; Female: 125)

Supervisor: 06 (Male: 06, Female: 00)

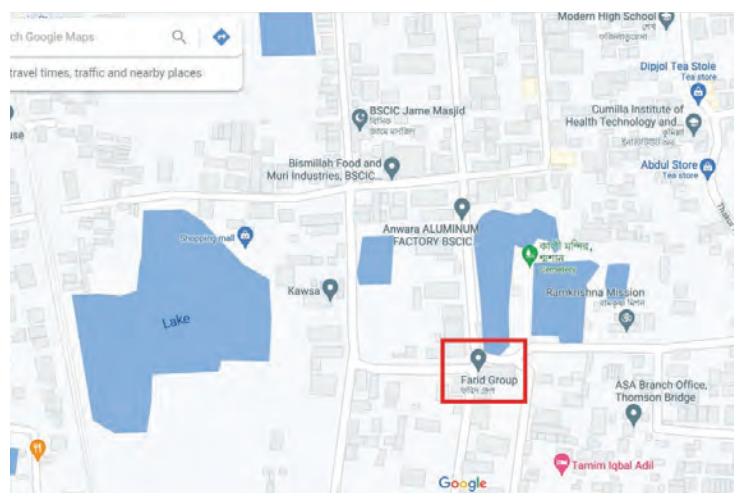
Security Guard: 07 (Male: 06, Female: 01)

Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee:

Yes (5 members)

Complain Box: Yes

Factory's location



The Findings

Risk Factors of Sexual Harassment at street during night

The importance level of security is HIGH.



Poor or no lighting

Limited or absent of proper streetlight makes the street vulnerable for women.



Poor infrastructure

Footpath and Zebra Crossing do not exist in front of the factory for crossing expressway that put women at risk



Lack of police patrolling

Police patrolling is an essential part on highway. As the factory is near to highway the non-existence of police patrolling is high risk if any harassment happens with women especially at night.



Non-existent Roadside traffic signals

The roadside traffic signal does not exist that puts women in risk during walk at night.



Garbage on walking roads

The unclean road and garbage reduce people's presence on walkway that increases vulnerability of women while walking at night.

Risk Factors of Sexual Harassment at street during night

The importance level of security is LOW



Not aware of emergency exit

The factory supervisor preserves the key. The workers are not aware about the emergency exit door as well as the key.



Poor Lighting

The lighting is not properly set especially in 2nd floor. It is dark which is a risk factor for women workers.

Safety measures to be taken to prevent Sexual harassment



At public space/around factory

1. The road infrastructure should be improved i.e.
 - Zebra crossing should be marked
 - Traffic signal should be placed
 - Number of streetlight should be increased
 - Footpath and foot over bridge should be built
2. Police patrolling should be placed and increased across the roads adjacent to bus stand and factory
3. 24 hours under surveillance camera in the factory and nearby walking areas.
4. Advocacy program on the prevention of sexual harassment should be arranged with transportation sector

At factory

1. Awareness about Complaint Committee should be raised among everyone.
2. Increase indoor lighting in some crucial places.
3. Separate washroom for Male and Female
4. 24 hours under surveillance camera
5. Availability of more female security guard
6. Training program should be arranged on Gender Based Violence for staff and management.
7. Complain box should be placed on visible areas.
8. Emergency door key should be at visible place and workers should get orientation on the use of emergency door and keys.