



ADDRESSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AGAINST WOMEN THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

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Introduction

Sexual harassment and violence against women remain serious real-world problems that affect millions globally and locally. In the Philippines, women experience various forms of abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological violence, often from intimate partners or within public and professional spaces. This issue is highly relevant as it directly impacts women's safety, mental health, productivity, and overall quality of life. Women of all ages and backgrounds are affected, particularly those aged 15–49, making it a widespread social and public health concern.

Problem Description

Violence and sexual harassment against women are rooted in gender inequality, lack of awareness, and underreporting due to fear, stigma, or limited access to support systems. According to the Philippine Commission on Women, 17.5% of Filipino women aged 15–49—approximately 4.8 million women—have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from an intimate partner. Many cases remain undocumented, making it difficult to assess the true scale of the problem. Challenges include victims' fear of retaliation, limited knowledge of legal rights, and insufficient reporting mechanisms, especially in marginalized communities.

Proposed Solution

A technology-enabled solution can help address this issue by providing accessible, confidential, and supportive platforms for women. The proposed solution is a mobile and web-based reporting and support system designed to empower women and improve awareness.

Key Features:

- Anonymous incident reporting
- Educational resources about women's rights and laws
- Emergency contact and hotline integration
- Data collection for trend analysis and policy support

Target Users:

- Women and girls at risk of harassment or violence
- Advocacy groups and support organizations
- Government agencies and policymakers

Expected Impact:

This solution aims to increase reporting, improve access to support services, raise awareness, and provide data-driven insights that can help reduce incidents of sexual harassment and violence against women.

Conclusion

Sexual harassment against women is a critical issue that requires both social and technological interventions. By leveraging technology to provide safe reporting channels and educational tools, this project demonstrates how IT solutions can foster awareness, empowerment, and prevention. The proposed system demonstrates the potential of technology to create positive social impact and support women's rights and safety.

