

**Assessing the Role of Crime Control Departments in Preventing Harassment in Urban Sargodha****Hafiz Muhammad Zaid Riasat<sup>1</sup>, Malik Kaleem Ullah<sup>2</sup>, Zain Ullah<sup>3</sup>**<sup>1</sup> BS Criminology, University of Sargodha. hafizmuhammadzaidriasat@gmail.com<sup>2</sup> Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of Sargodha. Kaleem.ullah@uos.edu.pk<sup>3</sup> BS Criminology, University of Sargodha. zainullah1214@gmail.com**DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70670/sra.v3i4.1497>****Abstract**

Despite the existence of legal frameworks and law enforcement processes, harassment in public spaces is nevertheless a persistent social problem in Pakistan. Crime Control Departments (CCDs) are essential for putting preventative measures into action, upholding the law, and guaranteeing public safety. This study looks at how well CCDs work to stop harassment in Sargodha city's urban regions. 300 respondents completed a structured questionnaire using a stratified random sample technique as part of a quantitative study design. Public opinions about the efficacy of law enforcement, awareness campaigns, institutional capability, reporting procedures, and sociocultural impediments were investigated using descriptive statistical analysis. The results show that despite the existence of legislative frameworks and increased public awareness, there are still large gaps in staff training, victim support, resource allocation, enforcement effectiveness, and interagency collaboration. Reporting is still discouraged by administrative delays, cultural stigma, and a lack of trust. The study comes to the conclusion that improving inter-agency cooperation, increasing community involvement, developing institutional capacity, and increasing transparency are crucial for better harassment prevention. For law enforcement organizations and legislators looking to improve public safety and gender protection measures, the results offer policy-relevant information.

**Keywords:** Harassment, Crime Control Department, Public Safety, Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Pakistan**1. Introduction**

Harassment is a pervasive issue that impacts both the social and private spheres in Sargodha's urban areas. It can take many different forms, including physical, verbal, sexual, psychological, and digital. Despite being widespread, it is underreported because of cultural issues, a general mistrust of government institutions, and fear of reprisals. Public spaces including markets, bus stations, parks, and educational institutions are often perceived as particularly unsafe, especially by women and young people. The Crime Control Department (CCD), which is made up of local police units, specialized harassment cells, and cybercrime wings, is in charge of upholding peace and order through strategies like regular patrols, surveillance, and law enforcement.

However, institutional capacity, training deficiencies, and sociocultural views often impede their success. Despite the existence of legislation like the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (2016) and the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010), their application is still uneven. The efficacy of these interventions is explicitly assessed in the urban setting of Sargodha City in this study.

## **2. Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

To comprehend harassment prevention, this study used a multi-theoretical approach:

### **Routine Activity Theory**

Asserts claims that effective guardians, like police monitoring and patrols, are essential to reducing the risk of crime. Community policing idea emphasizes the importance of local communities and law enforcement working together to make public spaces safer.

The Social Norms Theory examines how cultural norms impact harassment reporting processes and acceptance.

The conceptual framework sees CCD interventions like patrols, outreach, and policy enforcement as the independent variable and harassment prevention which includes fewer incidents, increased reporting, and public safety as the dependent variable.

### **Research Design**

A quantitative cross-sectional survey design was adopted to examine perceptions regarding CCD effectiveness in harassment prevention.

### **Population and Sample**

The population comprised urban residents of Sargodha city. Using stratified random sampling, 300 respondents were selected from markets, educational institutions, transport hubs, and residential areas.

### **Data Collection Tool**

A structured questionnaire based on a five-point Likert scale was used. It covered:

- CCD enforcement effectiveness
- Awareness and training programs
- Reporting mechanisms
- Victim support
- Public trust and collaboration

### **Awareness and Preventive Measures**

Less than half of those surveyed thought that educational initiatives and awareness efforts were regularly carried out. The lack of public awareness to these activities was reflected by neutral responses.

### **Demographic Profile**

Majority respondents were aged 18–35 years

- 72.3% were female
- Most respondents belonged to middle- and low-income groups
- Educational levels ranged from matric to postgraduate

### **Reporting and Investigation Mechanisms**

Only 41% found reporting systems accessible. Delays in investigations and lack of follow-up were highlighted as major concerns.

### **Institutional Capacity and Resource**

A significant proportion of respondents believed that CCDs lack sufficient resources, trained staff, and inter-agency coordination.

### **Social and Cultural Barriers**

About 38% of respondents said that reporting is discouraged by cultural shame, and a comparable percentage thought that there is a fear of reprisals. These results support the significant impact of social norms.

### **3. Literature Review: The "Implementation Gap" in Pakistan**

An analysis of twenty research conducted in Pakistan reveals a recurring disconnect between progressive legislation and its implementation.

#### **Legal Inconsistency**

According to Ali (2021) and Jaffery et al. (2024), even while laws appear sound, institutions are often unprepared to implement them, leading to scattered policy attempts.

#### **Operational Challenges**

While Abbas et al. (2024) point out that digital forensic procedures are frequently delayed, impeding prosecutions, Ahmed et al. (2019) discover that patrols routinely ignore street harassment.

#### **Training and Gender Sensitivity**

According to research by Bano and Malik (2019), the lack of "women's desks" and committed female officers at police stations greatly deters victims from coming forward.

#### **Trust and Stigma:**

Delays in filing formal complaints and perceptions of corruption erode public trust.

#### **Methods of Research Design**

A quantitative survey design was employed to provide unbiased statistical analysis.

#### **Population and Sampling**

The study concentrated on Sargodha's approximately 750,000 urban dwellers. A sample of 300 respondents was selected using stratified random selection to reflect various business, residential, and educational zones.

#### **Inclusion/Exclusion**

Participants were urban dwellers who frequently used public areas and were at least eighteen years old. To prevent professional bias, police and CCD officials were not included.

#### **Instrumentation**

Data was collected via a structured Likert-scale questionnaire, with reliability confirmed via a Cornbrash's Alpha score of 0.70 or higher.

### **5. Results and Data Analysis**

#### **5.1 Demographic Insights**

The sample was mostly young, with 83.3% of respondents being between the ages of 18 and 35. 72.3% of participants were women, making them the group most impacted by public harassment. Ninety-three percent of those surveyed had lower-middle-class incomes.

## **5.2 Operational and Policy Efficacy**

### **Policy Clarity**

56% of respondents felt that anti-harassment policies and legal procedures for reporting are clear.

### **Enforcement**

54.3% perceived the CCD as effective in law enforcement, though a significant 26% remained neutral, indicating a lack of consistent communication.

### **Resource Allocation**

Perception was critical here, as 45% of participants believed that resources for handling harassment cases are inadequate.

## **5.3 Hypothesis Testing (Pearson Correlation)**

The null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was rejected ( $p < 0.05$ ), confirming a significant relationship between CCD actions and harassment prevention.

### **Staff Training**

Showed the highest correlation ( $r = 0.61$ ) with service quality, indicating that professional development is the most critical factor for success.

### **Public Trust**

Higher policy enforcement correlated with increased community confidence ( $r = 0.52$ ).

### **Cultural Barriers**

Stigma and shame were positively linked to the avoidance of reporting ( $r = 0.44$ ).

## **6. Discussion and conclusion**

Despite Pakistan's robust legislative framework (PECA 2016, Harassment Act 2010), the study concludes that the "branches" of enforcement remain weak. Younger and more urbanized people in Sargodha are more aware of their rights, but 38% of victims remain silent for fear of social shame and retaliation. Lack of finance and specialized training for CCD staff are the primary institutional limitations.

## **7. Recommendations for Policy and Practice**

### **Mandatory Specialized Training**

CCD officers must undergo regular training on gender-sensitive investigation and trauma-informed care (the highest-impact factor per correlation data).

### **Resource Prioritization**

Increase the budget for dedicated harassment cells and improve digital forensic tools to speed up investigations.

### **Community-Centric Policing**

Establish dedicated desks for women staffed by female officers to build trust and increase reporting rates.

### **Awareness Consistency**

Move beyond sporadic campaigns to a sustained media and educational strategy to demystify legal procedures for the general public.

### **Increase Inter-Agency Collaboration**

Strengthen coordination between CCDs, NGOs, and legal institutions.

### **Ensure Accountability**

Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for case handling.

### **Promote Community Engagement**

Encourage citizen participation to build trust and confidence.

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