

## WOMEN AND VIOLENCE: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF “ME TOO MOVEMENT”

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### Abstract:

*This research is an attempt to understand the phenomena behind the women's construction of identity who have suffered from sexual violence and now are choosing to talk about it either by opening up in front of family, social media platforms or legal platforms. No specific group of age was focused in the study so that the study population is not restricted. Also, the number of cases that have been put forth of sexual violence does not specify any group of age, education, race, or gender. Therefore, one of the ways this topic was approached was to be open towards any possibility; there was no certainty of the accounts, the form of narratives, the nature of participant, the language and the responses. The research aimed to specifically focus on the use of discursive resources that are available to these women and how they choose to use these resources to construct and reconstruct their identities, especially after they have come forward with their stories.*

**Keywords:** Violence, Identity, Social Issue, Gender and Feminism

### Introduction:

Women's construction of identity makes the topic of special interest because of the recent viral movement of #Me too. It has brought forth so many accounts that it's alarming to see the level of problem. The goals of this research vary in nature. This research will allow us to view the problems women face while opening up, the consequences they face later; these consequences can be emotional, psychological, physiological, social, economic etc. One of the main goals is to be able to understand the narration of participants through their perspective in terms of how these women are making sense of the social processes. Thus when women make a decision to come forward with their stories there is a certain process that they go through. It is integral to understand this process as it determines the number of actions that are taken by women and the society altogether.

Furthermore, through this research a better understanding can be gained towards the ideology of feminism. Given the misconceptions of feminist ideology, the misconceptions create many restrictions for women who want to open up about their

story or take an action towards the assaulter. The social position of women have made them compromise for many years. In the present day we see many women fighting for that social position that would make others believe them. In order to ease this struggle, it is important to evaluate and assess the position of women through their narratives.

### **Significance of Research:**

Therefore this research will attempt to find answers regarding how victims of sexual abuse choose to narrate their experience, in terms of how they view themselves and how they position themselves in the society while narrating their story. In addition to this, this research will assess what factors determine victim's understanding regarding self and victimizer after the incident; in terms of the motives that they evaluate they have now as a victim and the victimizer might have had. Moreover, memory will also be viewed as a factor in determining the plausibility of the victim's accounts. Assessing the contradictions in accounts, their own reflexivity or interpretation regarding the incident would give a greater insight of victim's societal position in which they are being represented.

### **Research Statements:**

- How women are victims of Social Violence?
- How gender affects the identities?
- How concepts of Feminisms are twisted?

### **Research Methodology:**

To gain a better understanding towards this topic of study, a student of a university was interviewed. The name of participant cannot be used in this discussion to maintain their anonymity. To refer to the participant this research would use 'Person X' as an alternative for their name. Person X is a 22-year-old student who is currently doing her bachelors in the field of psychology and lives in Lahore, Pakistan. A word was spread in a close group of acquaintances to interview someone who might be willing to give an interview regarding sexual violence and how they came forward with their story. Person X volunteered to go through these interviews. Their consent was gained and interviews were scheduled for two consecutive days for one hour each.

Person X was interviewed for one main reason; that she herself volunteered to talk about her story in an interview. This is important because given the sensitive nature of matter, not everyone might have been comfortable talking about his or her stories. Knowing that Person X had not taken her story on social media platform or any legal platform made her a subject of interest. One of the reason is that because this case allowed to look upon the more basics of narration, in terms that when a victim decides to narrate their story, it's always in the closest vicinity that they choose to open up. The platform of narration also determines the type of narration, for instance stories that are brought forth on a social media platform might have a different approach, whereas telling a story to family member or group of friends might be completely different. Also, it's always the closest group of people that surprise you the most with their reactions when it comes to sensitive matters such as sexual violence. Hence, the reactions that an individual experience from close of group as compared to the reactions of people through social media posts vary.

Therefore, looking at this case from a very basic strategy seemed to be the most suitable way of approach to gain an understanding upon this matter.

### **Conceptual Framework:**

Understanding the phenomena of women's construction of identity, it can be viewed from various perspectives. This would involve the social interaction of women with society. The way women process and react towards certain information or events. Also, the social position that they hold given the provided resources.

Previously in participation observation where social media posts were viewed, various themes were derived through that specific narrative platform. The most common theme that was assumed to be present in these interviews was of believing women, the societal reaction of sexual violence, and women's social position. All of this can be well explained through theory of social identity theory (Tajfel, 1979). Basically, women have a certain role in the society, which is determined through biological gender. That particular role, and position in patriarchal society then develops the social identity of women. The given social identity of women is usually conformed by women so the way they process certain information and events, depend greatly on the environment that has been created for them by the patriarchal society.

According to George Herbert Mead (1934) concept of relationship between self and society; women have developed this relationship with society where due to their created social position they are greatly oppressed, thus there is a lack of believability towards women.

Despite of all these explanations through theories of feminism, social identity and social interaction that somehow explain women's position in the society and the way they construct themselves depends on their schemas that have been created with the influence of social identity and their gender. The research problem here is to understand that given the fact that women are well aware of the consequences they will face. There is this understanding that no one believes the victim, all they get to face is humiliation and negative consequences. Especially in case of women; most women in Pakistan who experience sexual violence either in childhood, or domestic abuse are in the most vulnerable position in terms of their lack of financial stability and social stability. Therefore the question that needs to be addressed is that if no one believes women then why they still choose to come forward with their stories. What kind of understanding do victims of sexual violence especially women develop after the incident about their social processes that they aim to change the power dynamics of a patriarchal society.

Moreover, given the movement of #Me too, through these narratives a lot of focused is laid upon women empowerment and by fighting patriarchy, raising voices the power dynamics of a male dominant society can be changed. Therefore, another one of the questions that needs to be addressed is that now that through continuous efforts of third wave feminists and movements such as #me too and #TimeIsUp, these resources are provided in the society where women can easily open up about topics such as sexual violence. Women have platforms to raise their voices; they can acquire positions towards prosperity. A community is in process of its creation where that community will believe women that community will work towards betterment. So the question at hand is that do all women want to come forward with their stories? In terms that the level of acceptance, comfort that each victim might or might not feel will greatly vary. The journey of healing will be different for everyone. So what

factor of this new construction of identity allows empowerment within the victim? In other words, what meaning do women attach with empowerment.

Furthermore, the process that victims go through of abuse, denial, grief, and then acceptance; how does that entire process shape the identities of victims in terms of the change in their self-concept which consequently impact their social identity and social position. For example, once an individual narrates their story, they will be categorized as the victim, there will be certain institutions that would take interest in this position that has been created. Therefore, what is it that's at the stake for the victim while they come forward with this narrative?

### **Critical Analysis:**

One of the commonality present in all the narratives of women who have been a victim of sexual violence is that they fight for the believability of their narrative. Whether the narration is through social media platform, a legal platform or is in an informal conversation. Every victim goes through this fear of blame that would be laid upon them the second they will come out with their stories. One of the reasons in delay of opening up to trauma is the lack of believability towards women. However, other possibilities suggest that the topic of sexual violence itself is not much accepted in the society overall and the believability might not be restricted and associated with the gender (Engel, 2017).

Moreover, victims of sexual violence go through such dehumanization in the form of abuse and violence that it can be humiliating to come out sooner. Since, the most asked question towards sexual victims are that why don't they come out forward sooner. Similarly in the interview, the interviewee suggests that they have had this fear of consequences, especially the blame that would be laid upon them by society. The interviewee repeatedly mentions how they had this fear that no one would believe them before they narrated their story. Even after coming forward they are skeptic towards the believability of her family towards her narrative. Therefore, the interviewee also hopes that when someone comes forward with their stories their families don't treat them differently and suggest this that they don't believe in what has happened.

### **Literary Review:**

Extending upon the notion of believability of victims account, the societal reaction mostly evident through the behavior also lays upon blame on the victim. In the interview, Person X constantly emphasizes that her family did not lay the blame on her; in fact they took an action against the victimizer by sending him out of country. However, interviewee comes to this realization that it is not with the words that her family attempted to blame her; in fact it was their actions and behaviors towards her that suggest they blame Person X for the incident.

Therefore, this suggests that societal reaction towards sexual violence is rather skeptic in nature than be empathetic or sensitive. It is through the attitudes and behaviors that actual believes of society are given away. For instance, in participation observation the reactions varied from the questioning of the time and place of narration, to the victim's reaction towards the victimizer. Interviewee mentions this in one of her statement that if I was unable to save myself from this incident how can I save others. The tone of statement suggested rejection that they had to face and were possibly presented with the same question that why didn't they react towards the victimizer and save themselves?

### **Sexual Victim and Identity Formation:**

The identity formation of an individual depends on the social position that they have. Sexual victims before the incident form their identity through gender socialization, the way each gender has a certain role assigned by the society. After the incident there is a new formation of identity; this post construction of identity is then determined by the societal reaction towards the traumatic experience that the victim has experienced. This new identity depends on the power dynamics that might have been realized after the incident. In addition to this reconstruction of identity depends on the new self-concept that a victim makes sense of given the title of either a “victim” or a “survivor”. Here the role of language plays a huge role, as the labels that are given to an individual will form their identity. For instance calling an individual who has experienced sexual violence as “victim” might give that individual a sense of failure, rejection, and hopelessness. Whereas, calling the same person as a “survivor” might give them a sense of hope, acceptance, and closure. Then again, it calls for the subjective position of each individual.

In this interview, the interviewee considers herself as a “survivor” she does not address herself as a victim. There is a certain pride taken by the interviewee as she states that I am a survivor and I can face anything, I am not scared anymore.

**Empowerment for Sexual Victims.** The word empowerment means to have autonomy to represent one’s own interest and rights. Empowerment is a process of becoming strong and evolving into a confident individual. However, the word empowerment might mean different to each individual. Words and actions of society on each individual’s procession of world have immense power. Empowerment can be through a small gesture, word, or action (Marshall, 2017).

Through the #Me too movement, a lot of women are being empowered in a way that they are encouraged to come forward with their stories. This encouragement is because of the community that is being created which believes women, which works towards the betterment of basic rights. In participation observation empowerment was the most commonly used word, each narrative claimed to give some sense of power to either the narrator or the reader. However through this interview, interviewee gives a different meaning for empowerment than what was expected. The interviewee justified that word empowerment means nothing to them. Coming forward with their stories is not a form of empowerment. Nevertheless, interviewee has contradicting accounts of their position with empowerment. They do elicit a belief of gaining no empowerment through recognition yet at the same time they think speaking up helps them in closure. Thus, the word empowerment can mean differently to each individual especially to the victims of sexual violence.

### **Women believing women:**

Historically, patriarchy has been held responsible for discriminating and creating difference. Male dominance over women have marked the patriarchy. However, one of the main components in a male dominant society is the way it infests the male dominance in women’s mind. Thus, women for many years had thought male approval as one of the achievement. Due to this, there has been an internal conflict within women for each other. Therefore, when women interact with each other they interact within the very specific gender interaction expectations. The seeds of patriarchy have been so deeply embedded in the minds of men and women that it

still creates internal conflicts and holds back individuals from empowerment (Birkhoff, n.d.).

One of the most interesting themes that were derived from this interview was the believability among women for each other. When the interviewee was asked about her opinion towards storytelling on social media platform; she showed disapproval for the narrative platform. The interviewee explained how it's a publicity stunt; since the traumatic experience is so painful that it cannot be shared that publicly. Therefore, it is intriguing to know that do even women believe each other or is it the platform of narrative that is being questioned.

#### #Me too Movement on Social Media

Expanding on the question of believability among women for each other. Through these interviews, the interviewee shows disapproval towards social media as a narrative platform. Therefore, given the subjective position of each individual their preference would vary as to the way they narrate, where they narrate, how they narrate and to whom they narrate. There is a possibility that not everyone will find solace in narrating his or her story on social media platform or any other public platform.

#### Victim's reactions towards societal reaction

While an individual is narrating their story, there are many characters involved. One of the lead characters in sexual violence narratives is the society itself. The narrator is not only narrating the society's reaction towards the victim, but also the victim's reaction towards societal reaction.

Even in participation observation, where mostly women narrated their story on social media showed disappointment in the reactions they receive when they claim that they have suffered from sexual violence. Similarly, in these interviews, interviewee shows the same form of disappointment towards the reaction that her family showed. Interviewee continues to hope that when people come forward with their stories they are not treated differently and defined by that one traumatic experience.

#### Sexual Victims and Role in society

The general conception towards people who have experienced a traumatic event is that they either develop an empathetic approach or become vengeful. However, the beliefs that individuals form after the incident towards the violence, victimizer and society determine the actions and goals that they would set forth. Thus, the role that individual will want to play and would be given will be associated with the traumatic event.

In the interview, interviewee considers their role in a contradicting light. In one statement the interviewee convey that they have no role as a savior because if she was unable to save herself she cannot save anyone. However, in another statement the interviewee proclaim that they chose psychology as path of career to empower others and help others. Hence, the interviewee has this contradicting set of goals that are being conflicted due to the belief that is still in its formation phase.

#### Appendix

##### Interview Guide

1. For how long did you kept the incident to yourself?
2. What the immediate reaction/feeling after the incident?
3. How did you cope with the whole incident?
4. How did you decide to come forward with your story?

5. What immediate needs of yours did you identify after the incident?
6. How did you decide to take action against the victimizer?
7. What does it mean to be a victim of sexual violence?
8. In what ways have your life changed after the incident?
9. How has your approach towards life/people changed after the incident?
10. How does it feel to open up about something like this?
11. What was your perception of the reaction you might or might not receive after telling your story?
12. How did coming forward with your story impact your social standing or position in family?
13. What does the word empowerment mean to you?
14. Do you think coming forward with your story “empowers” you in any way?
15. As a survivor, what role do you think you can play in the society now? / What role do you think you serve in this society?
16. How has this journey from the incident towards healing changed your perspectives?

#### **Additional Interview Notes:**

Date: December 11, 2020.

Time: 3:00 PM

Interview #1: Survivor of sexual violence [Interview session for 1 hour]

#### **ON**

[The interview takes place in a classroom; the interviewer and interviewee are present in the room. Interviewee seems to be restless as they sit opposite the interviewer. Making frequent eye contact with the interviewer, interviewee elicit some hesitation as they pass a smile in intervals of their speech]

- The conversation starts off with the acknowledgment of the bravery of the interviewee to be taking part in this interview. Interviewee assures that they wanted to do this because by doing this they are helping themselves in some way.

Starting with the first question to inquire about how long did they keep the incident to themselves? The interviewee [clears throat, raises her voice] I kept it to myself for eight years [followed by a slight laughter]. The interviewee continues explaining, that it took them a really long time to tell this to their mother and sister; but it took more effort to tell someone outside the family. Even though they had told this a long time ago, they had been thinking about talking about this for past few months with someone they could trust, or seek out shelter in.

- ✚ The interviewee mentions this in the start this interview would “help them”. The stake that interviewee have in this interview is to indirectly help their own self; possibly they want to say it loud in a situation where in counter questions they would get to reflect upon their current state of acceptance or their journey of healing.

- ✚ During the conversation, different mixed behavioral cues of interviewee are noticed. Such as raise in pitch, hesitant uncomfortable laughter, however a consistent direct eye contact through out the conversation. Possibly the raise in pitch might be to put up a brave

persona, the laughter in intervals might be an indication to normalize or attempt to lighten up the statement in some way by depicting that they have accepted the words that they are saying. Direct eye contact might an indication of affirmation.

- What was the immediate reaction/feeling after the incident: The interviewee the immediate feeling/thought was to go as far away as possible followed by that I need to find someone to talk to; needed someone as my shelter.
- How did you cope with the whole incident: The interviewee narrates that there was this immediate acceptance followed by the incident. There was no denial, no grief, just acceptance that this has actually happened and that there is nothing else to do than accept. So for them there was no period of coping, no strategy followed just acceptance.
  - ✚ The interviewee suggests at first that they felt this need of seeking shelter and just run away as far as possible but at the same time there was an immediate acceptance. [Observe the reluctance while they talk about how they coped. Inclusion of slight laughter in intervals of conversation. Takes pause after saying the word acceptance. A lot of emphasis stressed laid upon the word acceptance with the tone of speech]
- The narrator traced back to the whole event, opening up more with each question. They talked about how they kept on facing the abuse for 5 continuous years and stayed silent. Knowing the victimizer who was a close relative; the matter could never be disclosed as such because of the consequences. Therefore for a long time the victim had to face their own victimizer, be nice to them like nothing happened.
  - ✚ The interviewee's tone describes the struggle. Observe brief sighs during the speech. After every statement the interviewee tends to laugh.
- How did you decide to take against the victimizer: The interviewee states that they themselves did not take any action against the victimizer but it was their father who took the action that was by sending the victimizer out of country?
  - ✚ The interviewee states with a lot of pride when they talk about sending the victimizer out of country. However the tone suggests a disappointment somehow. [Constantly moving their leg while giving this particular statement]
- What does it mean to be a victim of sexual violence: The interviewee gave a rapid response that it means to be self-cautious all the time? Just self-cautious nothing else.
  - ✚ The tone used very affirmative.
- In what ways have your life changed after the incident: The way I move around has changed a lot. In the initial years of my university life I felt really uncomfortable when someone slightly looked at me or talked to me. I started to cover myself more as it felt like the safest shelter to protect myself from the gaze, the attention.
  - ✚ Suggests that the only shelter they actually felt comfortable was to cover self. The protection that might be looked among people, found the solace in own self.



- Did you went through the phase of self-blame: I just felt I don't know how to word it but I know it was not my clothing or the way I moved around, my appearance was never the reason for the start of objectification. I just always felt the need to move ahead of this, to just leave it all behind. This was never the reason for covering myself more or seeking shelter in religion, I just could not deal with any form of gaze after that. Covering myself in a way that makes me feel comfortable and protected.
- How did it impact your social standing or position in family: It greatly impacted my position in the family? I feel like no one treats me the same way. There is this fear in the family members of leaving me alone behind. I have to miss out on all out of things because there is a likely chance that perpetrator would be present. My family looks at me with fear.
  - ✚ The interviewee shows a lot of burdened appreciation towards family. Appreciation for them to listen and take "action of sending the victimizer out of country" yet burdened by the behavior in terms of their "over-protection" their subtle "discriminant behavior"
- What role do you think you have in this society: Every time I have to open up about my story, no matter how many times I have narrated it. I always experience it all over again. Yet after all these years I don't think of myself in a position to help anyone going through the same experience. If I were unable to save myself how would I save someone else? I don't think I can or that is even possible.
  - ✚ Interviewee uses a hopelessness tone; the way interviewee had been narrating is very chaotic in nature. In some instances there is pessimism in speech and tone, while in some instances there is optimism in speech, words and tone. Hints of disappointments and blame are very frequent in every statement.
- Your perception of the reaction that you might or might not receive: I had this perception that all the blame would be placed on me, especially from the male figures in the family. However, there was no blaming done in the process, in fact it was my father who sent the victimizer out of country, so he took action instead of blaming his own daughter.
  - ✚ Importance laid upon the male figure of the family, yet a fear of the position of male figure is also elicited.
- How does it feel to open up about something like this: Opening up about this is similar to taking of the Band-Aid every time from a wound that's not healed? Yet at the same time it feels like untying the knots of something that had been too strong to even begin to open with.
  - ✚ Interviewee suggest about their own reflexivity of their narrative along with the pain it brings along.
- How has this journey from the incident till now changed you: I was 4-5 years old when all of this happened? I stayed quiet in the pressure and threats of the victimizer who used to threaten me "log pathar marein ge tumhe" (people will hit you with stones) I was always scared of the consequences, I knew no one is going to believe me, no one is going to believe that his person is the victimizer. However once I told to my mother at first I felt relieved. Now I can face. I can face the victimizer look him in the eye cause I know I am not the one at fault. I am not scared.

- What does the word empowerment mean to you: empowerment means nothing to me?
- Do you think coming forward with your story empower you in any way: How can opening up your story empower you? It does not empower you in any way. How can this empower? I don't have the same position in the minds of my family members. I don't think sharing is a good idea. At least when you keep to yourself you have that position in front of people.
- Do you regret opening up with your story: I don't like sharing or talking. But I had to tell this to someone. I have been wanting to for all these years.
- Why do you felt this need of telling knowing the consequences: I just had to? I stayed quiet for such a long time. I had to.
- As a survivor, how do you identify yourself now: I am a survivor? I know survived. I never forget it. I can face anything. Anything. What's worse to happen?
  - ✚ The interviewee is constructing two completely different opinions about their narrative. They view themselves as a survivor, someone who is strong enough to face the consequences, yet they continuously talk about how they are self-cautious and suggest their own fear. In some statements they do agree that opening up has helped them and give more form of acceptance but does not empower them.

Date: December 13, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM

Interview#2: Survivor of sexual violence [Interview session for 1 hour]

ON

[The interviewee seems much more comfortable in this setting, their sitting posture has more confidence than the previous interview. The tone remains consistent throughout the interview, no brief sigh, cracking voice is noticed, and however, laughter is still followed by every statement. The interviewee seems to be satisfied with their previous given account and seem to be reluctant in expanding more on their statements. Therefore the following interview is rather brief than the previous one.]

- The interviewee expanded on how the incident changed their life: the incident has changed a lot of my life choices; it has changed my goals, my aspirations, and my general direction in life. I always wanted to be an artist, but you see I wanted to help others who have been experiencing this, that's why I opted for psychology so that I can help others and empower them.
- What message do you think you want to convey through this empowerment: I will always say that don't keep it to yourself, share it always, and talk about it. I would request the parents to not treat them differently. There is no need for fear there so many things in life that can be worse. This is not the end of world.
  - ✚ The interviewee shows the same contradictions as in the first interview. There are a lot of confusing statements of interviewee regarding them being empowered and their own aspirations to empower someone by encouraging them to talk about it. Interviewee shows two differing believes. One belief is that opening up doesn't

help and empower an individual. The second belief is that talking about it helps therefore definitely share.

- How do you think your concept about self has changed in this journey of healing: I am not scared anymore, I am comfortable with who I am. I am self-conscious about myself and I cannot speak in public. I used to think of myself as an artist but now I don't pursue it that way. I express through my writings, by playing with words I can express myself.
  - + The interviewee suggests a shift in the career choices as a form of them changing into a selfless person. In the account where they narrate that career in psychology would allow them to help others; career art was something for their own self, which allowed her to be who she is and express herself. Therefore opting for psychology is more of self-less way where it is not serving them something but only serving to others.
- How did it impact your social standing or position in family: It seems like my family doesn't believe me. They didn't blame me with their words. But they treat me so differently than other members in family.
  - + Again can observe the burdened appreciation towards the family. There is a form of resentment and disappointment towards the family members.
- How do you identify your own self-considering the surroundings and people around you: You know I am used to it? The different treatment, my father being fearful towards me. I wonder how my brothers would behave if they knew.
  - + Certain resentment towards the male figure of the family.
- How do you view women who narrate their stories of violence on social media: It's just a publicity stunt? How can someone share such a story on public platform? All of it is so painful so difficult to say a loud. How can social media be a form of empowerment? Narrating this is not empowerment. I would never share it that publicly because I don't sympathy from others. I don't want people to define me with this one experience. I am who I am. What had to happen just happened?
  - + Interviewee takes the approach towards belief one again of not opening up as it does not empower you.
- Do you think opening up to this incident you got a form of closure: Yes I can say that I have closure now? Talking about it has helped me a lot. I have moved on. I am who I am.
  - + Yet another contradiction in the narration, at one point of narration opening up about incident does not empower an individual yet it gives an individual closure. The interviewee seems to be standing in two boats of thought at the same time being unable to decide which boat to shelter in.

## IN

- Believe Women: Lack of believability towards women who have suffered from sexual violence.

- Societal Reaction of Sexual Violence: Perception of the victim of blame laid upon them. Also the discriminant behavior of society towards victims of sexual violence.
- Sexual Victim and Identity Formation: reconstruction of identity associated with the incident.
- Empowerment for Sexual Victims: perhaps not all victims view opening up as a form of empowerment.
- Women believing women: Do women who are in the same position believe each other?
- Me too Movement on Social Media: do all women find solace in narrating their accounts on social media?
- Sexual Victims and Role in society: Do all the sexual victims feel this need to change the society or work towards betterment?
- Victim's reactions towards societal reaction: the resentment, disappointment victims feel towards the differing behavior of society.

## RN

- Despite of the interview guide, it was so difficult to start of the interviewee considering the pain that they might re-experience through this narration. During many questions the interviewee nearly cried. That was the most difficult task to put the interviewee in a position where they feel comfortable and not vulnerable, however no matter how much the wording of the questions were improvised during the interviewee, the pain that interviewee might have been feeling could not be reduced.
- It was difficult to stay organized with keeping in mind the objective of the research and not responding in a way that would give away too much sympathy or cold attitude to the interviewee.
- The most crucial point was to word the questions and my own responses in such a way that interviewee does not indulge in a socially desirable answer or change their entire opinion on the basis of my facial expressions and verbal tone.
- Realizing along the narration that how contradicting interviewee accounts are being, it created a lot of confusion to understand the interviewee's concept of sexual violence and survival.
- It created a lot of questions regarding the interviewee's constructed concepts and understandings of the social processes around.

## Reflexivity:

Conducting this interview has been enlightening in a way that I had always assumed that every woman strives for empowerment. I had certain beliefs that victims of sexual violence would be eager to find a platform where they would want to talk about their experiences. Due to my own position as a woman and beliefs regarding feminism, empowerment might have created an impact in the interpretation of both interviews.

The construction of questions and responses as a researcher might have led the interview in a completely different direction. One of the limitations in the interview was this that the interviewee was not asked about the safety measures they

now take apart from changing their appearance. However, there are many more perspectives and theories from which this topic could have been observed and investigated further.

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