



**Research Article**

# A Comprehensive Investigation on the Dynamism of Women Power Line

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**ABSTRACT:** Uttar Pradesh is the highest populated state of India with 16.50% of total Indian population. Women population in Uttar Pradesh is 95,331,831 (Census, 2011). Violence against women has been witnessed since ages, be it sexual harassment, physical abuse, mental abuse, eve-teasing or economical abuse. In Uttar Pradesh, rate of total crime against women is 50.5% (NCRB, 2021). It is of utmost importance for women to exercise their rights and to be updated with the laws and protection that is available for them, in order to take stand for themselves and raise their voice if they face any kind of abuse or trouble, instead of keeping it to themselves and suffering while ignoring the offences and the offender. A vigilant woman can live without the fear of discrimination, exploitation or any terror. In Uttar Pradesh there has been 104 incidence of Voyeurism and 318 incidences of stalking in 2021 (NCRB, 2021). Keeping safety of women at priority, Uttar Pradesh Government took an initiative and launched Women Power Line (1090) in 2012, where authority is given only to woman police officer to register the case, in any circumstances; so that women can feel safe and strong and register their complaint if they face any trouble or harassment in the society. The objective of this paper is to check whether the women are aware about the protection against crime that is available for them and to check awareness amongst men about women power line. The study also provides some suggestions regarding awareness amongst men and women about Women Power Line.

**KEYWORDS:** Women Power Line, 1090, Women Police, Eve-teasing, Harassment, Safety, Awareness.

## INTRODUCTION

As in our culture, we say “Yatra Naari Pojayante, ramyante tatra devta” meaning where women are respected and honored, there the God rejoice, but still women are being harassed in different ways by the people and by the community. As per (Census, 2011) women population in Uttar Pradesh is 95,331,831. Women have faced injustice, biasness and unfair treatment for years, but now they have broken the chain of gender stereotypes, now women do not only dream but work hard to achieve their dream. We can see, Indian women proudly and strongly working in every field. But one thing that is still the same, with its rate of activity going up or down accordingly is, Crime against Women. If we look into (NCRB, 2021) data, there is plenty of crime that is happening with women now and then and there is tons of cases registered. Female often faces violence from their childhood and are ordered to not speak about it or to complaint about it to anyone, for numerous reasons. As they grow, the helplessness of not speaking about violence that they face grows into them. This further encourages the offender to do crime without any fear of being punished or exposed. Keeping this in view, Government of India has

taken initiative to provide help to the person who is in distress or in any problem, by launching Emergency Response Support System (112) in May 2015. Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the Safe City Projects in 08 cities (Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai) to create a safe, secure and empowering environment for women in public places. Ministry has also launched Cyber Crime portals on 20th September, 2018 to report obscene activity if people witness any. National Database on Sexual Offenders was also launched in 2018 to help in investigating and tracking the sexual offenders. Government of India has also implemented One Stop Centre in many districts to provide assistance and support to women, who are affected by violence or are in any problem, 167308 women have been assisted through One Stop Centre in Uttar Pradesh till 30th September, 2021. In 2021, India recorded six million crimes by police, among which 428,278 cases were of crime against women (NCRB, 2021). Women face crime like kidnapping, abduction, stalking, harassment, violence, voyeurism, eve-teasing and many more.

Eve-teasing and Stalking is one such heinous crime, that torture the victim mentally and emotionally. Delhi Court said- Eve-teasing and Stalking violates the women right to live with dignity and the person violating this right must be punished in a way that other person who thinks of doing such crime in future is discouraged and never think of doing any such crime again (The Economic Times, 2015). Government has implemented laws to protect women from being the victim and punishing the person who dares to do such crime. Eve-teasing and Stalking is a cognizable offence which means police can arrest the offender without the warrant and start the investigation. Section 294 India Penal Code, protects the person from people who annoys by committing any obscene act in public places, or says any bad word in public. Section 354 Indian Penal Code protects the women by punishing the person who is involved in assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty. Section 354 A, B, C and D Indian Penal Code deals with protection against sexual harassment; assault or criminal force; voyeurism and stalking. Section 509 Indian Penal Code penalizes the word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman. Putting woman safety and security at priority, Uttar Pradesh Government launched Women Power Line in 2012.

Women Power Line (1090) is an initiative by Uttar Pradesh Government to protect woman from cruelty. It was launched on 05th November, 2012. WPL is a 24\*7 toll free number (1090) so that woman can make call for help easily, whenever required. Women Power Line works as an answer to society to either stop troubling women or face the wrath of Uttar Pradesh Police. This Power Line helps women and girls by handling the cases with speedy protection for better results. Women and girls sometimes find it difficult to come out and complaint about the harassment they face; to make their life easier women power line has introduced 'Power Angels, Power Angels are young special police officers, as per law. They are connected to system through Women Power Line (1090) to help and speak on behalf of those who are not comfortable in complaining about offence on their own. The objective is to have at least one power angel everywhere. The whole program of Women Power Line is based on three Pillars: Listen, Solve and Sustain.

With the launch of women power line, it is easier to complaint about the issues and problems with full confidentiality. Only women police officers are allowed to register the complaint and they are ordered to maintain the confidentiality of the complainant. Even with their seniors only that information is shared which is required in investigation. This helps in encouraging women to come out and take a stand for themselves, without the fear of getting exposed. There have been awareness campaigns to aware public about power line, what it is and how it works,

so that power line can provide help to every female in need, and to aware them that Uttar Pradesh Police is with them, and to let them know where to go for help, if they face any trouble in public place, on phone or in their home. Now, the question is, are women aware about the protection they have against crime and are men aware about women power line, so that they can help their friends and sisters.

According to research by Sekera, N., Kapoor, G., and Abbas (2017), women are still not secure in society and continue to experience harassment, eve-teasing, and misbehavior. Additionally, it was shown that fewer than 50% of the respondents were happy with the power line. When awareness and knowledge were assessed, it was shown that 50% of respondents were unaware of how Power Line operated. The study recommended enhancing the services offered by the Power line and increasing awareness of women power line in public spaces, schools, and colleges.

## **EXPERIMENTAL METHODS**

The objective of this paper was to check whether People (Both Male and Female) of age group (20 years—25 years) know about Women Power Line and will they recommend other people to approach Women Power Line, if in need or not. Descriptive research design is used in this study; convenient sampling method is used for the selection of 50 male and 50 female respondents from Social Work Department, University of Lucknow for this study and with the help of Questionnaire data was collected from the respondents.

### *Data Interpretation*

The information about Women Power Line that was gathered from female respondents is shown in the table above. It was discovered that (56%) of female respondents had heard of it, while (44%) had never heard of it, as shown in table 1. The next question asked respondents about their knowledge of where to go if they experience eve-teasing or stalking. It was discovered that just 31% of respondents knew where to go, and that 69% were unaware of this. When female respondents were asked whether they had ever experienced eve-teasing or stalking, (51%) said they had, (13%) said they had, and (36%) said they had experienced both eve-teasing and stalking. When asked if they had ever submitted a complaint with Women Power Line, just (08%) of the female respondents said that they had, while (92%) of the female respondents answered they had not. Furthermore, just 8% of female respondents are aware that their identities would never be revealed if they register a complaint with Women Power Line, while 92% are unaware of this. These are the same respondents who have never made a complaint with Women Power Line.

The information on Women Power Line that was gathered from males is shown in the table 2. It was discovered that (52%) of the male respondents had heard of it, while (48%) had never heard of it. In terms of male respondents' knowledge of how to register a complaint with Women Power Line, it was discovered that just 35% of respondents were aware of this option, while a significant portion of respondents (65%) were unaware. Only 12% of the male respondents who were asked if they had ever complained to Women Power Line indicated they had, while 88% of the male respondents stated they had never complained to Women Power Line. The aforementioned table also shows that (42%) of respondents are aware of the laws and protections that are available to shield women from crime and to provide them with justice if they become victims of any crime, whereas (58%) of respondents are unaware of any laws or protections against crime against women. Additionally, it was discovered that just 12 percent of male respondents are aware that their identities would never be revealed if they submit a

complaint to Women Power Line, while 88 percent of males do not. These are the same men who have never submitted a complaint to Women Power Line.

**Table 1: Illustrates awareness of Women Power Line amongst Women**

Awareness of Women Power Line amongst Women	Percentage
<b>Have you heard about Women Power Line (1090)?</b>	
• Yes	56%
• No	44%
<b>Do you know where to go if you face stalking or eve-teasing?</b>	
• Yes	31%
• No	69%
<b>Have you ever faced eve-teasing or stalking?</b>	
• Eve-Teasing	51%
• Stalking	13%
• Both	36%
• None	0%
<b>Have you ever filed a complaint at Women Power Line?</b>	
• Yes	8%
• No	92%
<b>Do you know, your identity will be confidential if you register any complaint?</b>	
• Yes	8%
• No	92%

**Table 2: Illustrates awareness of Women Power Line amongst Men**

Awareness of Women Power Line amongst Men	Percentage
<b>Have you heard about Women Power Line (1090)?</b>	
• Yes	52%
• No	48%
<b>Do you know, you can file complaint of the person who is involved in eve-teasing or stalking, at Women Power Line?</b>	
• Yes	35%
• No	65%
<b>Have you ever filed a complaint at Women Power Line?</b>	
• Yes	12%
• No	88%
<b>Are you aware of the laws and protection available for crime against women?</b>	
• Yes	42%
• No	58%
<b>Do you know, your identity will be confidential if you register any complaint?</b>	
• Yes	12%
• No	88%

**Table 3: Illustrates a set of questionnaires and corresponding responses**

List of Questionnaires	Percentage
<p><b>How was the response after filing complaint?</b></p> <p>MEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick response 4%</li> <li>• Delayed response 8%</li> <li>• No response 0%</li> <li>• Not filed 88%</li> </ul> <p>WOMEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick response 4%</li> <li>• Delayed response 4%</li> <li>• No response 0%</li> <li>• Not filed 92%</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Will you be comfortable in filing complaint, if you or any known person faces eve-teasing or stalking?</b></p> <p>MEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes 29%</li> <li>• No 22%</li> <li>• Can't say 49%</li> </ul> <p>WOMEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes 69%</li> <li>• No 13%</li> <li>• Can't say 18%</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Will you recommend people to feel free for approaching Women Power Line; if in need?</b></p> <p>MEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes 43%</li> <li>• No 27%</li> <li>• Maybe 30%</li> </ul> <p>WOMEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes 75%</li> <li>• No 10%</li> <li>• Maybe 15%</li> </ul>	

Table 3 shows the responses to the cases that were filed by men and women at Women Power Line. The tables clearly show that 92% of women and 88% of men have not filed any cases at WPL. Of the remaining respondents, 4% of men claimed to have received a quick response while the remaining 8% claimed to have received a delayed response. It also indicates if male respondents will come forward and make a complaint, whether they will recognize any women helping them, and whether female respondents will feel at ease making a complaint if they encounter any issues. In response to this question, the lowest proportion of male respondents (22%) and the greatest number of male respondents (49%) were not sure, while the lowest percentage of female respondents (13%) indicated they would not feel comfortable. Male respondents (29%) said that they would come forward, whereas female respondents (18%) were unsure about their level of comfort. The aforementioned table also includes information

on the percentage of men and women who said they would not recommend Women Power Line to those in need, as well as the percentage of men and women who said they would definitely do so. However, 30% of men and 15% of women said they were unsure whether they would recommend Women Power Line.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The study demonstrates the awareness level amongst male and female of age group between (20 years – 25 years) about Women Power Line and how effective and protective it is for women. Total number of respondents was 100, out of which 50 were Female and 50 were Male. It was found that only (52%) of men and (56%) of women have heard about Women Power Line (1090) remaining respondents have never even heard about Women Power Line, which indicates the lack of awareness and sensitization amongst people when it comes to Protection of Women. It was also found that more than 60% of the male respondents do not even know they can file complaint at Women Power Line, if any Person troubles any women; which means out of all male respondents who have heard about Women Power Line 12% of them are not aware that they can file complaint at the same place.

The next section of the analysis is about the Female awareness on Women Power Line, the name itself indicates Power of Women, but still (44%) of the female respondents do not know about their existing power and how to use it for their protection. It was also noted that out of (56%) of female respondents who have heard about Women Power Line only 25% of the women knows that they can approach Women Power Line to file their complaint if they face any Problem related to eve-teasing and stalking.

This section of analysis is about women facing Eve-teasing and stalking, there are numerous cases of eve-teasing and stalking, and every second women is being eve-teased or stalked by wrong person on daily basis, when asked by our female respondents it was found that (36%) of them have faced both eve-teasing and stalking, (51%) of them have faced eve-teasing and (13%) of them have faced stalking; there was no female respondent who said that they have not faced any of them, this result is very heart breaking for the society; at times we worship women in our life and on the other side there are people outside who abuses them. Amongst 100% of female respondents, all women have faced problem, but only (08%) of the respondents came forward and filed their complaint at Women Power Line, it is also mentioned that (31%) of female respondents knows that they can file complaint, which shows that 23% of the women were either not comfortable or they do not had courage to come forward and take stand. On the other hand, table also states that (35%) of male respondents know about filing complaint at Women Power Line, but only (12%) have ever filed complaint.

It is analyzed that only those respondents know that their identity will be kept confidential who have already filed the complaint, and other respondents who have never filed any complaint do not even know about maintenance of confidentiality at WPL.

The last section of analysis is about recommending people for reaching Women Power Line, whenever required, as it is toll-free, details of the person who complains is confidential there and 24×7 available service for helping women, only (75%) of women and (43%) of men agreed that they will recommend Women Power Line to other person and remaining respondents either were not sure about it or said clear No. The finding shows that the People are not aware about Women Power Line the way they should be, it is very important for each one of us to know about the protection that we can provide to every woman in order to protect them from being



abused and from being the victim of harassment. It is also very important for women to know about their rights and services that are available for them so that they can avail it without any fear or second thought.

## **CONCLUSION**

Safety issues concerning women are pressing concerns that demand immediate attention and action. Women across the world continue to face various forms of harassment, including verbal, physical, online, and sexual harassment. Such behavior not only violates their basic human rights but also perpetuates a culture of fear and inequality. Ensuring the safety of women is not just a matter of personal security; it is fundamental to achieving gender equality and empowering women to lead fulfilling lives free from fear and discrimination. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive efforts, including education, awareness campaigns, legal reforms, and community support, to create a society where women can live, work, and thrive without the constant threat of harassment. It is everyone's responsibility to work towards a world where women are respected, protected, and able to participate fully in all aspects of society.

### *Suggestions*

- Increase in Number of Power Angels, so that they are scattered everywhere to help those women who are not able to complaint and approach Women Power Line.
- It is Suggested to aware Male member of the society about Women Power Line, so that they can come forward and complaint at WPL on behalf of their friends or family members.
- It is also suggested to aware men about the protection available for women and laws that protect women against crime (Eve- Teasing and Stalking) like (Section 294, section 354, 354 A, 354 B, 354 C,354 D of Indian Penal Code) and the punishment for the offenders, so that they do not dare or think about troubling any women again.
- Time to time regular campaign is required with support of stakeholders at hotspots or school, colleges, universities as well as social media also to make awareness amongst youth.
- It is suggested for women to be brave and strong to stand for themselves at the very initial stage of the crime.

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