Invisible Victims: How Crime Affects People Usually We Don't See

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Abstract : Crime not only hurts the direct victims; but also has a big impact on people who are often unnoticed. These include marginalised communities, undocumented immigrants, homeless individuals, LGBTQ+ individuals, low income individuals, refugees and asylum seekers. These groups often suffer from crime in ways that go unnoticed, are rarely reported, and don't get enough support.

The study aims to understand the specific problems these invisible victims face, how aware they are of their legal rights and available support services, and how well current systems are helping them. To do this, we analyse crime statistics, health records, and social services data, along with interviews from people in these groups and community leaders. The results show that invisible victims experience serious emotional, psychological, and financial difficulties, made worse by social stigma and a lack of proper support. Many of them are not aware of their rights or the steps they should take after being victimised, leading to underreporting of crimes and not using the resources available to help them.

This research highlights the need to look beyond just the direct victims of crime and pay attention to these hidden groups. It calls for better policies and services that include everyone affected by crime, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Keywords: Invisible victims, marginalised communities, crime impact

INTRODUCTION

The impact of crime extends far beyond the visible scenes of violence and loss, reaching into lives of those who are often overlooked or forgotten. These invisible victims belong to marginalised or vulnerable groups And their struggles often go unnoticed. In this study we will cover those experiences, challenges and potential solutions for these silent or invisible sufferers.

Defining Invisible Victims:

Invisible victims are those individuals who encounter barriers; physical,emotional, or systemic- that aren't immediately apparent. Their experiences of victimisation often go unnoticed, unrecognised, or underreported. These may include:

- Domestic violence survivors
- Elderly victims
- Children and Youth
- Immigrants and refugees
- Differently abled people
- Homeless individuals
- Sex workers
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- Rural or Isolated communities

- Women
- Male victim of Sexual violence

Why study Invisible Victims:

By understanding the problem of invisible victims , we can focus on several reasons-

1. Comprehensive understanding of crime- By understudying invisible victims, we can gain comprehensive understanding of widespread effects of criminal behaviour on society.
2. Equity and Social Justice- By focusing their challenges, we can advocate for equitable access to resources and attention to all those individuals affected by crime.
3. Policy Implications- Identifying gaps allows policy makers to create targeted interventions.
4. Preventing further victimisation- Invisible victims are often more vulnerable to repeated victimisation due to lack of recognition and support. By bringing their experiences to light, we can develop preventative measures to protect them from further harm.

Not only this, researching invisible victims also increases public awareness, empowers these marginalised groups, and also fulfils an ethical responsibility to ensure that no one suffering from crime is forgotten or left behind.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. **"Criminology and Victimology" by Dr. N V Paranjape-**In his work, Paranjape (2012) explores the intersection of criminology and victimology in the Indian context. Chapter 7 (pp. 207-229) discusses how crime impacts various segments of society, particularly marginalised groups who often become invisible victims. The author advocates for a more victim-centred approach within the Indian criminal justice system, emphasising the importance of recognizing and supporting secondary victims.
2. **"Crime Victims: An Introduction to Victimology" by Andrew Karmen-**Karmen (2016) addresses the spectrum of victimisation, focusing on both direct and indirect victims. On pages 88-102 (Chapter 3), Karmen explores how secondary victims, such as family members and witnesses, experience significant emotional and financial burdens due to crime. The author calls for more inclusive victim support policies that recognize and assist these overlooked groups.
3. **"Women and Crime in India: A Reader" edited by Amita Dhanda and Archana Parashar**-Dhanda and Parashar (1999) focus on the intersection of gender and crime, particularly how crime impacts women who are often invisible in patriarchal societies. In Chapter 4 (pp. 91-115), the book explores various forms of victimisation that women face, both direct and indirect, and critiques the legal and social systems for failing to protect them adequately. The editors call for gender-sensitive policies and support systems that address these challenges.
4. **"Crime and Justice in India" edited by N. Prabha Unnithan**-Unnithan (2013) presents a collection of essays on crime and justice in India, with several chapters dedicated to the impact of crime on marginalised communities. On pages 302-325, the book discusses how invisible victims, such as those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, are often ignored in both research and policy. The essays argue for more inclusive legal and social systems that recognize and address the needs of these populations.
5. **"Victimology: A Comprehensive Approach" by Leah E. Daigle**-Daigle (2018) offers a thorough exploration of victimology, highlighting the impact of crime on secondary victims. In Chapter 5 (pp. 122-145), Daigle discusses the psychological trauma experienced by families and communities of crime victims. She argues that traditional victim services often overlook these groups, leading to prolonged emotional distress. This chapter is particularly important for understanding the extended reach of crime's impact beyond direct victims.

OBJECTIVES

1. *To check whether the majority of respondents are likely to be non-victims due to stigma and fear associated with disclosing victimisation.*

2. *To assess whether the perception of victimisation risk is lower among non-victims which could lead to a reduced likelihood of reporting minor incidents that could still be classified as victimisation.*
3. *To assess the unawareness of the respondents about the legal steps they should take after being victimised.*
4. *To assess the unawareness of the respondents about the available support services.*
5. *To determine whether respondents lack knowledge about their rights as victims, leading to hesitation or failure to take appropriate actions after experiencing victimisation.*
6. **To provide suggestions to encourage invisible victims to come forward and report crime.**

HYPOTHESES

1. *The majority of respondents are likely to be non-victims due to stigma and fear associated with disclosing victimisation.*
2. *The perception of victimisation risk is lower among non-victims, leading to a reduced likelihood of reporting minor incidents that could still be classified as victimisation.*
3. *A significant number of respondents are unaware of the legal steps they should take after being victimised.*
4. *Respondents are generally unaware of the available support services.*
5. *Most respondents lack knowledge about their rights as victims, leading to hesitation or failure to take appropriate actions after experiencing victimisation.*

RESEARCH DESIGN

- **Research Site**- This study examines the impact of crime on invisible victims -individuals who are often overlooked about crime and its effect. The study was conducted across two states of India: **Kerala** and **Madhya pradesh**, primarily due to the researchers convenience. The choice of these locations was influenced by practical considerations such as accessibility, familiarity with the regions, and the availability of resources to conduct the research effectively.

- **Pilot Survey**- We did a pilot survey by selecting 20 samples from **Sagar district** of the state **Madhya Pradesh** and became more familiar with the area of research. It also helped us to prepare an interview schedule for interviewing the invisible victims.

- **Research Tools**- In this research, 120 respondents were involved to get those data within 18 to 30 years of age group.

- **Methodology**- A mixed method approach is used to gain insights from the respondents to explore the relevant topic which include both qualitative(thematic) and quantitative questions(tabulation).

- **Sampling Method**- This study utilised a **non-probability sampling method(convenience sampling)** to select respondents. The choice of a non-probability sampling seemed the most effective way to access these individuals and gather relevant data.

- **Data Collection**- A structured questionnaire made on google form was circulated online with both close ended and open ended questions where a respondent chooses from predefined options or are free to express their opinions.
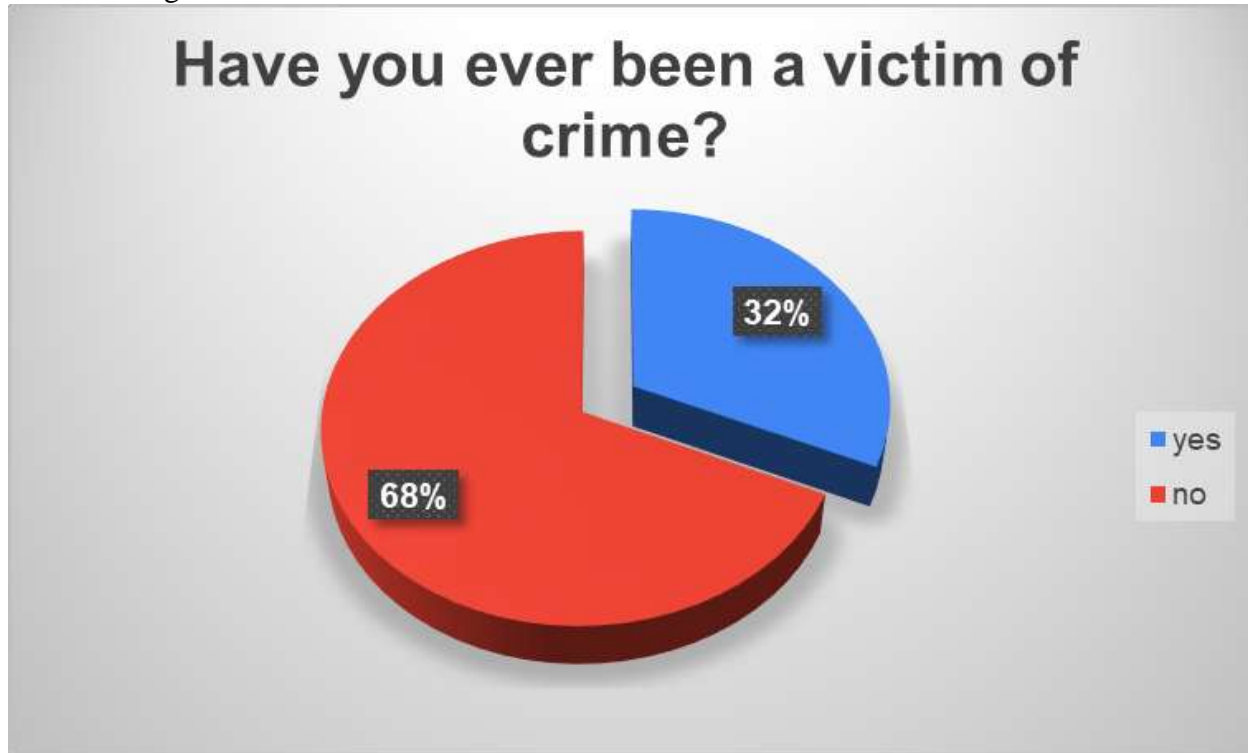
DATA ANALYSIS

Table-1.01: **Have you ever been a victim of crime?**

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	38	32
No	82	68
TOTAL	120	100

The above table indicates that a significant portion of respondents (68%) have not been victims of a crime, indicating that a majority of the sample did not experience victimisation. However, 32% of respondents indicated that they have been victims of crime, which is a substantial minority and indicates the importance of addressing victimisation.


Table-1.02 : **Have you ever felt pressured to keep a secret that made you uncomfortable ?**

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Never	56	46.7
Once	17	14.2
Few times	40	33.3
Occasionally	7	5.8
TOTAL	120	100

The above table indicates that a significant portion of respondents (46.7%) have never felt pressured to keep a secret that made them uncomfortable, suggesting that many are in environments where such situations are uncommon. However, a few (14.2) have experienced this pressure once, while a considerable number (33.3%) have experienced this pressure a few times, indicating that while not constant, it is a recurring issue for some. A smaller group (6.8%) occasionally faces such pressures, which could point to ongoing exposure to coercive or manipulative environments. This suggests a need for targeted support for those more frequently subjected to these uncomfortable situations.

**Have you ever felt pressured to keep a secret that made you uncomfortable ?**

- NEVER
- ONCE
- FEW TIMES
- OCCASIONALLY

47% — 6% — 33% — 14%
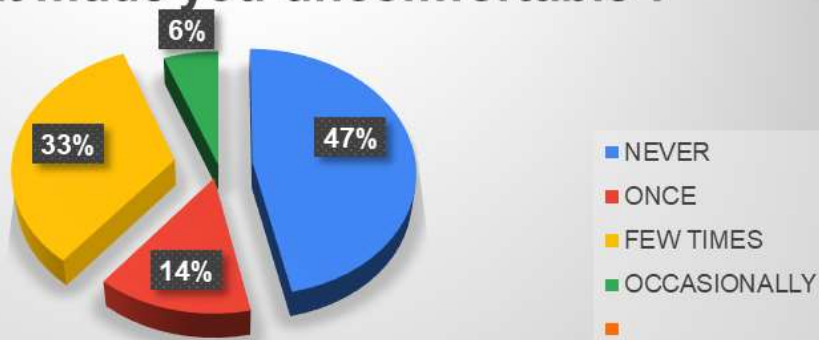
Table-1.03 : Can you share how you were victimised?

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Physical harm	4	3.3
Emotional or psychological harm	18	15
Sexual harm	9	7.5
Social harm	2	1.7
Economic or financial harm	7	5.8
Neglect or abandonment	1	0.8
Systemic or institutional harm (fromschools, workplace, hospitals etc)	4	3.3
None of the above/ not applicable	75	62.5
TOTAL	120	100

The above table indicates that a majority of respondents (62.5%) indicated "None of the above / Not applicable," which suggests that many individuals did not experience the specific types of harm listed.

The most commonly reported harm was "Emotional or psychological harm" (15%), indicating it as a significant issue among respondents.

"Sexual harm" accounted for 7.5% and "Economic or financial harm" accounted for 5.8% of responses, which are also notable. Other forms of harm, such as "Physical harm," "social harm," "Systemic or institutional harm," and "Neglect or abandonment," were less commonly reported, with frequencies ranging from 0.8% to 3.3%.
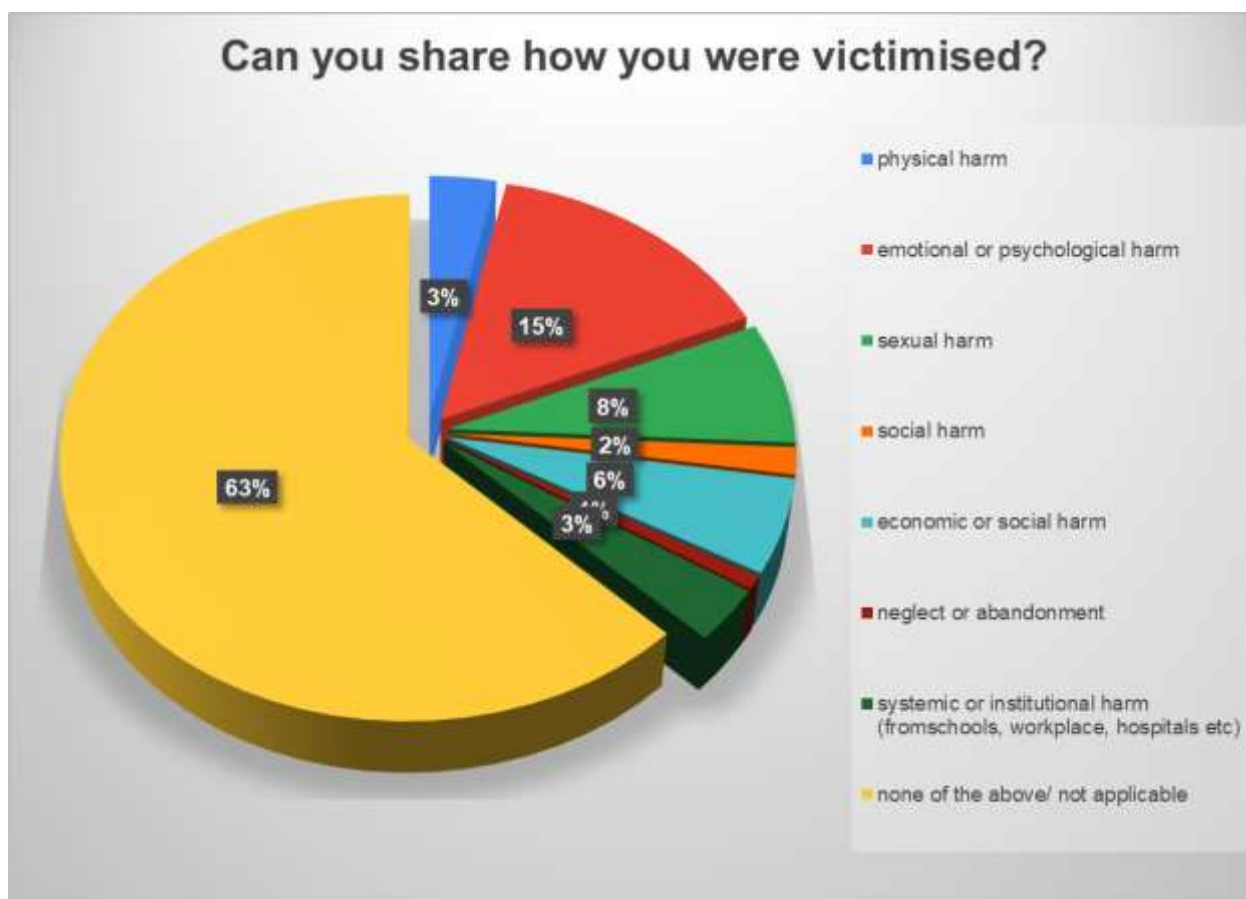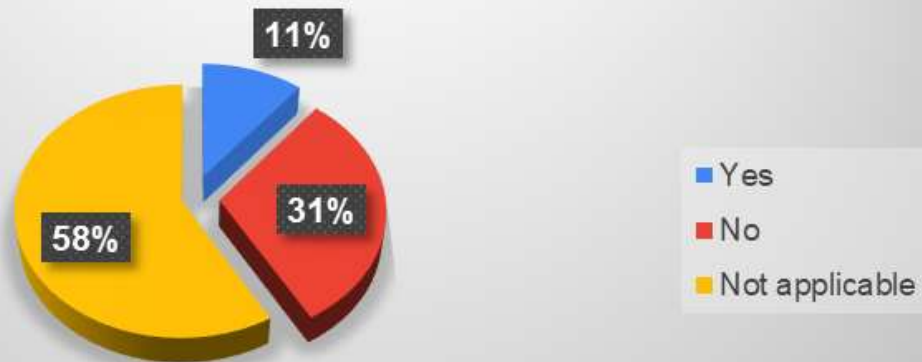
Table-1.04: **Have you ever reported to the authorities about your victimisation ?**

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	13	10.8
No	37	30.8
Not applicable	70	58.3
TOTAL	120	100

The above table indicates that a majority of respondents (58.3%) marked "not applicable" regarding reporting their victimisation to authorities, likely because they have not experienced victimisation. Among those who have been victimised, a significant number chose not to report it (30.8%), while a smaller portion (10.8%) did report to authorities. This suggests that a considerable number of victims may be reluctant to report their experiences, potentially due to factors such as fear, mistrust in the system, or a belief that the incident was not serious enough to warrant official action.

Table-1.05: **If yes in the above question , did they take any proper action?**

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	9	7.5
No	10	8.3
Not applicable	101	84.2
TOTAL	120	100

The above table reveals that among respondents who reported their victimisation to authorities, the responses are mixed regarding whether proper action was taken. A significant portion of respondents indicated "not applicable" (84.2%,indicating they did not report or were not victimised). However, for those who did report, responses show that authorities took proper action in some cases (with 7.5% of the total respondents indicating "Yes"), while in other cases, no proper action was taken (with 8.3% indicating "No"). This suggests inconsistency in the responses by authorities, highlighting potential areas for improvement in addressing victim reports effectively.
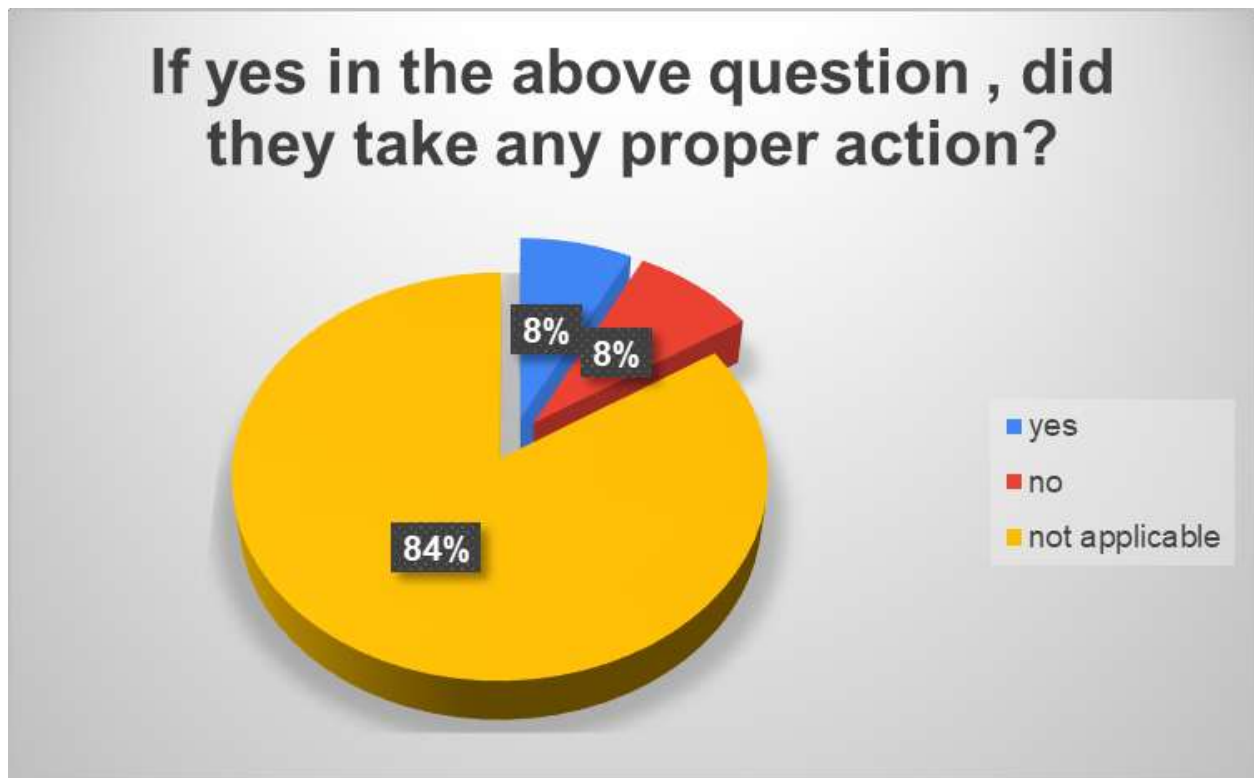
Table-1.06: Were you discouraged by anyone from reporting you being victimised?
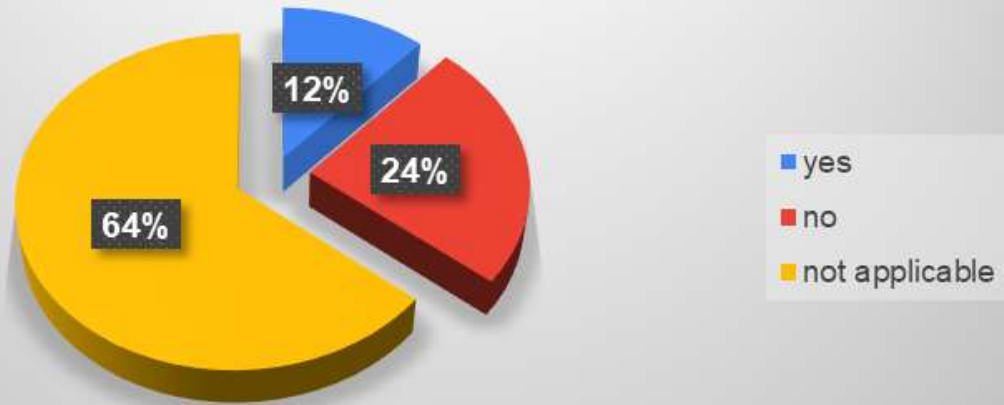
PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	14	11.7
No	29	24.2
Not applicable	77	64.2
TOTAL	120	100

The above table suggests that a portion of the respondents were indeed discouraged from reporting their victimisation. Specifically, out of those who reported or could have reported their victimisation, a noticeable number indicated they were discouraged from doing so (about 11.7% responded "Yes"). 24.2% responded "No", while a larger portion either were not discouraged or found the question not applicable (64.2%), likely indicating that they did not experience victimisation or did not report it. This trend highlights the presence of social or systemic barriers that may inhibit individuals from reporting victimisation, which could be an area of concern for further investigation and intervention

Were you discouraged by anyone from reporting you being victimised?

12% 24% 64%

- yes
- no
- not applicable

Table-1.07: If yes, who all have discouraged you from reporting it?

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Family members	9	7.5
Friends or peers	7	5.8
Authority figures	1	0.8
Law enforcement or legal professionals	2	1.7
Colleagues or co-workers	0	0
Cultural or community influencers	1	0.8
Perpetrators	0	0
Not applicable	100	83.3
TOTAL	120	100

The above table indicates that a significant number of respondents gave "not applicable" (83.3%) as responses which likely corresponds to those who were not discouraged or who did not experience victimisation. Others indicated family members (7.5%) and friends or peers (5.8%) as a primary source of discouragement. Additionally, law enforcement or legal professionals (1.7%) , cultural or community influencers (0.8%), as well as authority figures (0.8%) were mentioned by a few respondents, indicating that these entities also contribute to discouragement, albeit less frequently.
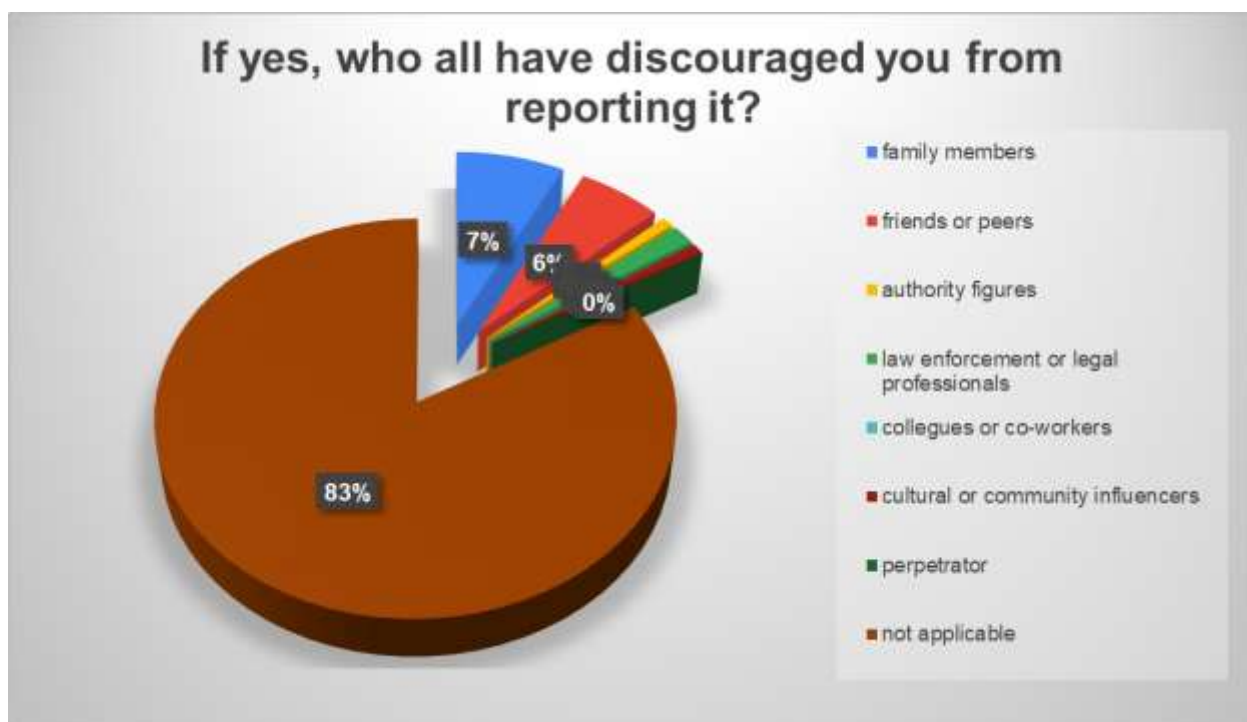
Table-1.08 : **Have you or someone you know experienced crime but feared reporting it due to potential discrimination?**

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	52	43.3
No	68	56.7
TOTAL	120	100

The above table shows that 43.3% (respondents who said 'yes') experienced fear of reporting a crime due to potential discrimination while 56.7% (respondents who said 'no') did not. This suggests that discrimination is a considerable concern for a notable subset of the population when it comes to reporting crimes.

Have you or someone you know experienced crime but feared reporting it due to potential discrimination?
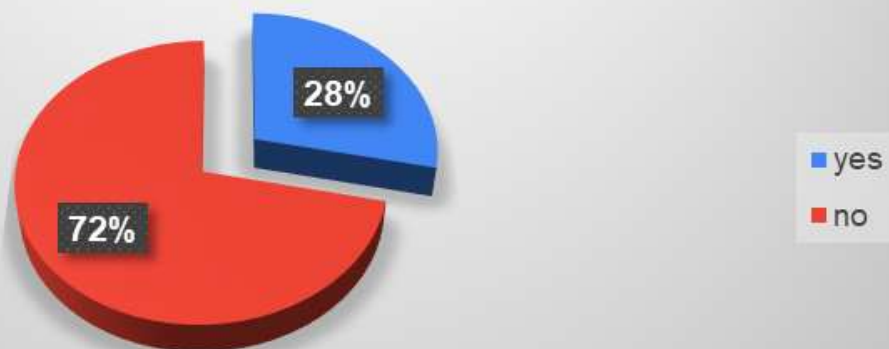
43% yes

57% no

Table-1.09: Have you been prevented from speaking to or seeking help from others?

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	34	28.3
No	86	71.7
TOTAL	120	100

The above table shows that 28.3% (respondents who have said 'yes') have been prevented from speaking to or seeking help from others while 71.7% (respondents who have said 'no') have not. This points to potential barriers within certain environments or relationships that inhibit individuals from reaching out for support, which could have implications for their overall well-being and ability to cope with victimisation or other challenges.
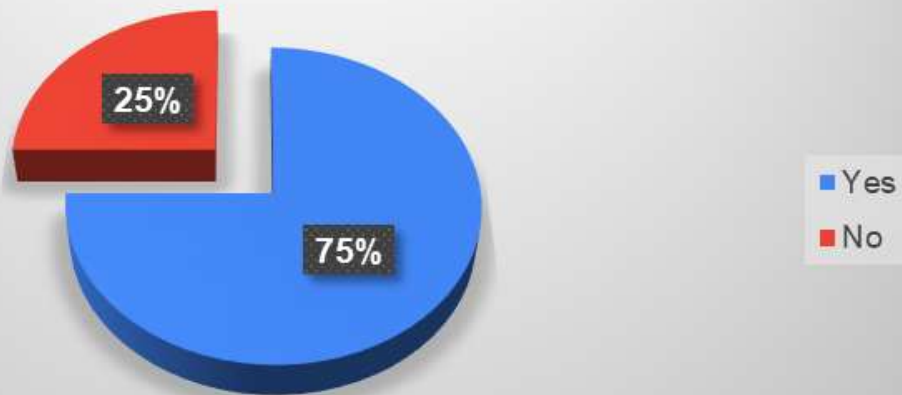
Table-1.10: Do you believe that crime victims who are less visible receive less support ?

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	90	75
No	30	25
TOTAL	120	100

The above table shows that 75% of respondents (who said 'yes') believe that less visible crime victims do indeed receive less support, suggesting a strong perception among respondents that visibility plays a crucial role in the level of support a crime victim receives; while 25% of the respondents (who said 'no') disagrees with this view, it indicates that there is some belief that all crime victims, regardless of visibility, may receive equal support.

Table-1.11: **Do you think that cultural or religious differences can impact the reporting of crime?**

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	95	79.2
No	25	20.8
TOTAL	120	100

The above table indicates that 79.2%(who said 'yes') believe that cultural or religious differences do indeed play a role. This suggests that cultural and religious factors may create barriers or influence the willingness of individuals to report crimes, possibly due to fear of stigma, social pressure, or differing beliefs about justice. 20.85% (who said 'no') implies that these factors do not significantly affect crime reporting.

## Do you think that cultural or religious differences can impact the reporting of crime?
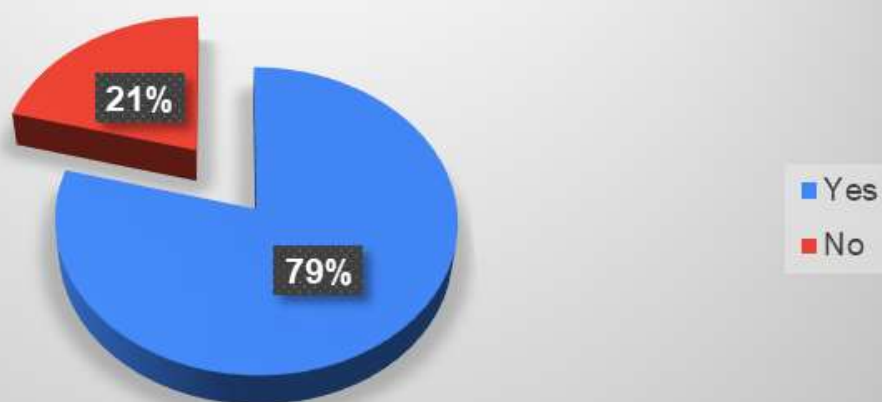
Table-1.12: If yes, what do you think is the most serious among the following ?

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
stigma and shame	10	8.3
gender roles and expectation	6	5
fear of consequences	21	17.5
trust in authorities	10	8.3
religious beliefs and teachings	10	8.3
community mediation	1	0.8
honour reputation	3	2.5
language and communication barriers	0	0
legal or immigration status	2	1.7
all of the above	57	47.5
TOTAL	120	100

The above table shows that the majority of respondents selected "all of the above," (47.5%) indicating that they believe multiple factors simultaneously affect reporting. Among the specific factors, "fear of consequences" (17.5%) is frequently mentioned, reflecting concerns over potential repercussions from

reporting a crime. Other significant factors include "trust in authorities," "stigma and shame," and "religious beliefs and teachings" (8.3%). "Gender roles and expectation" (5%), "Community mediation" (0.8%), "Honour reputation" (2.5%), and "Legal or immigration status" (1.7%)
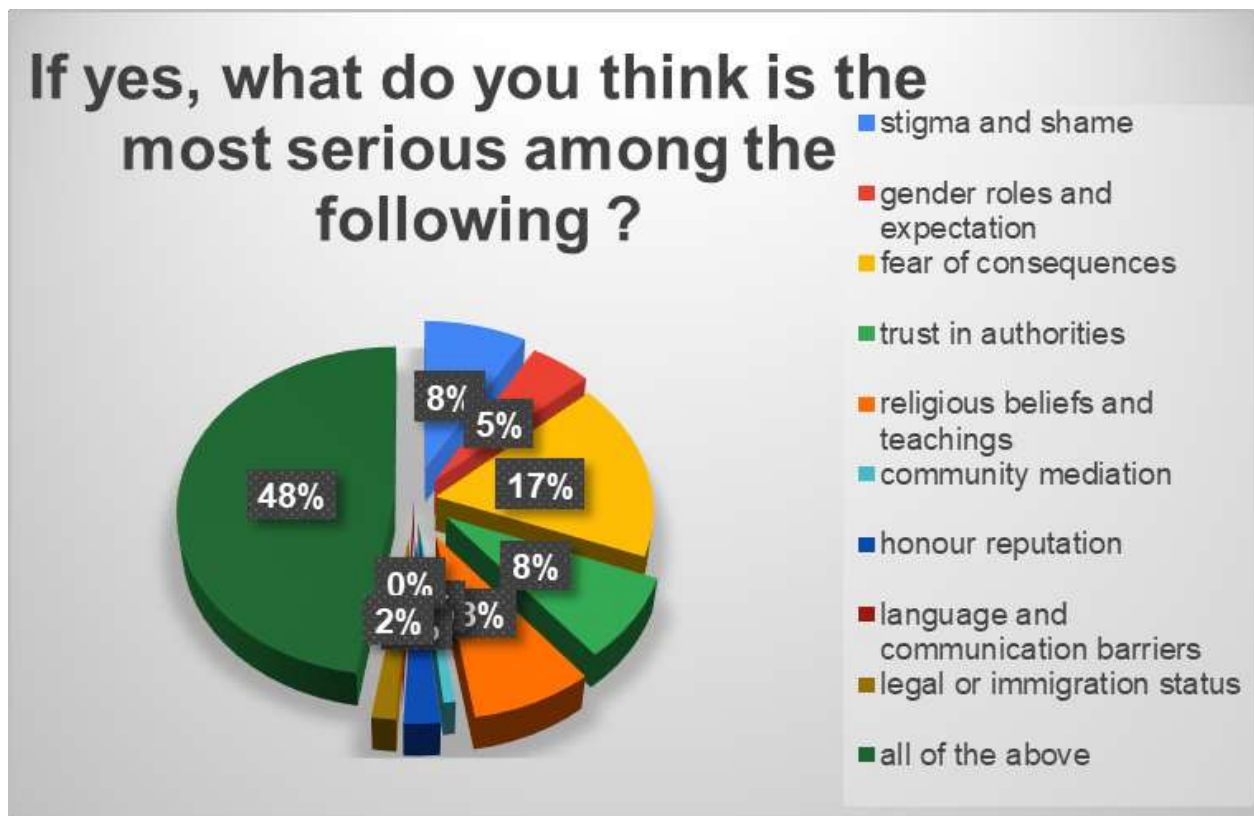
Table-1.13: Please explain if there are any activities or aspects of your life you had to give up because of you being victimised and being unreported ?

SI NO:	THEMES	CODES	DESCRIPTION
1	**Social and Personal Activities**	Attending Functions	Difficulty attending functions and forming close relationships due to fear.
		Going to Certain Clubs	Impact on socialising at specific places.
		Travelling	Fear for travelling alone at night or even at day time
		Isolation and Socialising	General isolation and avoidance of social interactions
		Building Physical Connections	Difficulty in forming physical connections.
2	**Personal Interests**	Singing	Giving up singing due to emotional and psychological impact.

|		Organising Events	Challenges in organising events due to fear and lack of rights awareness.
3	**Career and Education**	Career Impact	Impact on career due to lack of trust and emotional trauma.
		Trauma Impact	Trauma affecting work or academic performance.
4	**Family and Relationships**	Some Close Family Members	Affected relationships with close family members.
		Cousin's Situation	Cousin's restricted communication and freedom due to in-law bullying.
5	**Reporting and Communication**	Being Unable to Tell People	Challenges in sharing personal experiences.
		Sharing Personal Details	Fear and concerns about sharing personal information.
6	**Incidents and False Accusations**	Incident with Friends	Life affected by false accusations due to an incident involving friends.
		Bad Touch	Bad touch by sports teacher which resulted in a fear for continuing the sports

The analysis of the impacts resulting from victimisation and unreported incidents reveals several key themes. Social and personal activities were significantly affected, with difficulties in attending functions, forming close relationships, and engaging in social or recreational activities such as travelling and going to certain clubs. Personal interests also suffered, notably the abandonment of singing due to emotional and psychological distress, and challenges in organising events driven by fear and lack of rights awareness. Career and educational pursuits were impacted by a lack of trust, trauma, and emotional strain, leading to potential performance issues and missed opportunities. Relationships with close family members and communication with a cousin affected by in-law bullying were strained. Additionally, the inability to report or share personal experiences, coupled with fear of disclosing personal details, further exacerbated the situation. Incidents involving false accusations and inappropriate behaviour from a sports teacher also had a profound effect, highlighting the extensive consequences of victimisation and the complications arising from unreported issues.

Table-1.14: Have you explored any therapies for your situation ?

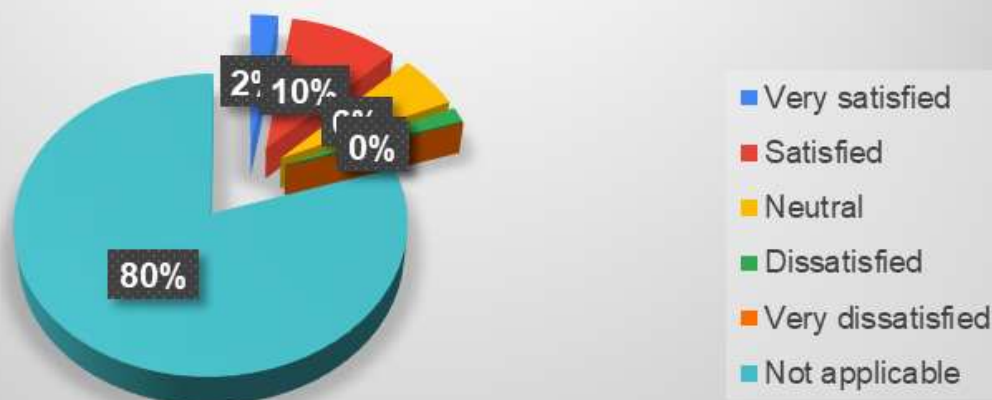| PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	19	15.8
No	42	35
Not applicable	59	49.2
TOTAL	120	100

The above table shows that 49.2% have responded 'not applicable' indicating that they may not have considered or required therapy. 35% have responded with 'no' which could suggest either a lack of need for therapeutic intervention among the respondents or a possible gap in seeking available support. The 15.8% responded to seeking therapy indicating that some individuals have taken steps towards addressing their situation through professional help, though this appears to be in the minority.
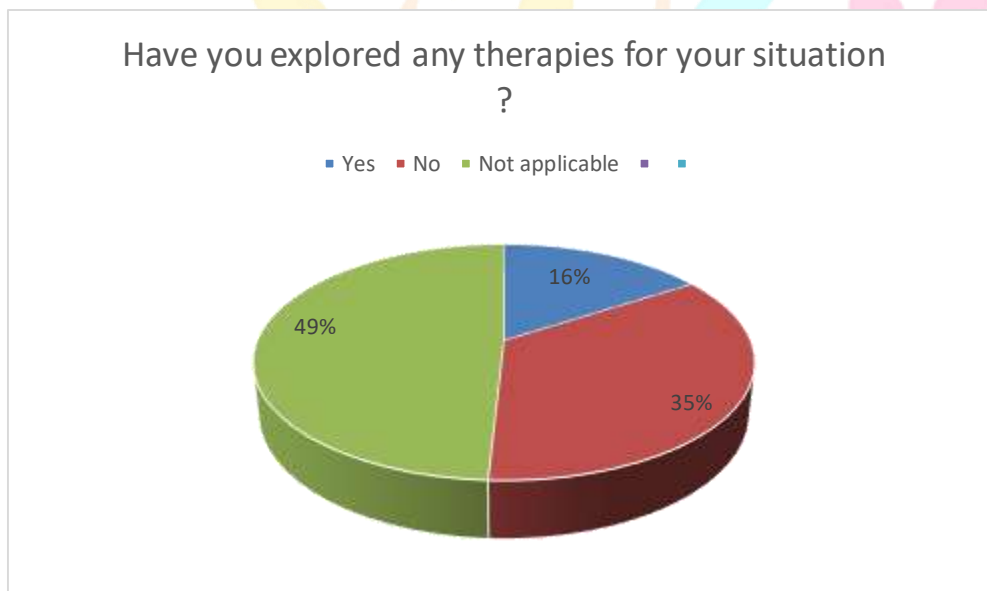
Table-1.15: If yes, how was your experience or how are you after receiving these therapies ?

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
Very satisfied	3	2.5
Satisfied	12	10
Neutral	7	5.8
Dissatisfied	2	1.7
Very dissatisfied	0	0
Not applicable	96	80
TOTAL	120	100

The above table shows that a majority of responses are marked as 'not applicable' (80%) indicating that many respondents did not engage in therapy. Only 2.5% responded 'very satisfied', while 12% responded that they were 'satisfied'. 5.8% felt neutral about their experience and 1.7% were 'dissatisfied'.

Table-1.16: What has been the most important lesson you learned from you being victimised?

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE (%)
personal strength and resilience	22	18.3
understanding and empathy	10	8.3
boundaries and self protection	21	17.5
trust in relationships	11	9.2
justice and advocacy	5	4.2
forgiveness and letting go	9	7.5
self worth and confidence	17	14.2
awareness and caution	16	13.3
Importance of seeking help and support system	8	6.7
Not applicable	69	57.5
TOTAL	—	**100**

The above table shows that the majority of the responses are marked as 'not applicable' (57.5%) indicating that they did not feel victimised or did not learn a lesson from such an experience. The most commonly mentioned important lessons were 'personal strength and resilience' (18.3%), boundaries and self protection (17.5%), 'self worth and confidence' (14.2%) and 'awareness and caution' (13.3%). Others have also mentioned 'trust in relationship' (9.2%), 'understanding and empathy' (8.3%), 'forgiveness and letting go' (7.5%), 'Importance of seeking help and support system' (6.7%) and 'justice and advocacy' (4.2%).

What has been the most important lesson you learned from you being victimised?
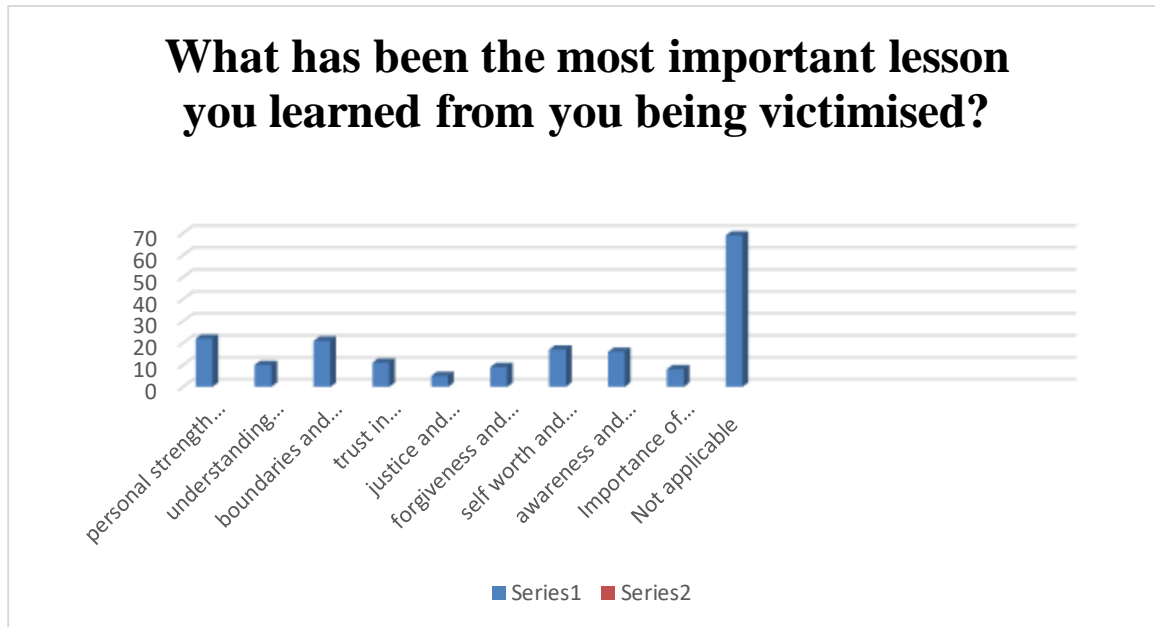
Table-1.17: Mention any organisation or resources or therapies that you would recommend for others dealing with the same situation?

SI NO	THEMES	CODE	DESCRIPTION
1	Mental Health Support	Psychiatric Assistance	Refers to seeking help from psychiatrists or other mental health professionals.
		Counselling/Therapy	Includes professional counselling, therapy (e.g., CBT), and general psychological support.
		Medication	Use of prescribed medication to manage mental health conditions.
		Psychologist	Consulting with a psychologist for mental health issues.
2	Alternative Therapies	Meditation/Yoga	Practices like meditation and yoga for mental and emotional well-being.

		Gratitude Journal	Maintaining a gratitude journal as a part of self-help strategies.
3	Support Systems	Peer/Family Support	Emphasises the importance of support from peers and family members.
		Support Groups	Participation in support groups for shared experiences and guidance.
4	Legal and Victim Assistance	Legal Awareness	Understanding the legal process and seeking legal help.
		Victim Assistance Schemes	Accessing specific schemes or organisations that support victims (e.g., NOVA, Victim Assistance Scheme).
		Cybercrime Support	Organisations like the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre for addressing cybercrime issues.
5	NGOs and Organisations	NGO Support	Support from various NGOs like Thanal, Hugcare, Mindcare NGO, etc.
		National/International Orgs	Organisations like RAINN, NCVC that provide assistance and resources.
6	Online and Specialized Resources	Online Platforms	Use of online platforms like Ushaar.com and Rockethealth for mental health assistance.
		Specialized Centers	Therapy centres like Jkj Therapies Center and Pacific Point for specific therapies.
7	Self-Help and Personal Empowerment	Self-Motivation	Encouraging self-motivation, confidence, and personal resilience.

		Relaxation Techniques	Techniques to relax the mind, such as meditation, finding happiness, and living in the moment.
8	Educational and Awareness Resources	Educational Resources	Access to resources and information for mental health and legal awareness.

The analysis reveals several key themes surrounding the support mechanisms and resources available for individuals facing various challenges. Mental Health Support is emphasised through recommendations for psychiatric assistance, counselling, therapy, and medication, highlighting the importance of professional psychological care. Alternative Therapies, such as meditation, yoga, and maintaining a gratitude journal, are also seen as vital tools for enhancing emotional well-being. The role of Support Systems is underscored, with a focus on peer and family support, as well as participation in support groups, which provide shared experiences and guidance. The importance of Legal and Victim Assistance is addressed through legal awareness, victim assistance schemes, and cybercrime support, indicating a need for understanding and navigating the legal process. NGOs and Organizations are frequently mentioned as sources of aid, both at the national and international levels, providing a wide range of support services. Additionally, Online and Specialized Resources are recognized for their accessibility and targeted therapies. Finally, Self-Help and Personal Empowerment are encouraged through self-motivation, relaxation techniques, and educational resources, promoting confidence and resilience in individuals.

Table-1.18: What expectations do you have from others for you to move on in your life?

SI NO:	THEMES	CODES	DESCRIPTION
1	Support and Help	SUPPORT	Desire for assistance and emotional or practical help from others.
2	Independence and Self-Reliance	INDEPENDENCE	Emphasis on self-sufficiency and moving on without relying on others.
3	Empathy and Understanding	EMPATHY	Need for others to be empathetic and understanding without judgement.
4	Non-Judgmental Behaviour	NON-JUDGEMENTAL	Importance of not being judged by others.
5	Privacy and Boundaries	PRIVACY	Expectation for others to respect personal space and not interfere in personal matters.
6	Mental Peace	MENTAL PEACE	Desire for mental calmness, avoiding stress or conflict from

			others.
7	Confidence and Strength	CONFIDENCE	Encouragement to be confident, strong, and resilient in facing challenges.
8	Forgiveness and Letting Go	FORGIVENESS	Emphasis on forgiving others and moving forward.
9	Trust Building	TRUST	Importance of help in rebuilding trust in relationships.
10	Active Listening	LISTENING	Expectation for others to listen actively and attentively without interruption.
11	Being a Good Human	GOOD HUMAN	Expectation for others to act with kindness, respect, and moral integrity.
12	Happy Life with Beloved	HAPPY LIFE	Desire for a joyful and fulfilling life with a significant other.
13	Nothing/No Expectations	NOTHING	Indication of having no expectations from others, implying a focus on self-reliance.

The responses indicate that while expecting "Support and help from others" to move forward in life, there is also a significant emphasis on needing "NOTHING" from others. This suggests a duality in the approaches—on one hand, they value emotional and practical support, empathy, and non-judgmental behaviour, while on the other, prefer independence, self-reliance, and minimal interference from others. Themes of mental peace, confidence, and maintaining positive relationships are also important, as indicated by mentioning of "Mental peace," "Happy life with beloved," and "Be confident and move on." This reflects a balanced desire for support when necessary but with a strong foundation in personal strength and autonomy.

FINDINGS/OUTCOMES

- ***POSITIVE FINDINGS:***
  1. Awareness of Victim Needs: Many people understand that victimisation affects different people, including those who are not often seen or heard. They know it's important to support these less visible victims.
  2. Available Help: There are many recommended resources like mental health professionals, support groups, and NGOs. This shows that people know where to find help and think it's important to use it.
  3. Cultural Sensitivity: Most respondents think cultural and religious factors impact crime reporting. This means there's a recognition that different backgrounds can affect how people report and deal with crime.
  4. Personal Growth: Many have learned important life lessons from their experiences, such as building personal strength and understanding their own worth, showing they can grow despite difficult situations.

- ***NEGATIVE FINDINGS:***
  1. <u>Reporting and Response Issues</u>:
     - ❖ Low Reporting Rates: Only 10.8% of those who were victimised reported their experience to authorities, and of those, only a small portion felt that proper action was taken. This suggests significant issues in both the willingness to report and the effectiveness of the response.
     - ❖ Discouragement from Reporting: About 11.7% of respondents were discouraged from reporting their victimisation by family, friends, or other sources. This indicates social barriers that prevent victims from seeking help.
  2. <u>Fear of Discrimination</u>:
     - ❖ Fear of Reporting Due to Discrimination: 43.3% of respondents feared discrimination if they reported a crime. This reflects a lack of trust in the system and concerns about potential biases.
  3. <u>Limited Use of Therapy</u>:
     - ❖ Infrequent Therapy Use: Only 15.8% of respondents sought therapy, and among them, only a small portion felt very satisfied with the experience. This points to potential issues with access to or quality of therapeutic support.
  4. <u>Invisible Victims</u>:
     - ❖ Perceived Lack of Support for Less Visible Victims: 75% of respondents believe that less visible crime victims receive less support. This highlights a significant concern that victims who are not in the public eye may not receive adequate help.

HYPOTHESIS VALIDATION

1. The analysed data reveals that the hypothesis "The majority of respondents are likely to be non-victims due to stigma and fear associated with disclosing victimisation" is proved.
2. The analysed data reveals that the hypothesis "The perception of victimisation risk is lower among non-victims, leading to a reduced likelihood of reporting minor incidents that could still be classified as victimisation." is proved
3. The analysed data reveals that the hypothesis "A significant number of respondents are unaware of the legal steps they should take after being victimised." is proved
4. The analysed data reveals that the hypothesis "Respondents are generally unaware of the available support services." is proved
5. The analysed data reveals that the hypothesis "Most respondents lack knowledge about their rights as victims, leading to hesitation or failure to take appropriate actions after experiencing victimisation."

LIMITATIONS

- The sample size in the present study is small.
- The sample was collected only from 2 States of India,ie; Kerala and Madhya Pradesh States, the findings of our study cannot be generalized.

CONCLUSION

The research reveals that while there is considerable awareness of the challenges faced by invisible victims, significant issues persist. A large portion of respondents either did not report their victimisation or found that proper action was not taken when they did. Social discouragement from reporting, fear of discrimination, and ineffective support systems are major barriers, with many victims feeling that less visible individuals receive inadequate support. Cultural and religious factors further complicate the reporting process, highlighting the need for more sensitive and effective interventions. Additionally, the limited use and varying satisfaction with therapy suggest a gap in accessible and effective mental health support. Overall, the findings indicate a pressing need for improved reporting mechanisms and targeted support to address these challenges effectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To better support invisible victims, it's crucial to raise awareness about their struggles through targeted campaigns and improve the accessibility of support services, ensuring they are culturally sensitive and widely available. Safe and confidential reporting channels should be established, alongside enhanced training for professionals like police and social workers to better understand and assist these victims. Community-led initiatives should be supported, and peer support networks encouraged. Strengthening legal protections, conducting further research, empowering victims with knowledge of their rights, and advocating for policy changes that address the root causes of invisibility are also essential steps to ensure these victims receive the attention and care they need.

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