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VOICE TO THEM

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Abstract: The term sexual harassment covers a wide range of behaviors ranging from verbal assaults to sexual abuse and sexual assault. Sexual harassment can happen in different contexts, not following a specific dynamic. People of all genders can experience sexual harassment, but we noticed that the frequency is higher in women. Thus, as female high school students in the city of São Gonçalo, based on the encouragement of our Geography teacher and a subject at ``Escola Firjan SESI São Gonçalo``, we developed a project aimed at the safety of girls and women in our city. We realize that many of us suffer harassment, violence or sexual embarrassment in our lives and, as a result, we develop a fear of moving around our city. The project consists of an app and a digital watch that, using information sources from the police and other women, creates safe routes, support networks and alerts for women.

Keywords: Sexual harassment, digital application, High School

INTRODUCTION

In 2021, when we were in the 1st year of high school, Escola SESI São Gonçalo had a discipline called Pedagogical Journey in its curriculum. In it, we were encouraged to observe what is around us and research the subject so that we could propose innovative solutions to problems in our community. Therefore, we stopped to think about the biggest problems that surround our city, mainly those that affect women, since we are a group composed of young women.

Our Geography teacher and responsible for the subject mentioned above, Ana Carolina Lydia, whenever possible, addresses gender issues with us and accompanies and supports us in dealing with the subject. With that, we realized that the violence that is present in our lives is common to many other girls and women, and we noticed this in our classmates at school. Soon, we went to research on the subject and make a survey within our school.

We observed that there are numerous reports of harassment on a daily basis, and even we, members of the group, suffer from it on a daily basis. According to a survey carried out by the transport company 99 App, about 64% of women say they have experienced situations of harassment in their daily lives, 47% in public places and 40% in public transport. Thus, we thought of something that could make it easier for women to get help, and know which places are the most dangerous to be in, or even be able to share what they suffered.

Our idea consists of an application, available for both Android and IOS devices (even digital watches). It would have a direct connection with the police center, which could be triggered discreetly, in addition, we will have a heat map that shows which places more cases of harassment have been registered. From this map, women could choose safer routes for their displacement.

In this application, there would also be an area where users could interact with each other and would have the support of psychologists, to help with the trauma caused by this type of violence. To reduce the financial cost of those who are unable to own a digital watch, we thought of manufacturing one for this purpose, which would be more affordable, discreet, and would have the same functions as the app.

We think that with this app, cases of harassment could be reduced, and women could also feel more secure when walking alone along rivers or on transport.

AUTHORS AND THEORY

According to historical records, sexual harassment would have emerged in the Middle Ages through the *jus primae noctis* (entitled to the first night), according to this practice, feudal lords could choose to spend the wedding night with the women who contracted marriage. With the Industrial Revolution, women conquered space in the production processes in factories, however, the society dominated by centuries of patriarchy contributed to the potentialization of sexual harassment in work environments.

In the 1970s, the modern definition of sexual harassment emerged. Catherine Mackinnon (1979) was the first person to speak of sexual harassment in a legal context referring to this issue as a form of sexual discrimination. Despite this, she is not credited with creating the expression "sexual harassment".

> The expression "Sexual Harassment/Sexual Harassment" originated in the USA. [...] McKinnon published a book on sexual harassment in 1979 - "Sexual Harassment of Women at Work, A Case of Discrimination on the Ground of Sex" - in which he defines the concept of sexual harassment, meaning sexual harassment of unwanted imposition of acts of a sexual nature in the context of an unequal relationship. (SIO, 2019, p.10)

In Brazil, sexual harassment was only considered a crime on May 15, 2001. Law 10,224 added an article to the Penal Code and defined the crime of sexual harassment as "embarrassing someone with the intention of obtaining sexual advantage or favor, prevailing - if the agent of his condition of hierarchical superior or ascendancy inherent to the exercise of employment, position or function". Harassment can be sexual, moral or any other inconvenient conduct and harassment that causes embarrassment and which aims to emotionally shake the victim.

The first proposal for an app to help report harassment was the ``Sai Pra Lá`` app, created in 2015. In it, the victim could report the harassment, indicate the place where the crime occurred and the time of day, in addition to selecting which was the type of harassment suffered and what was done. According to Catharina Doria, responsible for the app's project, the purpose of the app is to map harassment and act in prevention, putting pressure on the bodies responsible for our safety and showing women which are the places where harassment occurs the most.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

From a survey at our school, carried out using an online form, we were able to observe that cases of violence happen at different times, environments, times and happen in different ways.

The form was answered by more than 100 women and, through it, we obtained positive information about the idealization of our project and with that, we thought about how we could help both our school community and the women of our city in general.
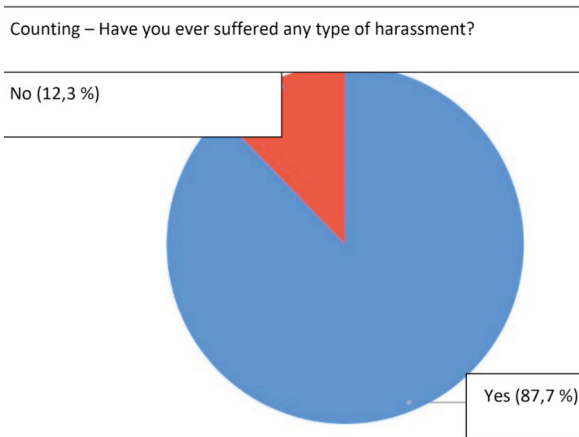

Counting – Have you ever suffered any type of harassment?

No (12,3 %)

Yes (87,7 %)

Figure 1. Number of women who suffered, or not, some type of harassment

Age counting

Over 18 years (26,3 %)

Less than 18 years (73,7 %)
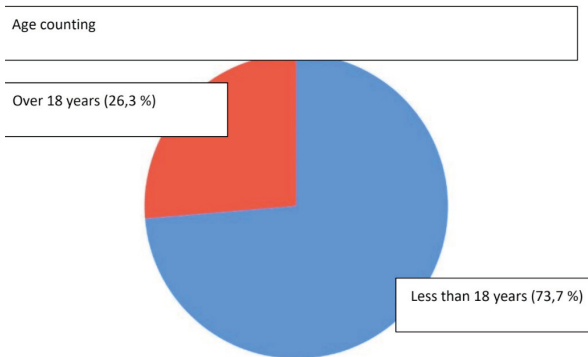
Figure 2. Age of women who answered the form.

Counting – Do you think it would be useful to have access to a heat map indicating locations with the highest and lowest levels of harassment?
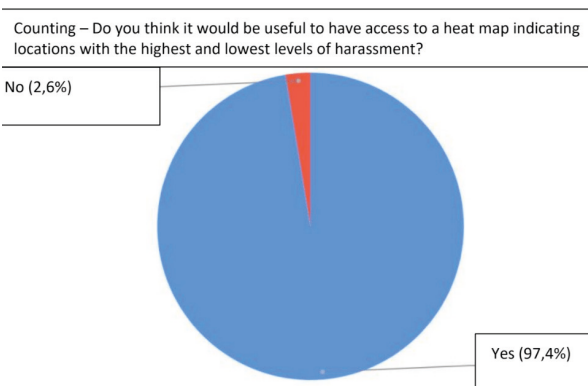
No (2,6%)

Yes (97,4%)

Figure 3. Percentage of women who find it useful or not to have access to a heat map that indicates places with the highest and lowest rates of harassment.
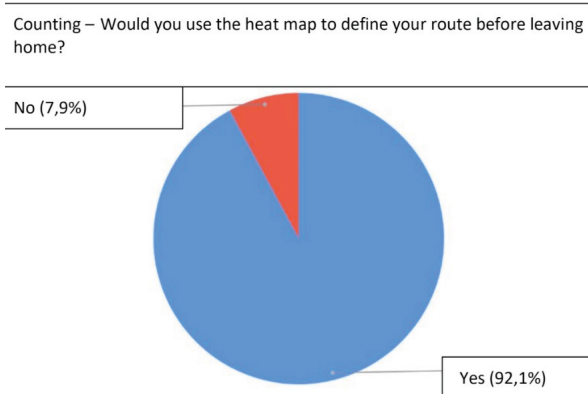
Counting – Would you use the heat map to define your route before leaving home?

No (7,9%)

Yes (92,1%)

Figure 4. Percentage of women who would or would not use the heat map to choose their route before leaving home.

Counting – Do you think that during a case of harassment, it would be easier to report using a cell phone or a smart watch connected to the women's police station?
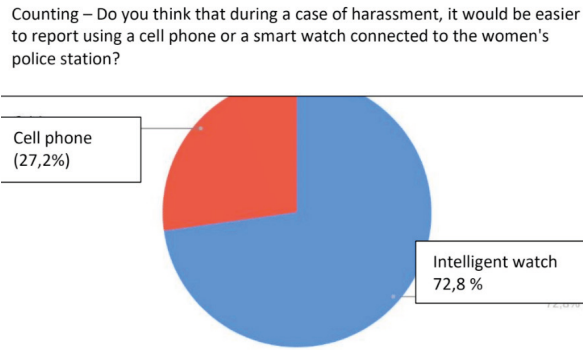
Cell phone (27,2%)

Intelligent watch 72,8 %

Figure 5. Number of women who think it would be easier to use a cell phone or a smart watch to report cases of harassment.

Counting – Would you use a smart watch connected to an application containing the previously mentioned heat map and the function to call the women's police station through the watch?
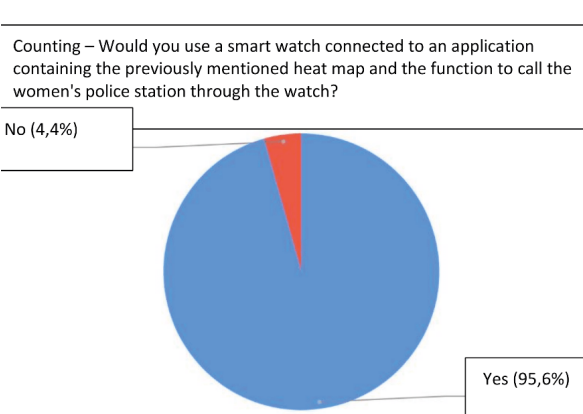
No (4,4%)

Yes (95,6%)

Figure 6. Percentage of women who would or would not wear a smart watch that has a heat map and the function to call the Women's Police Station.

Our project consists of developing an application that will have an emergency button, which can and must be used in cases of harassment or if you are in a dangerous situation. A heat map, to indicate the areas with the most and least incidence of harassment or cases of sexual abuse. This application would be connected to the digital clock and would send sensory information to the users.

When she passes through a place with a higher incidence, the watch emits vibrations to let her know that she is in a higher risk area. And finally, the application has a tab that, when activated, shows a website that indicates the closest psychologists in case they need professional follow-up.

Also, thinking about accessibility, our project aims to develop a device similar to a digital watch with the only function of connecting to the application. Because it has a simpler mechanism, the cost would be much lower than the digital watches that are currently available on the market.

The application will be developed free of charge, facilitating access since it can be used on any cell phone with internet access. The social digital clock will have an average cost of R$175.00. For women who already have a digital watch, the application can be used on any device.
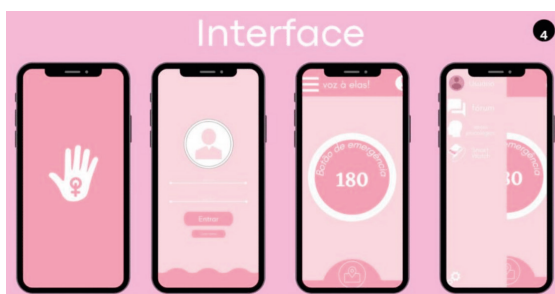

Figure 7. application interface

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is concluded that the objective of our application is to reduce the number of sexual harassment and abuse in our municipality. With the use of our application, which has shortcuts to the women's service center to facilitate the reporting of possible abuses, maps of areas with more cases of sexual violence using official data, and also a shortcut to the life appreciation center for psychological help.

We also have the objective of spreading posters about the app in places with more cases of abuse, as we believe that with more informed victims and more intimidated aggressors, we will have a significant reduction in these cases. Thus, we will have a less insecure city so that girls and women like us can have the right to move around the city without fear.

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