#BreaktheSilo

Empirical Insights into Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in India

SURVEY REPORT

#BreaktheSilo: Empirical Insights into Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in India

Authors: Garima Saxena and Pranav Bhaskar Tiwari
Conceptualisation: Shruti Shreya
Copyeditor: Akriti Jayant
Thematic Designer: Shivam Kulshrestha

CONTENTS

Acknowledgement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender-based violence (GBV) has long been a critical issue, but the rapid digitalisation of society has **made technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV)** an even more pervasive and concerning challenge. TFGBV takes many forms, including **cyberstalking, doxxing, deepfakes, impersonation, economic fraud, and non-consensual intimate imagery (NCII)** with women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and other sexual and gender- based marginalised communities disproportionately affected.

Building on The Dialogue's **#BreakTheSilo: Streamlining Gender Safety in Digital Space** framework's multi-stakeholder approach, this study expands the framework and provides **empirical insights** into the scale, impact, and underlying drivers of TFGBV. The report **surveys 4,000 respondents across ten major Indian cities,** capturing diverse lived experiences and highlighting the urgent need for evidence-based interventions.

KEY FINDINGS

Prevalence and Perception of TFGBV

- **68.87% of men, 54.80% of women, and 79.76% of transgender and non-binary individuals** reported experiencing some form of TFGBV.
- **Cyberstalking (61.77%), impersonation (61.02%), and economic fraud (60.16%)** emerged as the most common forms of abuse.
- **51.45% of respondents** view TFGBV as more serious than physical gender-based violence, reflecting greater awareness of its harmful impact.

Psychological and Social Impact

- **65% of** victim-survivors reported severe mental health repercussions, including anxiety, depression, and fear of digital spaces.
- TFGBV victim-survivors face **career disruptions, reputational damage, and social isolation**, amplifying long-term harm.

Reporting and Redressal Gaps

- **Only 30% of** victim-survivors **reported incidents to law enforcement,** citing a lack of trust in legal processes.
- **42% sought support from friends and family,** while **26% reported cases to tech platforms,** revealing systemic inefficiencies in formal redressal mechanisms.

- LGBTQIA+ individuals remain **significantly underserved by legal protections and institutional support,** which increases their vulnerability to online abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen Legal Frameworks** – Harmonise cyber and gender rights principles to close enforcement gaps and ensure swift, survivor-centric legal redressal.
- **Ensure Platform Accountability** – Require tech platforms to conduct proactive risk assessments, implement robust content moderation, and provide survivor driven support systems.
- **Enhance Reporting & Support Mechanisms** – Establish fast tracked, survivor friendly complaint mechanisms that offer legal aid, psychological counselling, and digital safety assistance.
- **Embed Digital Literacy in Institutions** – Integrate online safety, digital ethics, and gender sensitivity into school, university, and workplace training programmes.
- **Address Societal & Cultural Drivers** – Challenge harmful gender norms in society and implement workplace policies to combat digital harassment.
- **Ensure Inclusive & Intersectional Approaches** – Ensure LGBTQIA+ individuals and underrepresented communities receive tailored legal protections, reporting channels, and crisis response mechanisms.
- **Advance Research & Data-Driven Policies** – Institutionalise large scale, intersectional research to track TFGBV patterns, assess intervention efficacy, and refine policy responses.

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Understanding TFGBV: The Digital Dimension of Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive issue worldwide,[1] hindering progress and restricting the ability of women and girls to fully exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms.[2] It occurs across regions and countries, cutting across societal status, economic disparities, and racial and ethnic backgrounds. While women and girls are the primary targets of gender-based violence, research shows that sexual and gender-based minorities, as well as men, can also fall victim.[3]

As technology use grows and the line between offline and online spaces[4] increasingly blurs, gender-based violence often manifests as technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). TFGBV includes a range of acts in which digital media and technology are used to harm, demean, sexualise, and exploit individuals without their consent, typically targeting them based on the basis of their sex, gender, or sexual orientation. Examples include voyeurism,[5] cyberstalking,[6] deepfaking or morphing,[7] non-consensual dissemination of intimate photos and videos,[8] and sexploitation.[9]

Like physical violence, TFGBV also stems from gender dynamics, societal norms, and stereotypes, but technology amplifies and enables its impact. Research shows that TFGBV shares common characteristics with offline violence, as both often interconnect and cannot be viewed in isolation.[10] They arise from the same root causes—social norms, stereotypes, coercive control, and lack of consent. However, TFGBV differs fundamentally from physical violence due to its digital nature. The online environment shapes its unique characteristics, including anonymity, remote perpetration, propagation and virality, accessibility and affordability, collective participation, and the normalisation and permanence of harm.[11] These factors not only distinguish TFGBV from offline violence but also exacerbate its reach, making it more pervasive and persistent.[12]

Acts of TFGBV have far-reaching consequences that extend beyond the immediate harm inflicted on victim-survivors. They affect multiple aspects of life, including health, safety, political participation, and economic stability, impacting not only survivors but

[1.] World Bank. (2019, September 25). *Violence against women and girls,*
from https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialsustainability/brief/violence-against-women-and-girls.

[2.] UN Women. (2012). *Preventing violence against women and girls: A framework for action,* from
https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/57/EGM/cs557-EGM-prevention-background-paper%20pdf.pdf.

[3.] Pal, S., Pathak, P.K., Rahaman, M., et al. (2024). *Men at risk: Correlates of verbal, physical and sexual violence against men who have sex with men across selected cities in India.* BMC Public Health, 24, 3006, from https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-024-20493-x.

[4.] Orgad, S. (2009). *The interrelations between online and offline: Questions, issues, and implications.* In The Oxford Handbook of Gender, Sex, and Crime (pp. 514–536). Oxford University Press, from https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199548798.003.0022.

[5.] Shreya, S., & Saxena, G. (2023, October 17). *#BreakTheSilo: Streamlining gender safety in the digital space.* The Dialogue. from https://thedialogue.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BreaktheSilo-Policy-Framework.pdf.

[6.] The Hindu. (2024, February 16). *Teen stalker in Chennai uses online delivery apps to harass tuition teacher who spurned his advances,* from
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/teen-stalker-in-chennai-uses-online-delivery-apps-to-harass-tuition-teacher-who-spurned-his-advances/article68431852.ece.

[7.] Hindustan Times. (2023, November 28). *After deepfake video row, Rashmika Mandanna appointed as National Ambassador for promoting cyber safety,* from
https://www.hindustantimes.com/entertainment/bollywood/after-deepfake-video-row-rashmika-mandanna-appointed-as-national-ambassador-for-promoting-cyber-safety-101728979216639.html.

[8.] Times of India. (2024, January 27). *Jilted lover's revenge: Ex-flame sends revenge porn via post,* from
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/jilted-lovers-revenge-ex-flame-sends-revenge-porn-via-post/articleshow/106621868.cms.

[9.] Indian Express. (2024, April 30). *Sextortion a significant social menace, says Delhi High Court as it denies anticipatory bail to three accused,* from https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/sextortion-social-menace-delhi-high-court-anticipatory-bail-9299696.

[10.] United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2023). *Making all spaces safe: Tackling technology-facilitated gender-based violence in the Asia-Pacific region.* from https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/unfpa-tfgbv-making_all_spaces_safe.pdf.

[11.] United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2022). *Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Global symposium report.* from https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2022-GlobalSymposium-TFGBV_EN.pdf.

[12.] Rutgers International. (2024). *Decoding technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Global trends and responses.* from https://rutgers.international/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Decoding-TFGBV-Report-2024.pdf.

also their families, communities, and society as a whole.[13] TFGBV prevents women and LGBTQIA+ individuals from exercising their basic rights and participation equally in both offline and online communities. As more women gain access to technology and the Internet, the distinction between public and private spaces continues to blur. Abuse and harassment have become normalised, often dismissed as inevitable part of engaging with technology and online platforms.[14] This issue is particularly severe in rapidly developing and digitalising countries like India, where pervasive gender inequality, limited digital literacy, poor cyber hygiene, and stigma around

reporting exacerbate the problem. In recent years, female public figures in India —including politicians, actresses, and journalists —have faced targeted abuse through deepfakes,[16] misinformation,[17] hate campaigns, and rape and death threats.[18] Individuals have also experienced NCII (Non-Consensual Intimate Image) abuse,[19] privacy breaches,[20] unwanted attention and hateful, unsolicited and disrespectful messages and comments.[21] Beyond personal harms, these acts actively reinforce systemic sexism by actively sharing and amplifying sexist, hateful, and violent narratives about women and gender minorities.[22]

DISSECTING DEEPFAKE AS A FORM OF VIOLENCE

In November 2023,[23] a deepfake video featuring an Indian actress went viral, causing significant distress to both the actress involved and the individual whose image was used as the base content. The manipulated clip in digitally altered the actress's face onto another person's body, sparking outrage and public debate.

- **Psychological and Emotional Consequences:** The video left both individuals anxious and powerless.[24] Its rapid spread inflicted lasting trauma, damaged reputations, and violated personal

13. UK Government. (2023). *Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis.* from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64abe2b21121040013ee6576/Technology_facilitated_gender_based_violence_preliminary_landscape_analysis.pdf.

14. International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). (2020). Technology-facilitated gender-based violence in the time of COVID-19. from https://www.icrw.org/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-in-the-time-of-covid-19/

15. NORC University of Chicago & International Center for Research on Women. (2022). *Technology-facilitated gender-based violence in India.* United States Agency for International Development. from https://www.unfpa.org/TFGBV.

16. Times of India. (2024, January 18). *Alia Bhatt fans are concerned as another deepfake video of the actress goes viral: 'AI is dangerous',* from https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/bollywood/news/alia-bhatt-fans-are-concerned-as-another-deepfake-video-of-the-actress-goes-viral-ai-is-dangerous/articleshow/110991042.cms.

17. Keighley, R. (2021). Hate Hurts: Exploring the Impact of Online Hate on LGBTQ+ Young People. *Women & Criminal Justice, 32(1–2),* 29–48. https://doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2021.1988034

18. The Economic Times. (2024). *Mimi Chakraborty receives rape threats after joining protest over Kolkata doctor's rape-murder,* from https://m.economictimes.com/magazines/panache/mimi-chakraborty-receives-rape-threats-after-joining-protest-over-kolkata-doctors-rape-murder/articleshow/112671024.cms.

19. Live Law. (2024, April 30). *Husband can't claim ownership of wife's body, privacy, her consent paramount; sharing intimate acts' video a breach of trust:* Allahabad HC. from https://www.livelaw.in/high-court/allahabad-high-court/allahabad-high-court-husband-wife-relationship-onwership-privacy-intimate-videos-public-trust-279785.

20. The Hindu. (2024). *Mumbai woman forced to strip, duped of ₹1.78 lakh in digital arrest scam.* from https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mumbai-woman-forced-to-strip-duped-of-178-lakh-in-digital-arrest-scam/article68934236.ece.

21. DNA India. (2021, April 6). *Throwback: 'My identity & privacy have been hacked' - When RCB's fangirl ordeal went viral during IPL 2019.* from https://www.dnaindia.com/ipl/report-throwback-my-identity-privacy-have-been-hacked-when-rcb-s-fangirl-ordeal-went-viral-during-ipl-2019-2885312.

22. Heung, S., Jiang, L., Azenkot, S., & Vashistha, A. (2024). *"Vulnerable, Victimized, and Objectified": Understanding Ableist Hate and Harassment Experienced by Disabled Content Creators on Social Media.* In CHI 2024 - Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Article 744 https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3641949.

23. Business Standard. (2024, January 21). *Rashmika Mandanna thanks Delhi Police after deepfake video creator arrested,* from https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/rashmika-mandanna-thanks-delhi-police-after-deepfake-video-creator-arrested-124012100166_1.html.

24. The Quint. (2023). *After Rashmika Mandanna's deepfake video goes viral, Zara Patel (original video) reacts,* from https://www.thequint.com/entertainment/celebrities/after-rashmika-mandannas-deepfake-video-goes-viral-zara-patel-original-video-reacts.

identities.[25]

- **Societal Implications and Gender-Based Violence:** Deepfakes, particularly those targeting women, serve as a form of TFGBV. They reinforce misogyny, exploit women, normalise digital abuse,[26] and create a hostile environment where women lose control over their bodies and identities.
- **Enforcement Gaps:** Weak regulatory enforcement allows deepfake creators to operate with impunity. While the government and police acted swiftly in this case and arrested the perpetrator, many offenders remain free. Stronger enforcement mechanisms are essential.
- **Long-Term Societal Impact:** This incident highlights how AI is reshaping user interactions with technology. As the technology advances and becomes more accessible, ensuring its responsible use remains critical.

1.2 The Growing Impact of TFGBV in India and the Need for Empirical Data

The urgency to address TFGBV is gaining momentum as jurisdictions worldwide recognise its seriousness and integrate it into policy agendas. International organisations and civil society representatives continue to push for an end to TFGBV, actively working to combat this pervasive issue.[27] Despite broad consensus on the need for action, India lacks critical data and empirical evidence necessary to support research, shape policies, and develop effective solutions.

In 2023, the #BreakTheSilo Framework: Streamlining Gender Safety in India—one of the first multi-stakeholder initiative of its kind[28]—highlighted that no single entity can tackle TFGBV alone. The initiative revealed the need for a holistic, 360-degree strategy that brings together platforms, civil society, government, law enforcement, educators, families, and the judiciary. The Framework adopted a comprehensive "whole-of-society" approach, integrating key pillars of action: Access, Prevention, Early Intervention, Response and Redressal, Recovery and Healing, and Research.

While developing the #BreaktheSilo framework, we identified a critical gap: the lack of empirical evidence on the prevalence, types, and impacts of TFGBV. This absence of data continues to undermine the development of effective evidence-based solutions.

To address this, and in alignment with Stage Six—Research of the **#BreakTheSilo** Framework, we launched a comprehensive data collection initiative aimed to map TFGBV landscape in India. This effort captured the voices of 4,000 respondents across ten Indian cities, representing diverse age groups, gender identities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

This survey aims to bridge the empirical data gap by providing quantitative insights into the scope and impact of TFGBV in India. It complements ongoing efforts by offering data-driven perspectives that refine our understanding of the issue within the Indian context.

[25.] Times of India. (2023, November 29). *How deepfake drove Ghaziabad man to brink of suicide*, from
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ghaziabad/how-deepfake-drove-ghaziabad-man-to-brink-of-suicide/articleshow/105629378.cms.
[26.] Dehingia, N., McAuley, J., McDougal, L., Reed, E., Silverman, J. G., Urada, L., & Raj, A. (2023). *Violence against women on Twitter in India: Testing a taxonomy for online misogyny and measuring its prevalence during COVID-19.* PLOS ONE, 18(10), e0292121. from
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0292121.
[27.] United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). *Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). A growing threat,* from
https://www.unfpa.org/TFGBV.
[28.] Shreya, S., & Saxena, G. (2023, October 17). *#BreakTheSilo: Streamlining gender safety in the digital space. The Dialogue.* from
https://thedialogue.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BreaktheSilo-Policy-Framework.pdf.

CHAPTER 2
METHODOLOGY

This survey aimed to bridge the critical data gap in understanding the scope and impact of TFGBV in India, particularly in urban areas. While media and policymakers increasingly focus on this issue, empirical data remains scarce. This study provides quantitative insights into the prevalence, forms, and psychological, emotional, and social effects of TFGBV, offering evidence to inform targeted interventions and policy responses.

2.1 SURVEY SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The study surveyed 4,000 respondents across 10 major Indian cities—Mumbai, Delhi, Cochin, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Patna, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, and Chandigarh. These cities were selected to capture diverse urban contexts, reflecting varying levels of technological adoption, cultural dynamics, and societal norms.[29] This geographic diversity ensures a well-rounded understanding of how TFGBV manifests across different regions of India.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

The survey engaged **4,000 respondents** aged **18 to 60,** ensuring a diverse representation across gender, socioeconomic status, education levels, geography, and sexual orientation to comprehensively capture experiences with TFGBV.

Gender Representation	The sample included **2,558 men (63.95%) and 1,412 women (35.30%),** with **25 respondents identifying as transgender, non-binary, or other.**
Socioeconomic Background	Respondents came from varied income groups. **More than half earned up to 5 lakh INR annually,** and **806 (20.16%) earned above 11 lakh INR,** reflecting different levels of economic access to support systems.
Education Levels	A majority —**2,953 respondents (73.83%)** — held at least an undergraduate degree, with **1,073 (26.83%) completing postgraduate education,** offering insights into how education shapes awareness and responses to TFGBV.
Geographic Distribution	The survey covered **10 major Indian cities,** ensuring a balanced urban spread. Approximately **10% of respondents came from each of the following cities:** Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Cochin, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Patna, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, and Chandigarh.
Sexual Orientation	While **2,414 respondents (60.35%) identified as heterosexual,** the survey also included **1,107 LGBTQ+ individuals (27.69%),** ensuring that the unique challenges faced by marginalised groups were captured.

This diverse sample provides a comprehensive understanding of TFGBV across different lived realities.

29. Kovacs, A., Padte, K. R., & Shobha, S. V. (2013). *Don't let it stand!: An exploratory study of women and verbal online abuse in India. Internet Democracy Project.* from https://cdn.internetdemocracy.in/idp/assets/downloads/reports/women-and-verbal-online-abuse-in-india/Internet-Democracy-Project-Women-and-Online-Abuse.pdf.

2.3 DATA COLLECTION AND SAMPLING METHOD

We conducted an online survey over two months, allowing respondents to share their experiences anonymously and at their convenience. This approach encouraged openness and honesty when discussing sensitive topics.

Using a stratified sampling method, we ensured balanced representation across age, gender, socioeconomic background, and geography. This method produced a dataset that accurately reflects the diversity of urban populations affected by TFGBV.

2.4 ANALYSIS AND INSIGHTS

We meticulously analysed the collected data to uncover key trends and patterns in TFGBV experiences. The analysis focused on:

- Types of TFGBV incidents and their correlation with demographic factors.
- Impact assessment, including psychological distress, career disruptions, and social consequences.
- Effectiveness of reporting mechanisms and trust in law enforcement.
- Policy recommendations to enhance digital platform accountability and legal protections.

The report offers actionable insights for policymakers, tech platforms, civil society, the judiciary, and government stakeholders, driving collaborative solutions to combat TFGBV and support affected individuals.

2.5 LIMITATIONS

While this study provides critical insights into urban TFGBV patterns, certain limitations must be acknowledged:

- **Exclusion of rural perspectives:** The survey focused on urban populations with internet access, potentially overlooking TFGBV experiences in rural areas.
- **Self-reported data constraints:** Despite anonymisation, some respondents may have underreported or omitted experiences due to trauma or stigma.
- **Rapidly evolving digital landscape:** The findings offer a snapshot in time; ongoing research is necessary to track evolving trends and emerging threats.
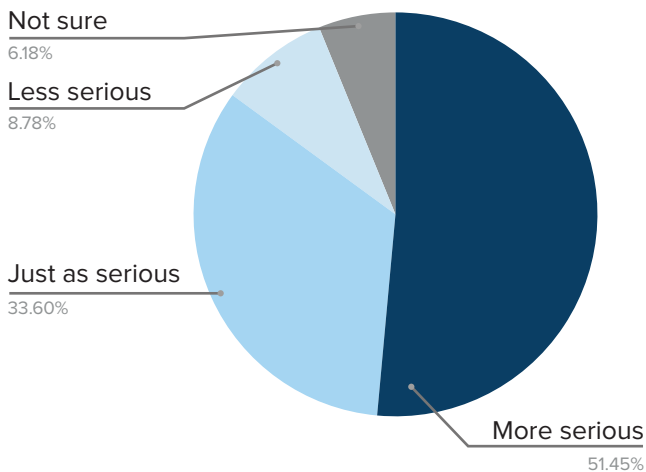
CHAPTER 3
STATE OF TFGBV IN INDIA

3.1 PERCEPTIONS OF TFGBV VS. PHYSICAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Initially, many dismissed or downplayed crimes in the digital realm, often perceiving online harm as less impactful than physical offenses. However, understanding how people perceive TFGBV compared to physical gender-based violence (GBV) is crucial for shaping societal responses, policy decisions, legal frameworks, and support systems for victim-survivors. The way these forms of violence are viewed directly influences the urgency with which they are addressed and the effectiveness of redressal mechanisms.

Figure 2: Perceived Seriousness of TFGBV

Not sure
6.18%

Less serious
8.78%

Just as serious
33.60%

More serious
51.45%

Our findings show that **2,058 respondents (51.45%)** perceive TFGBV as more serious than physical GBV, while **1,344 respondents (33.60%)** consider both equally serious. Notably, **56.66% of female**

respondents (800 of 1,412) view TFGBV as more serious than physical violence, compared to **48.94% of male respondents** (1,252 of the 2,558). Additionally, respondents from various sexual orientation groups generally agree that TFGBV is as serious as, or more than, physical violence.

Since TFGBV often occurs in private, digital spaces, it can sometimes be underreported or misunderstood as a less severe issue compared to physical violence.[30] However, our survey suggests that there is a growing awareness among respondents about the seriousness of TFGBV, with the majority viewing it as at least as serious as, or more serious than, physical GBV.

VERY MUCH REAL

While TFGBV may seem less tangible, the consequences of such abuse are undeniably real, often resulting in severe emotional, psychological, and sometimes physical harm. Tragically, numerous stories over the past few years have highlighted individuals who, after enduring relentless cyberbullying due to their gender identity, took their own lives.[31]

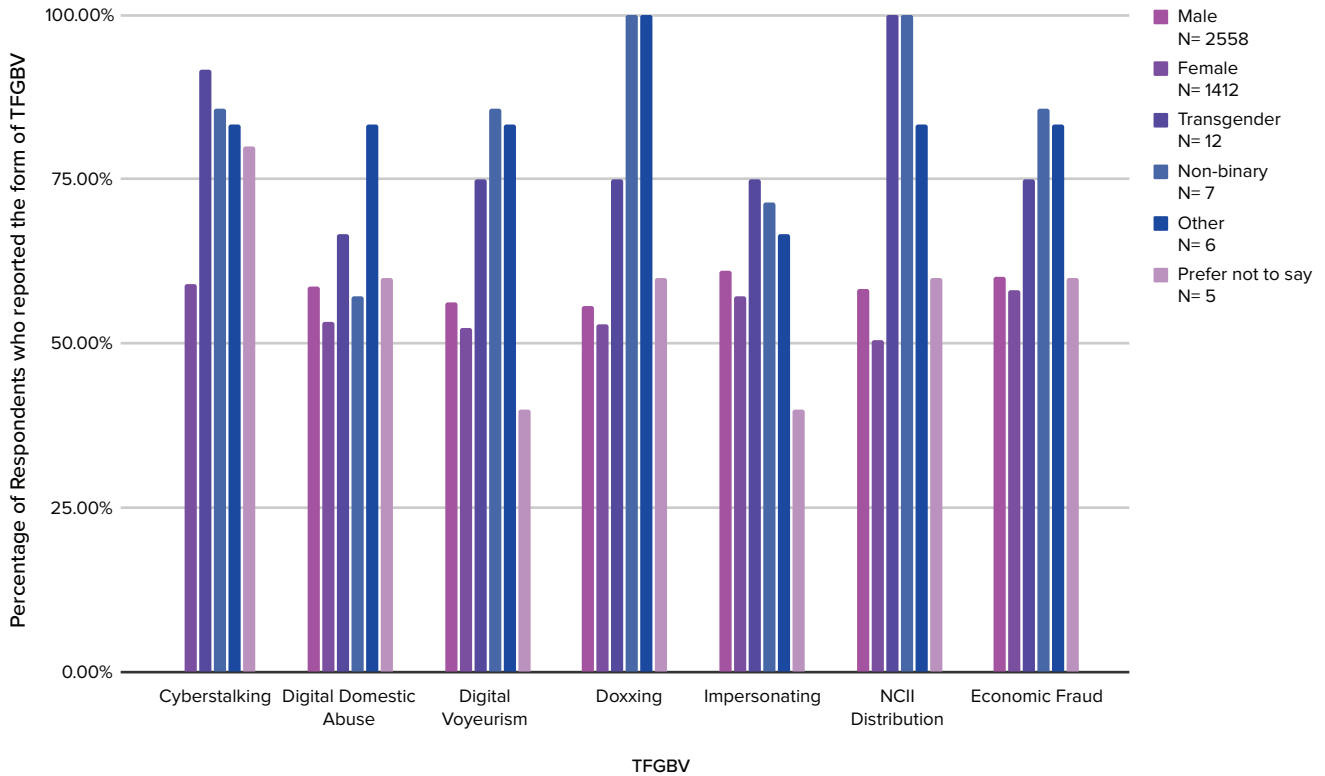# 3.2 PREVALENCE AND FORMS OF TFGBV

Understanding the prevalence and various forms of TFGBV is crucial for assessing the scope and seriousness of this issue, as well as providing a clearer picture of its real-world impact on individuals' lives. The survey data indicates that the prevalence of TFGBV varies across different demographic groups.

30. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). (2022, December 2). *The digital dimension of violence against women:* EDVAW Platform thematic paper. OHCHR. from https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/cedaw/statements/2022-12-02/EDVAW-Platform-thematic-paper-on-the-digital-dimension-of-VAW_English.pdf.

31. Hindustan Times. (2023, November 28). *16-year-old queer child dies by suicide due to bullying; Did we fail as a society? Mental health expert opines,* from. https://www.hindustantimes.com/htcity/cinema/16yearold-queer-child-pranshu-dies-by-suicide-due-to-bullying-did-we-fail-as-a-society-mental-health-expert-opines-101701172202794.html.

India Today. (2019, July 09). Not my fault I was born gay: 19-year-old commits suicide over homophobia, from. https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/gay-man-suicide-homophobia-lgbt-helplines-1565041-2019-07-09.

Figure 3: Prevalence of types of TFGBV across Gender Groups
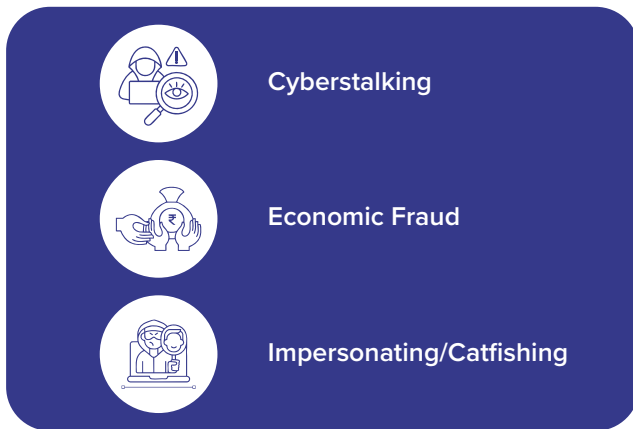

Our study demonstrates that:

- Men and women experience high levels of TFGBV, with men reporting slightly higher prevalence in most categories, particularly cyberstalking **(61.77%),** impersonation **(61.02%),** and economic fraud **(60.16%).**
- Transgender and non-binary individuals face disproportionately high victimisation rates, especially in cyberstalking (**91.67%** for transgender individuals), doxxing (**100%** for non-binary individuals), and NCII (**100%** for transgender individuals), highlighting their unique vulnerability in digital spaces.
- Cyberstalking, impersonation, and economic fraud are among the most widespread forms of TFGBV, significantly affecting all gender groups.
- As an aggregate of the seven forms of TFGBV assessed in the survey, **68.87% (1,506)** of men, **54.80% (774)** of women, **79.76% (10)** of transgender individuals, **83.67% (6)** of non-binary

individuals, **83.33% (5)** of other gender identities, and **57.14% (3)** of those who preferred not to disclose their gender reported experiencing some form of TFGBV.
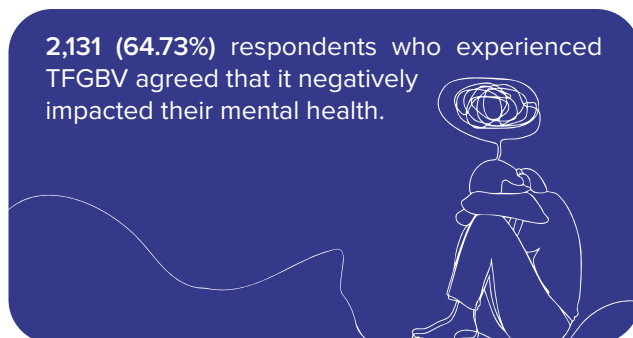
- The data highlights the necessity for inclusive and intersectional policy interventions, ensuring tailored protections for diverse gender groups in online environments.

Since TFGBV often stems from deeply entrenched gender norms,[32] individuals who deviate from traditional masculine or feminine expectations[33] are frequently subjected to such violence in an attempt to enforce conformity. Furthermore, the study indicates that TFGBV manifests in various forms, with some of the most commonly reported experiences being:

[32.] German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). (2022). *The influence of gender-based online violence on political and societal participation of women and girls.* from.
https://gender-works.giz.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/GIZ_2022_EN_Briefing-Paper_The-influence-of-GBOV-on-political-and-societal-participation-of-women-and-girls.pdf. Economist Intelligence Unit (2021). *Measuring the prevalence of online violence against women,* from.
https://onlineviolencewomen.eiu.com/.

[33.] UN Women. (2024). *Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Developing a shared research agenda.* from.
https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-shared-research-agenda-en.pdf.

Cyberstalking

Economic Fraud

Impersonating/Catfishing

It was also equally important to gauge the emotional and psychological consequences for victim-survivors. These emotional tolls often manifest as anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, and a diminished sense of safety, especially when harassment is persistent or public.[34] According to our findings:

2,131 (64.73%) respondents who experienced TFGBV agreed that it negatively impacted their mental health.

The emotional and psychological damage caused by TFGBV is often long-lasting, creating a cycle of fear and distress that impacts various aspects of the victim-survivor's life, including their social relationships, work, and overall well-being.[35] As TFGBV manifests in forms like cyberstalking, economic fraud,[36] and catfishing,[37] the psychological strain on victim-survivors can be overwhelming. This underscores the need for targeted support[38] systems that address both the immediate and long-term effects of such abuse.

The current TFGBV landscape often assumes that the completion of judicial processes and the penalisation of perpetrators mark the end of intervention efforts.[39] This one-dimensional approach overlooks the fact that resolving legal processes does not address the multitude of challenges victim-survivors face.[40] Their journey, still haunted by trauma, requires continuous, tailored support to address the physical, psychological, social, or economic repercussions of violence.[41] Legal remedies are only one part of a broader, more complex process of restoration and healing that victim-survivors must navigate.[42]

3.3 PERPETRATORS

The survey also sought to identify the profile of TFGBV perpetrators to better understand the dynamics of this violence, specifically whether it is more likely to originate from personal relationships or unknown individuals.

34. Jankowicz, N., Gomez-O'Keefe, I., Hoffman, L., & Becker, A.V. Columbia SIPA Institute of Global Politics. (2024). *It's everyone's problem: Mainstreaming responses to technology-facilitated gender-based violence.* from.
https://igp.sipa.columbia.edu/sites/igp/files/2024-09/IGP_TFGBV_Its_Everyones_Problem_090524.pdf.
35. Abreu, R. L., & Kenny, M. C. (2017). Cyberbullying and LGBTQ youth: *A systematic literature review and recommendations for prevention and intervention.* Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma, 11(1), 81–97. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-017-0175-7.
36. Times of India. (2023, April 15). *Menace of fraud, blackmail plagues queer dating apps,* from
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/menace-of-fraud-blackmail-plagues-queer-dating-apps/articleshow/99506360.cms.
37. Hindustan Times. (2024, January 22). *Delhi man cons 700 women on dating apps using pics of Brazilian model.* From
https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/delhi-man-cons-700-woman-on-dating-apps-using-pics-of-brazilian-model-101735988530960.html.
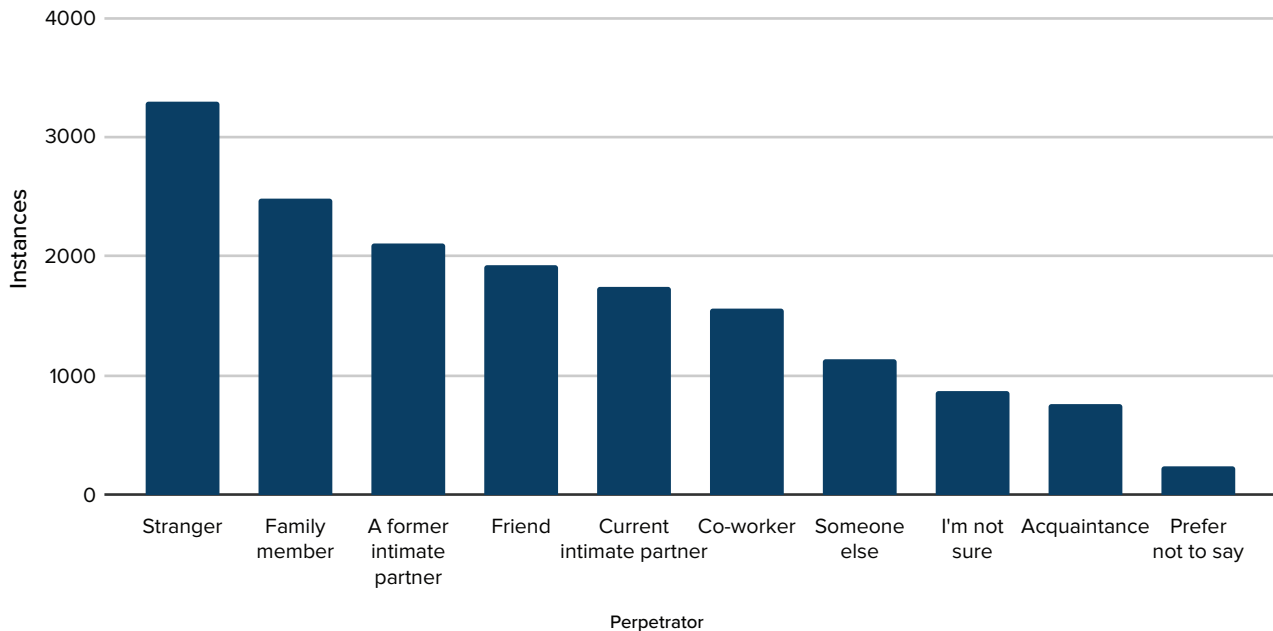38. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2023). *Making all spaces safe: Tackling technology-facilitated gender-based violence in the Asia-Pacific region.* from https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/unfpa-tfgbv-making_all_spaces_safe.pdf.
39. Bhattacharjee, P., (2024). *So many women around the world face technology-facilitated gender-based violence, but why aren't they taken seriously?* Missing Perspectives. from. https://missingperspectives.com/posts/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence/.
40. NORC University of Chicago & International Center for Research on Women. (2022). Case study: *Technology-facilitated gender-based violence in India.* United States Agency for International Development. from https://www.unfpa.org/TFGBV.
41. Baekgaard, K. Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS). (2024). *Technology-Facilitated-Gender-Based-Violence: An Emerging Issue in Women, Peace and Security.* from.
https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Technology-Facilitated-Gender-Based-Violence.pdf.
42. Shreya, S., & Saxena, G. (2023, October 17). *#BreakTheSilo: Streamlining gender safety in the digital space.* The Dialogue. from
https://thedialogue.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BreaktheSilo-Policy-Framework.pdf.

Figure 4: Perpetrators of TFGBV

The survey findings reveal a staggering **16,120 instances** of TFGBV across seven assessed forms, underscoring the pervasive nature of this issue. Notably, **strangers emerged as the most common perpetrators,** accounting for **3,300 instances (20.47%)**. However, the prevalence of abuse from **family members (2,478 instances, 15.37%)** and **former intimate partners (2,104 instances, 13.06%)** indicates that TFGBV is not only a problem by external threats but is deeply embedded in personal relationships.

Equally concerning is the significant number of cases involving c**urrent intimate partners (1,744 instances, 10.82%)** and **friends (1,930 instances, 11.97%),** indicating that those closest to victim-survivors—typically viewed as trustworthy—are often responsible for digital harm. Workplace harassment is also a concern, with **co-workers responsible for 1,566 instances (9.72%)**, indicating that professional environments are not immune to TFGBV. Additionally, **acquaintances accounted for 764 instances (4.74%)**, suggesting that even casual social connections can result in digital abuse. A notable **1,214 instances (7.53%)** were attributed to unidentified perpetrators, underscoring the challenges victim-survivors face in identifying aggressors in the online space.

These insights highlight that TFGBV is not confined to unknown actors, but is deeply rooted in personal and professional relationships,[43] making intervention strategies more complex. The high prevalence of family-based and partner-led abuse underscores the urgent need for awareness campaigns and legal frameworks that recognise digital violence as an extension of intimate partner and domestic abuse.

Additionally, workplace policies must address the growing overlap between professional and digital harassment, ensuring robust protection for victim-survivors. As digital platforms evolve, tackling TFGBV requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving policymakers, law enforcement, social organisations, and technology companies. Collaborative efforts can help create safer online spaces and prevent harm from both distant and close perpetrators.

The survey also explored whether individuals self-reported their involvement in perpetrating TFGBV. Notably, over half (53.55%) of respondents acknowledged being reported by someone else for such behaviour. This finding suggests a significant portion of individuals are having their online actions flagged as harmful or abusive. It also points to a

[43.] The Global Partnership. (2023). *Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis.* SDDirect. from. https://www.sddirect.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/GlobalPartnershipTFGBVPreliminaryLandscapeAnalysis.pdf.
Aziz Z. (2017). Due Diligence and Accountability for Online Violence against Women. *APC Issue Paper.* from. https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/due-diligence-and-accountability-online-violence-against-women.

growing culture of social accountability, where bystanders, survivors, and peers actively recognise and challenge abusive behaviour in digital spaces.[44]

TFGBV THROUGH THE LENS OF THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL MODEL (SEM)

Understanding TFGBV requires more than just identifying perpetrators—it demands an exploration of the underlying factors that enable and sustain such violence. The Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) provides a structured lens to examine how these factors operate at multiple levels:

- **Individual Level:** Perpetrators' beliefs about power, control, and gender roles shape their actions. Technology is often weaponised to reinforce control, particularly when tied to entrenched gender norms and personal entitlement.
- **Familial Level:** Family dynamics significantly influence individuals' perceptions of relationships. Controlling and coercive behaviours, often normalised within families, can extend into digital spaces, manifesting as intimate partner violence or cyber harassment.
- **Community Level:** Social circles—friends, acquaintances, and peers—play a critical role in shaping behaviours. Peer influence can either enable harmful digital actions, such as manipulation or blackmail.
- **Societal Level:** Broader societal norms and legal structures determine whether gender-based violence is reinforced or challenged. Online anonymity amplifies the risks, allowing perpetrators to act with impunity, while digital platforms often lack sufficient safeguards to protect victim-survivors.

The SEM illustrates that TFGBV is a complex issue shaped by individual behaviours, social dynamics, and broader legal and cultural frameworks. Effective intervention requires a holistic approach that goes beyond addressing all these levels, not just individual actions.
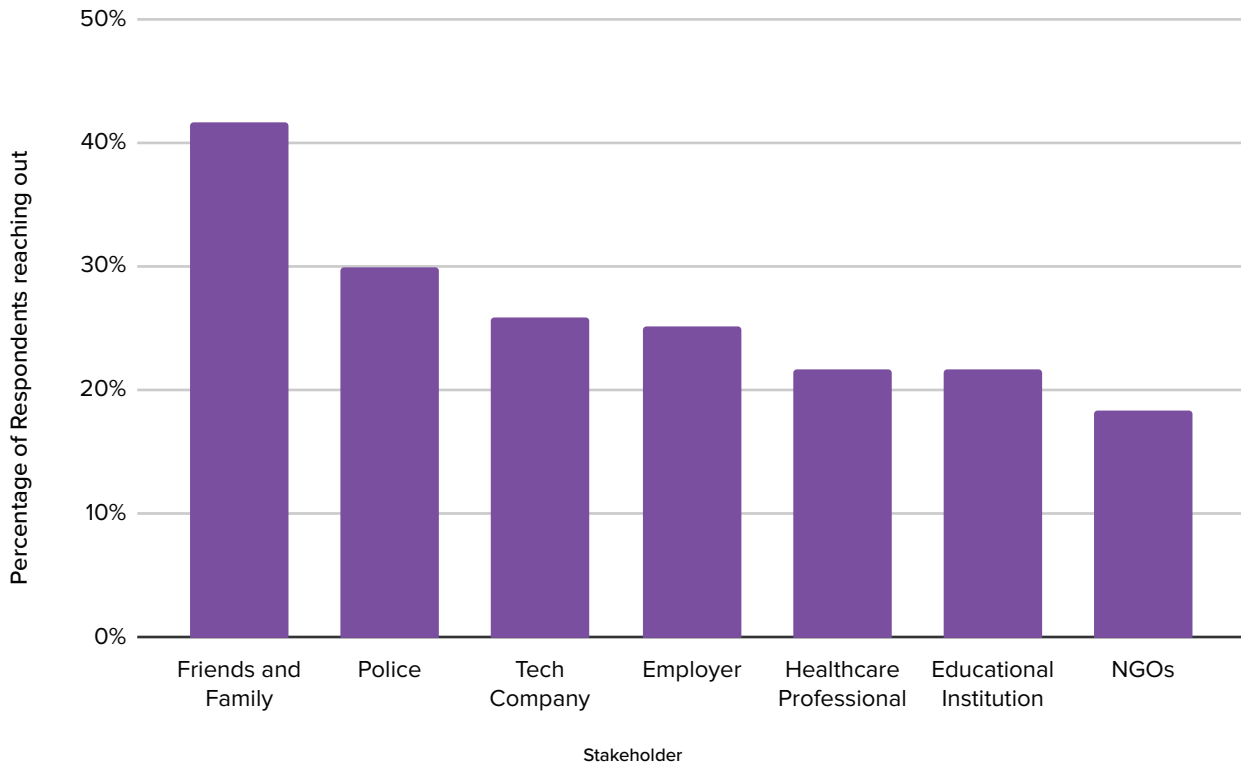

3.4 SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND RESPONSE

Ensuring accessible and effective redressal mechanisms is crucial in addressing TFGBV. While many victim-survivors report incidents, the quality of response varies widely. The findings reveal a deep mistrust in formal institutions, pushing many victim-survivors to rely on informal networks like friends and family, despite their limited ability to provide meaningful redressal.[45]

---

44. Powell, A., Henry, N., Flynn, A., & Scott, A. J. (2020). Image-based sexual abuse: An international study of victims and perpetrators. *Journal of Criminology, 53(3),* 345-364. https://doi.org/10.1177/0004865820933873.
45. World Bank. (2022, December 18). *Seeking help for gender-based violence.* from https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/data-stories/seeking-help-for-gender-based-violence.

Figure 5: Support System*

- **1,057 (41.61%)** respondents reported TFGBV incidents to friends and family, making it the most common reporting channel.
- **759 (29.88%)** victim-survivors reported TFGBV to the police, indicating a lack of trust in law enforcement's ability to handle online abuse.
- **659 (25.94%)** victim-survivors reported TFGBV to tech companies, **639 (25.16%)** reported incidents to their employers, **574 (22.60%)** to healthcare professionals, **552 (21.73%)** to staff at educational institutions, and **465 (18.31%)** sought help from NGOs and third-sector organisations.

The findings indicate that respondents predominantly turned to informal networks—such as friends, family, or support groups—rather than official channels like tech platforms or law enforcement, which were underutilised for reporting TFGBV. This highlights the need for a shift in approach to improve the accessibility and trustworthiness of formal reporting systems.

Although not primary, the findings also emphasise the role of workplaces and NGOs as support channels for victim-survivors. This underscores the necessity of further integrating these organisations into formal reporting structures to ensure victim-survivors have access to a wide range of support options, such as legal counselling, mental health services, and upskilling opportunities, etc.[46]

The contemporary landscape shows that response and redressal mechanisms are often inaccessible and exclusive, particularly for vulnerable gender groups.[47] For instance, women—especially those from marginalised communities—face a severe lack of understanding and acknowledgement of their experiences and struggles. Patriarchal norms and stereotypes often belittle or dismiss their grievances, creating an environment where fear and reluctance to report instances of violence thrive.[48]

*Respondents had the option of selecting more than one option

[46.] Shreya, S., & Saxena, G. (2023, October 17). *#BreakTheSilo: Streamlining gender safety in the digital space.* The Dialogue. from https://thedialogue.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BreaktheSilo-Policy-Framework.pdf.
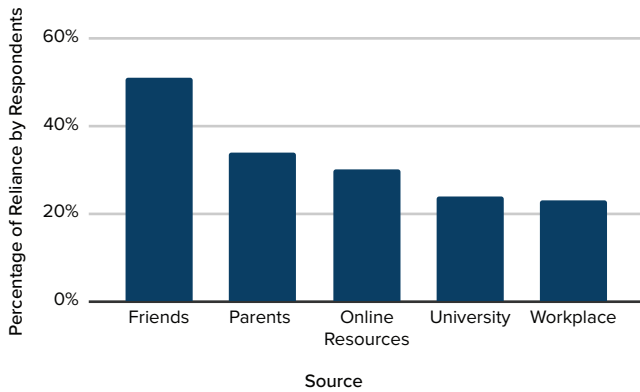
[47.] Tyers, A, Highet, C, Chamberlain, S and Arjun Khanna. *"Women's empowerment collectives and the power of digital: A research and learning agenda: Increasing women's digital literacy in India-what works."* BBC Media Action. (2021). https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/pdf/india-research-study-women%E2%80%99s-digital-literacy-2021.pdf.

[48.] The Global Partnership. (2023). *Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis.* SDDirect. from. https://www.sddirect.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/GlobalPartnershipTFGBVPreliminaryLandscapeAnalysis.pdf.

3.5 Online Behaviour and Safety Awareness

The survey explored where respondents discuss responsible online behaviour, safety, digital equality, and sex education. The findings show a clear pattern of both informal and formal spaces where individuals seek information and guidance on these critical topics.

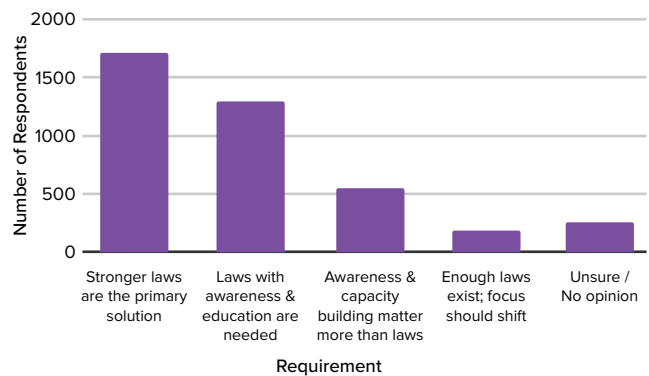## Figure 6: Online Behaviour and Safety Awareness*

The data reveals a downward trend in sources of online safety discussions. Friends **(2,053, 51.33%)** and parents **(1,359, 33.98%)** are the primary sources, followed by online resources **(1,182, 29.55%)** and formal education in schools/universities **(966, 24.15%)**. Engagement declines further in workplaces **(917,22.93%)** and safety programmes run by NGOs **(767, 19.18%)**, highlighting a significant gap in structured awareness initiatives. Respondents were asked to select all applicable sources they rely on.

This trend underscores the urgent need to strengthen awareness programmes beyond informal discussions by integrating structured education on responsible online behaviour, safety, and equality within formal institutions. Schools, universities, and workplaces must actively create safe spaces for open dialogue, ensuring individuals to discuss concerns without fear of stigma or backlash. Additionally, NGOs and community organisations should serve as intermediaries, bridging the gap between victim-survivors and formal redressal mechanisms. Expanding these structured interventions is crucial for fostering digital resilience and ensuring equitable access to online safety education.

3.6 Policy and Institutional Measures to Combat TFGBV

As governments and policymakers shift their focus toward legislative responses to TFGBV, understanding public perceptions of legal and non-legal interventions becomes crucial. This survey captured diverse perspectives on the role of legislation, awareness, and capacity-building in effectively tackling TFGBV.

Figure 7: Need of Laws to tackle TFGBV

The survey findings reveal strong public support for legal interventions in addressing TFGBV, while also highlighting a substantial demand for complementary non-legislative measures.

- **1,711 (42.78%)** respondents strongly believe that more laws are the primary solution.
- **1,298 (32.45%)** respondents agree that while laws are important, they must be accompanied by awareness and education efforts.
- **551 (13.78%)** respondents consider laws secondary, emphasising that awareness and capacity building are more critical.
- **181 (4.53%)** respondents assert that existing laws are sufficient and that the focus should shift away from additional legislation.
- **259 (6.48%)** respondents are unsure or have no opinion on the matter.

While three-fourths **(75.23%)** of respondents support legal interventions, the divergence within this group

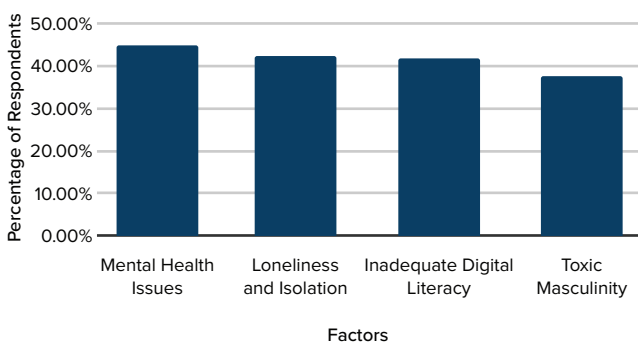*Respondents had the option of selecting more than one option

underscores the need for a balanced policy approach. Nearly one-third (32.45%) believe laws must be supplemented with awareness and education, indicating that legislation alone cannot effectively address TFGBV. Policymakers must adopt a comprehensive strategy that strengthens legal frameworks while integrating preventive, educational, and capacity-building measures. This multi-pronged approach is crucial to ensuring meaningful, survivor-centric responses and drive lasting systemic change.

3.7 Underlying Drivers and Social Change Perspectives on TFGBV

3.7.1 Factors Contributing to the Prevalence of TFGBV

The survey also sought to gauge the respondents' understanding of the less-discussed underlying factors that must be addressed to reduce the incidence of TFGBV. The following factors were identified, with mental health issues being the most prominent:

Figure 8: Factors Contributing to the Prevalence of TFGBV*

- **Mental health issues,** such as anxiety, exacerbated by extensive **digital engagement (1,798, 44.75%)**.
- **Online loneliness and isolation,** which can lead to more aggressive behaviours online **(1,692, 42.30%)**.
- **Lack of adequate digital literacy** and limited understanding of the impact of digital actions **(1,667, 41.68%)**.
- Additionally, **1,497 (37.43%)** respondents pointed to **toxic masculinity** and its influence on digital interactions as a contributing factor to TFGBV.

With online engagement becoming central to personal and professional lives, individuals often face heightened mental health issues.[49] Constant connectivity, information overload, and the pressures of social comparison and online interactions can drive some individuals to vent their frustrations or exert control over others. When coupled with social isolation, this may lead individuals to seek validation or attention, sometimes resorting to harmful or abusive behaviour toward others. Moreover, the lack of awareness about the consequences of online actions also make individuals vulnerable to perpetrating or experiencing such abuse.

Toxic masculinity is another important factor contributing to the prevalence of TFGBV and requires more attention. This ideology perpetuates harmful gender norms that pressure men and boys to be aggressive and dominant,[50] suppress emotional expression, and marginalise women and other social groups that do not adhere to traditional roles and values.[51]

---

*Respondents had the option of selecting more than one option

49. BMC Digital Health. (2024). Engagement and Retention in Digital Mental Health Interventions: A Narrative Review. BMC Digital Health. https://bmcdigitalhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s44247-024-00105-9.
50. Ging, D. (2019). Alphas, Betas, and Incels: Theorizing the Masculinities of the Manosphere. Men and Masculinities, 22(4), 638–657. https://doi.org/10.1177/1097184X17706401.
51. Connell, R. W., & Messerschmidt, J. W. (2005). Hegemonic masculinity: Rethinking the concept. Gender & Society, 19(6), 829–859. https://doi.org/10.1177/0891243205278639.

<div style="border:1px solid">

TRENDING TOXIC MASCULINITY

In recent years, toxic masculinity has not only manifested as isolated incidents online but has also emerged as a trend in the influencer industry across countries. Internet personalities, like Andrew Tate, use their platforms to promote misogynistic rhetorics against women, normalising their subjugation and objectification.[52] Given their widespread influence, these figures often encourage their followers—primarily young boys —to replicate this behaviour both offline and online, sharing such content within their peer circles. This toxicity spreads throughout the ecosystem, incentivising other creators to adopt similar tactics and sensationalise personalities and 'rage-baiting' opinions, which distorts public perception of masculinity.[53]
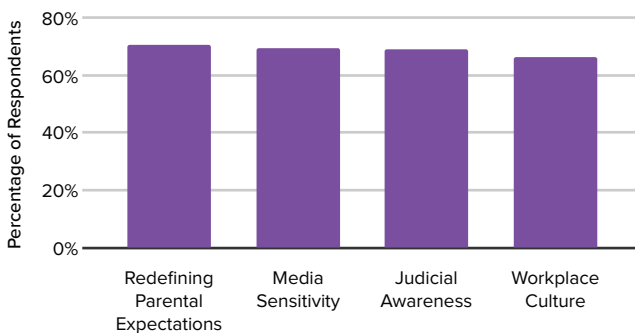
This trend has significant consequences:

- **Normalises harmful beliefs:** Desensitises individuals to sexism while also preventing men and boys from authentic self-expression.
- **Undermines healthy relationships:** Fosters disrespect, domination, and aggression in relationships.
- **Increases online and offline harassment:** Fuels cyberbullying, doxing, and real-world violence.
- **Negatively impacts mental health:** Contributes to anxiety, depression, and feelings of insecurity for both men and women.
- **Creates societal backlash:** Discourages women from fully participating in public life.

</div>

3.7.2 PERCEPTIONS ON REDUCING TFGBV

The survey also sought to gauge the respondents' understanding of the less-discussed underlying factors that must be addressed to reduce the incidence of TFGBV. The following factors were identified by the respondents:

Figure 9: Perceptions on Reducing TFGBV*

*Respondents had the option of selecting more than one option

- **Redefining Parental Expectations**

2,816 (70.40%) respondents believed that redefining parental expectations from early childhood—ensuring that gender roles and expectations are not imposed—would significantly reduce gender inequalities in both offline and online contexts. Early intervention can help foster a generation of individuals that understands and respects digital boundaries.

- **Media Sensitivity**

2,766 (69.15%) respondents felt that the sensitivity of media in reporting on gender issues plays a crucial role in shaping public perception. A more responsible approach to media coverage can challenge harmful stereotypes and reduce online abuse by promoting respectful and informed narratives.

[52.] CNN. (2022, September 08). *Misogynistic influencers are trending right now. Defusing their message is a complex task,* from. https://edition.cnn.com/2022/09/08/us/andrew-tate-manosphere-misogyny-solutions-cec/.

[53.] Beauchamp, Z. (2022). *Misogynist incels and male supremacism.* New America. from. https://www.newamerica.org/political-reform/reports/misogynist-incels-and-male-supremacism/. ;O'Rourke, F., Baker, C. and McCashin, D. (2024) *Addressing the impact of Masculinity Influencers on teenage boys - A guide for schools, teachers and parents/ guardians.* Anti-Bullying Centre, Dublin City University. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14102915.

- **Judicial Awareness**

2,759 (68.98%) respondents agreed that increasing judicial awareness about victim-survivors rights, especially in lower courts, is vital to ensuring justice and equality. Legal reforms that prioritise rights, paired with societal shifts, are essential to addressing TFGBV.

- **Workplace Culture**

2,655 (66.38%) respondents agreed that sexual jokes and remarks in the workplace contribute to misogynistic attitudes, indirectly perpetuating TFGBV. Creating a safer, more inclusive work environment can significantly reduce harmful behaviour and support victim-survivors
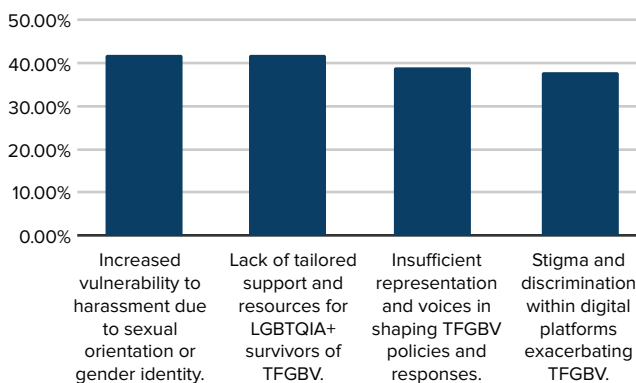
3.8 SPECIAL CONCERNS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Given that the LGBTQIA+ individuals remain particularly vulnerable, with insufficient targeted support mechanisms, the survey also assessed the current state of awareness and specific needs of the community in relation to TFGBV. 3617 (91.42%) respondents acknowledged that LGBTQIA+ individuals face unique challenges related to TFGBV and are disproportionately impacted in the digital space. The findings also highlight significant gaps in both support systems and representation in policy development for the LGBTQIA+ community:

- **1,677 (41.93%)** respondents noted that LGBTQIA+ individuals are more vulnerable to harassment, violence, and discrimination online due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **1,665 (41.63%)** respondents believe that tailored support resources specifically designed for LGBTQIA+ victim-survivors of TFGBV are lacking.
- **1,568 (39.20%)** respondents highlighted the underrepresentation of LGBTQIA+ individuals in shaping TFGBV policies, while **1,522 (38.05%)** pointed out stigma and discrimination on digital platforms.

LGBTQIA+ individuals are often targeted by hate speech, cyberstalking, doxxing due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.[54] This behaviour not only harms individuals but also marginalises the broader queer community. These issues are exacerbated by the gap in support systems, making it challenging for individuals to access the necessary counselling, legal assistance, and emotional support tailored to their unique needs.[55] Moreover, the absence of LGBTQIA+ voices in policy development results in interventions that may not be inclusive or fully address the specific forms of violence this group experiences. This underrepresentation can also contribute to the lack of legal protections and social support mechanisms for LGBTQIA+ individuals facing online harassment and violence.

Fig 10: Unique Challenges Faced by the LGBTQIA+ Community*

*Respondents had the option of selecting more than one option

54. Witness Media Lab. (2016). Capturing Hate: Eyewitness videos provide new source of data on prevalence of transphobic violence. from https://www.issuelab.org/resources/25865/25865.pdf.
53. Shreya, S., & Saxena, G. (2023, October 17). #BreakTheSilo: Streamlining Gender Safety in the Digital Space. The Dialogue. from https://thedialogue.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BreaktheSilo-Policy-Framework.pdf.

CHAPTER 4
RECOMMENDATION

Efforts to address violence related to TFGBV should be grounded in a comprehensive framework informed by evidence-based research aligned with human rights, constitutional principles, and feminist jurisprudence. Such an approach ensures that strategies and interventions are effective, inclusive, respectful, and sensitive to the experiences and needs of those affected. Based on the survey findings, we present the following recommendations to inform policies, interventions, and support systems for victim-survivors of TFGBV:

Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks

- **Harmonisation with Existing Laws:** Align cyber laws with gender rights legislation to ensure seamless protection and redress.
- **Judicial Sensitisation:** Conduct capacity-building programmes for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials on TFGBV and digital rights.

Platform Accountability and Industry Standards

- **Safety-by-Design Approach:** Embed proactive risk assessments, default privacy protections, and harm-mitigation measures into platform architecture to prioritise user safety from the outset.
- **Survivor-Centric Approach:** Develop platform guidelines with direct input from survivors, experts, and civil society organisations to ensure effective support mechanisms.

Enhancing Reporting and Support Mechanisms

- **One-Stop Support Systems:** Establish online and offline support centres where survivors can access legal aid, psychological counselling, and digital safety assistance.
- **Simplified Reporting:** Develop easy-to-navigate reporting mechanisms on social media platforms and law enforcement portals, with clear guidance on response timelines.
- **Whistleblower Protection:** Encourage anonymous reporting options to protect survivors and bystanders from potential retaliation.

[29.] Kovacs, A., Padte, K. R., & Shobha, S. V. (2013). *Don't let it stand!: An exploratory study of women and verbal online abuse in India. Internet Democracy Project.* from
https://cdn.internetdemocracy.in/idp/assets/downloads/reports/women-and-verbal-online-abuse-in-india/Internet-Democracy-Project-Women-and-Online-Abuse.pdf.

Digital Literacy and Public Awareness Campaigns

- **Education Initiatives:** Integrate online safety, digital rights, and gender sensitivity into school and college curricula.
- **Mass Awareness Campaigns:** Launch nationwide awareness programmes to educate individuals on identifying, reporting, and preventing TFGBV.
- **Empowering Bystanders:** Promote responsible digital citizenship and bystander intervention strategies to counter online harassment.

Addressing Societal and Cultural Drivers of TFGBV

- **Redefining Gender Norms:** Implement community-level interventions to challenge harmful stereotypes that normalise digital abuse.
- **Corporate and Workplace Policies:** Encourage organisations to adopt workplace policies addressing digital harassment and providing employee support for TFGBV cases.
- **Media Responsibility:** Advocate for ethical media representation of gender issues to prevent sensationalism and reinforce survivor dignity.

Inclusive and Intersectional Approaches

- **LGBTQIA+ Protections:** Ensure that legal and support frameworks are inclusive of LGBTQIA+ individuals, who are disproportionately affected by TFGBV.
- **Accessibility and Multilingual Resources:** Develop helplines, educational content, and reporting tools in regional languages to reach diverse communities.
- **Representation in Policymaking:** Advocate for diverse voices—including survivors, women's rights organisations, and marginalised groups—to shape TFGBV policies and initiatives.

LET'S BREAK THE SILO

Advancing Research and Data-Driven Solutions

- **Regular Surveys and Reports:** Conduct periodic national surveys to track the prevalence and evolving trends of TFGBV.
- **Open-Source Research:** Encourage collaboration between academic institutions, civil society, and government agencies to develop data-driven interventions.

Strengthening Global and Regional Cooperation

- **Cross-Border Regulation:** Engage in multilateral dialogues to establish international standards for addressing TFGBV, particularly concerning cross-border cases.
- **Partnerships with Tech Companies and NGOs:** Foster collaborations between governments, platforms, and civil society to develop holistic responses to TFGBV.
- **Capacity Building:** Share best practices and technological tools among countries to enhance digital safety strategies globally.

AUTHORS

GARIMA SAXENA

Senior Research Associate, The Dialogue | Secretariat, Alliance for Cyber Trust and Safety (ACTS)

Garima Saxena is a Senior Research Associate at The Dialogue. She pursued her undergraduate degree from Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab. Her prime interest lies in how our society interacts with technology and its impact on individuals. She actively advocates for privacy and digital freedom through her work.

PRANAV BHASKAR TIWARI

Senior Programme Manager - Platform Regulation, Gender and Tech, The Dialogue | Secretariat, Alliance for Cyber Trust and Safety (ACTS)

Pranav Bhaskar Tiwari, a Gold Medallist from the Indian Society of International Law, leads The Dialogue's work on Platform Regulation and Gender and Technology. A lawyer with expertise in IP and Technology Law, he focuses on technology's impact on society. Certified as an Information Privacy Professional/Europe, Pranav engages with global tech policy leaders and has worked with institutions like the Centre for AI and Digital Policy. He previously advised the Internet Society on IP, cybersecurity, online safety, and data protection.

thedialogue.co

@_DialogueIndia

@The-Dialogue-India

@TheDialogue_Official

@TheDialogueIndia

actsindia.org

@ACTS_India

@ACTS Alliance For Cyber Trust And Safety India