

## Chapter 9

# Using Grounded Theory Methodology to Explore Women's Sense of Insecurity

### ABSTRACT

*The focus of this chapter is reviewing the studies on sexual harassment and sexual violence, focusing on definitions, statistics, forms, consequences, and prevention strategies. Moreover, it concerns the grounded theory (GT) as a qualitative research methodology and provides a comparison between this methodology and constructivist GT that is considered to be more compatible with feminist inquiry. To study the theories with inappropriate or inadequate features and to study the subject under investigation, such as the analysis of women's sense of insecurity, GT methodology seems most appropriate. This chapter provides a detailed discussion of the impact of sexual violence on mental and physical health as well as social well-being, all of which may be equally long-lasting. Preventive strategies, as mentioned in this chapter, are concerned with changing people's attitudes and behaviors by formulating and implementing appropriate policies and empowerment programs.*

### INTRODUCTION

Since 1970s, women's sense of insecurity and violence against women have been widely discussed. There is some hidden form of bullying behind all forms of abuse, discrimination, prejudice, rape, assault and violence. Gender is the only aspect of identity which can affect the likelihood of experiencing sexual

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assault. As the World Bank (2018) reported, protection against violence can also guarantee women's economic empowerment. Since violence against women prevents employment and blocks access to financial resources, it undermines economic empowerment. Violence hinders women's free function in societies and the business world. The scope of existing legislations, in any, on violence against women is examined by the indicator of protecting women from violence such as domestic violence and sexual harassment. Domestic violence is gender-specific violence perpetrated by family members or intimate partners, which includes different types of abuse. Around the world, nearly 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner. As many as 38% of all murders of women were committed by their intimate partners. Domestic violence legislation as an important first step can take significant steps towards ensuring women's protection.

The focus of a qualitative research can be one or more characteristics of a sole individual, social group or category of population of a region or even an entire country. New approaches and explanatory theories have been developed within the framework of qualitative research, among which the feminist theories can be also found. The feminist researchers prefer using qualitative method, as compared to the quantitative one, since it does not have standard models or situations to examine. In qualitative research studies, there is no restriction imposed to the researcher by assumptions and selecting predetermined forms, and thus, s/he is encouraged to continuously discover new issues and see reality from the examined subjects' eyes. The most basic characteristics of feminist research conducted by women, who are feminist, is that the main focus is on women. Secondly, "male" quantitative methods must be differentiated from feminist qualitative ones. Thirdly, feminist research is considered as a political research since women are promoted to engage actively in changing their lives (Stanley and Wise, 1990).

This chapter focuses on grounded theory (GT) as a qualitative research methodology to examine current studies of sexual harassment and sexual violence. In addition, it compares constructivist GT and classic GT, and sexual harassment and sexual violence are defined by presenting their types, consequences, and preventive strategies.

## **SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

Despite of greater risk of violence from an intimate partner, women are also exposed to other forms of violence. They may experience sexual harassment

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