

“Security Can’t Wait: Ensuring Female Safety in Bangladesh”

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INTRODUCTION

A recent WHO report found that almost 35% of the women around the world are facing abuse or physical violence. This report itself is shocking but the figure could shoot up even further if all the unreported cases get reported [1]. Bangladesh, the country which sees itself as an emerging power and a potential economic hub, can achieve its goal if and only if a large numbers of women participate in the development process [2].

Despite being an independent nation and having a woman prime minister, Bangladesh has not fared well in safety and security of women. Traditionally, the idea of the dignity of womanhood has been present in Bangladeshi society. But that is not always reflected in real life, and shameful incidents seem now to occur too often to make us feel ashamed [3].

Bangladesh government is striving to improve law enforcement. A silent battle is also being fought on the digital turf by developers of mobile applications and wearable devices to ensure women’s safety. This article deals with the security issue and technical aspects of ensuring female security in Bangladesh.

DATA

About 942 women were raped from January to December last year. But within the last six months of the current year (January to June), the number of rape incident reached 731. Of the rape victims, 113 were gang-raped and 26 were murdered after the rape. Besides, at least 123 others were made victim of rape attempt and 70 were harassed sexually, a report by Mahila Parishad found [4].

This number is shocking. “Only three to four percent of culprits have been punished since 2014 for violating women,” the report said.

So, this is a clear indication to the women that they should start focusing on their own safety. And innovative technology can be leveraged to ensure security for this purpose.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Women Empowerment concept teaches women about their role in education, career, job, etc. So in every place like schools, offices, streets, markets and especially public transport which is an essential service that provides individuals with access to work, to an education and to all of life’s opportunities need to provide proper security to women [5].

EmergencyApp, safety bracelets, GPS tracking etc. have been introduced for these security purposes. But all these external solutions can be easily snatched away by the attackers. So in this article a solution is provided which is directly connected to a woman’s body.

Every woman wear undergarment. And that is the most hidden portion of a girl’s body. So, an electric bra as a rape defense system could be constructed as a defense tool.

The bra will contain a pressure sensor connected to an electric circuit that can generate a serious shock - 3,800 kilovolts, to be exact - severe enough to burn a potential rapist. The moment its pressure sensors get activated, a built-in GPS also alerts the police or family. The bra is equipped with electronic equipment inside a pocket with a bi-layer fabric.

The pocket insulates the woman and is water-proofed. Also the pressure values for squeeze, pinch and grab have been calibrated. The force applied on hugging does not satisfy the conditions for actuation of the device, and there is also a self-actuation switch where a woman can actuate it by herself when in unsafe environment. The bra will not be uncomfortable since it is going to be paper-like and most of garments worn by women are padded so it won’t be difficult to carry for a woman.

CONCLUSION

Many countries like India, China, and USA are researching and winning awards on this proposed idea of this article. Bangladesh is badly in need of solving the alarming problem. And so our research should be started on this technical solution as soon as possible. Because security can’t wait when it comes to ensuring female safety.

REFERENCE

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