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Determination of Sexual Harassment and Abuse Women Athletes Face in Sports: A case study

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ABSTRACT

Sexual harassment and abuse news are frequent subjects in the written and visual media in our country. In the recent years, sexual harassment and abuse women athletes suffer in sports are frequently brought to agenda. Women are faced with such incidents in sports as in the case of all other surroundings. The main objective of the study was to determine the sexual harassment and abuse women athletes suffer in sports at Firat University School of Physical Education and Sports and to review the cases in terms of various variables. Target population of the study was made up 280 female students attending to Firat University School of Physical Education and Sports and research sample is made up of 170 students, who are randomly selected. Questionnaires were conducted on 170 students within the scope of the study. Questionnaire data obtained from the participants were analyzed using the SPSS 17.0 program. Descriptive statistical methods (Number, Percentage) were used within the scope of the analysis. Chi-square analysis was used in the comparison of the qualitatively categorical variables. As a result of the study, it was found out that 14.7% of the participants suffered from sexual harassment and there was no significant relation between the age, branch and active years of sports and exposure to sexual harassment. Those suffering from sexual harassment stated that they were exposed to sexual harassment by their team mates at the sports halls or fields and mostly during the trainings and these incidents reduced their performance.

1. Introduction

Sports, which has become meaningful as an indicator of the welfare and cultural levels of the societies, is gaining importance in the social and cultural life (İmamoğlu, 1992).

Sexual abuse means, in general terms, exploitation and abuse of individuals by others and their being target to the sexual orientations of others against their will. Any individual may suffer from sexual harassment regardless of their gender, social stratum and profession. However, it is possible to say that in general women and children are exposed to

sexual harassment more (Bal, 2011).

In our day it is seen that women have the right to speak and are not exposed to inequality too much in modern society. However, despite being perceived so, it is also known that they are victimized in a number of issues; for example it is observed that they suffer from sexual harassment, abuse and intimidation in the struggle for power (Bal, 2011).

As in a number of areas, women may face various problems in the field of sports. Sexual harassment and abuse are one of the most important problems encountered in sports. According to a study conducted, sexual harassment and abuse are in the lead among the factors threatening an individual's doing exercise in a safe environment (David, 2005 quoted in Bal, 2011). Professional sports are also preferred more and more by women along with the men. In the western world, women can do sports as much as men and women's participation has been continuously increasing for the last thirty years (Amman, 2005).

Our country, which trains successful athletes in a number of branches, is also represented by women on the international platform. In sports, women have begun to grow professional interest in a number of branches, which were dominated by men.

However women have begun to be faced with some problems in sports as in the business life and daily life. These problems are known as sexual harassment and abuse (Bal, 2011).

Changing world order pushed the woman body into a change. Health, beauty and relation with the sports and free-time activities coming more into one's life with this relation revealed a new aesthetic woman concept: multidirectional, strong but aesthetical woman body. New physical fitness activities (step, aerobics, yoga, pilates, fat-burner etc.), which can be considered under this new movement culture, have become popular in Turkey in recent years. Non-existence of a sports culture in Turkey, only putting emphasis on competition sports and impacts of this newly evolving body culture on the woman body make it possible to say that new body culture is shaped by cosmetics industry rather than sports culture (Shilling, 1993).

Women fight for participating in sports in a correct manner rather than fighting for active participation in cultural movements. Within this context, differences between women and men in sports not only present themselves as differences but in the form

of hierarchical work sharing based on gender. It is surprising that sports, which is researched as a scientific discipline and is said to have a universal nature, is affected by the hierarchical, gendered beliefs and tendencies. However, social outcomes of the studies focusing on the increase in the beliefs and claims, which might prevent participation of women in sports, in the last fifty years in the West and over the last decade in our country, have also become more apparent (Yaprak and Amman, 2009).

Victims of sexual abuse are mainly women. Sexual harassment affects all women regardless of their age, marital status, physical appearance, past or professional position. Research found out that women under 30, single and young women, widows, divorced or separated women and those with relatives they are responsible for their care were among the high risk groups (Morewitz, 1996).

Sexual harassment and rape are not isolated incidents in sports community. In general, bringing the harassment incidents into light is not easy but interestingly the sexual harassment incidents are very apparent in sports. However this visibility is only within the sports community. Athletes, trainers or sportsmen certainly have a story to tell about the subject (Bal, 2011).

Sexual abuse is the use of someone as a sex object in crimes such as forced prostitution and pornography. It covers a wide range of acts such as touching genital area, exhibitionism, pornography and rape. Sexual abuse is not necessarily required to include violence (Polat, 2000; Nurcombe, 2000). As in all other countries, sexual abuse is an extremely common and serious problem in Turkey. It is possible to see such incidents in the sports community. Following each sexual harassment and abuse incident in sports community, it was stated that these incidents were isolated incidents and dishonored the Turkish sports community. Scandals such as relationships between the minor athletes and their trainers, forced sexual intercourse, rape, which appear on media many times, have caused great reaction in our country. This situation reduces the interest in sports and may cause the cancellation of camps and organizations in the field of sports (Yıldız, 2009).

Victims of sexual abuse are women and children in general (Baypinar, 2003). According to Finkelhor (1994), most of the sexual abuse victims are girls. In addition to this, disclosure of abuse of boys might

have a lower ratio compared to the girls (Finkelhor, 1994 quoted in Ovayolu, 2007).

Sexual harassment and abuse are the leading factors threatening the individuals' doing sports in a safe environment. According to Olympics Committee, such incidents are seen in all countries of the world. Athletes are exposed to serious harm and sports organizations are faced with legal and financial sanctions and humiliated before public (David, 2005 quoted in Bal, 2011).

Sexual harassment and abuse news are frequent subjects in the written and visual media in our country. Women are faced with such incidents in sports as in the case of all other surroundings. Within this scope, this study can be considered as a pilot study aimed for the review of sexual abuse of female students attending to different departments at Firat University School of Physical Education and Sports.

2. Materials and Method

This study aimed to investigate and evaluate the sexual abuse cases of female students attending to different departments of Firat University School of Physical Education and Sports. Target population of the study was made up of 280 students attending to School of Physical Education and Sports. Research sample was the 170 students, who were randomly selected. The study was descriptive and questionnaire technique was used.

The questions in the questionnaire were aimed to determine the demographic attributes and measure sexual abuse. The questionnaire form used in the study was the form used by Yıldız (2009) in his/her postgraduate thesis titled "Pilot study on the determination of sexual harassment and abuse in sports".

2.1. Statistical Analysis of Data

Data obtained in the study were analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) for Windows 17.0 program. In the analysis of data, simple statistical techniques (percentage and frequency) were used while chi-square analysis was used in the comparison of the qualitatively categorical variables.

Findings were evaluated within the reliability range of 95% and 5% significance level.

3. Results

	Groups	n	%
Age	16-18	15	8,8
	19-21	111	65,3
	22-24	25	14,7
	25-27	15	8,8
	28 and above	4	2,4
	Total	170	100,0
Branch	Taekwondo	6	3,5
	Table Tennis	17	10,0
	Handball	23	13,5
	Volleyball	37	21,8
	Football	11	6,5
	Athletics	20	11,8
	Basketball	20	11,8
	Archery	7	4,1
	Boxing	4	2,4
	Kickbacks	2	1,2
	Ski	1	0,6
	Swimming	6	3,5
	Badminton	6	3,5
	Tennis	1	0,6
	Field Hockey	3	1,8
	Gymnastics	3	1,8
	Judo	3	1,8
	Total	170	100,0
Active Years of Sports	1-3	62	36,5
	4-7	61	35,9
	8-11	37	21,8
	12 Years and More	10	5,9
	Total	170	100,0
Gender of the Trainer	Male	130	76,5
	Female	40	23,5
	Total	170	100,0
Exposure to Sexual Abuse	Yes	25	14,7
	No	145	85,3
	Total	170	100,0

Table 1: Descriptive statistics regarding the participants.

When the demographic attributes of the participants were reviewed, it was seen that ages of the 65.3% of the participants were within 19-21. 21.8% of the participants was engaged in volleyball, 11.8% was interested in athletics and 11.8% had an interest in basketball branch. 36.5% has been actively engaged in sports for 1-3 years while 35.9% has been in sports for 4-7 years and 21.8% has been active in sports for 8-11 years. As to the genders of the trainers the participants worked with, it was seen that 76.5% were male. 14.7% of the participants (25 individuals) stated that they were exposed to sexual abuse.

H0: There is no significant difference between age and exposure to sexual abuse. Since it was found $\chi^2=2,119$; $p=0,714>0.05$ according to Chi-Square test, H_0 hypothesis is acceptable. Therefore expo-

		Yes		No		p
		N	%	n	%	
Age	16-18	1	4,0	14	9,7	$X^2=2,119$ $p=0,714$
	19-21	18	72,0	93	64,1	
	22-24	4	16,0	21	14,5	
	25-27	1	4,0	14	9,7	
	28 and above	1	4,0	3	2,1	
Branch	Taekwondo	1	4,0	5	3,4	$X^2=18,720$ $p=0,283$
	Table Tennis	4	16,0	13	9,0	
	Handball	2	8,0	21	14,5	
	Volleyball	5	20,0	32	22,1	
	Football	1	4,0	10	6,9	
	Athletics	4	16,0	16	11,0	
	Basketball	2	8,0	18	12,4	
	Archery	1	4,0	6	4,1	
	Boxing	0	0,0	4	2,8	
	Kickbacks	0	0,0	2	1,4	
	Kayak	0	0,0	1	0,7	
	Swimming	1	4,0	5	3,4	
	Badminton	4	16,0	2	1,4	
	Tennis	0	0,0	1	0,7	
	Field Hockey	0	0,0	3	2,1	
	Gymnastics	0	0,0	3	2,1	
	Judo	0	0,0	3	2,1	
Active Years of Sports	1-3	9	36,0	53	36,6	$X^2=2,097$ $p=0,553$
	4-7	7	28,0	54	37,2	
	8-11	8	32,0	29	20,0	
	12 Years and Above	1	4,0	9	6,2	

	Groups	n	%
Confront, approach	Trainer	2	12,5
	Administrator	1	6,2
	Team Mate	4	25,0
	Another Athlete Out of the Team	3	18,8
	Masseur	1	6,2
	Attendant	2	12,5
	Fan	2	12,5
	Other	1	6,2
	Total	16	100,0
Undesired questions, sexual jokes	Trainer	2	12,5
	Administrator	2	12,5
	Team Mate	9	56,2
	Another Athlete Out of the Team	2	12,5
	Fan	1	6,2
	Total	16	100,0
Disturbing, persistent dating proposal	Trainer	2	9,5
	Administrator	1	4,8
	Team Mate	10	47,6
	Another Athlete Out of the Team	5	23,8
	Fan	2	9,5
	Other	1	4,8
	Total	21	100,0
Telephone calls, letters, messages	Trainer	1	5,0
	Administrator	1	5,0
	Team Mate	7	35,0
	Another Athlete Out of the Team	9	45,0
	Other	2	10,0
	Total	20	100,0
Disclosure of the sexual parts of the body	Trainer	1	10,0
	Administrator	1	10,0
	Team Mate	3	30,0
	Another Athlete Out of the Team	1	10,0
	Masseur	1	10,0
	Attendant	2	20,0
	Fan	1	10,0
	Other	10	100,0
Soft touch to the body	Trainer	1	11,1
	Team Mate	6	66,7
	Another Athlete Out of the Team	1	11,1
	Other	1	11,1
	Total	9	100,0
Apparent touch to the body	Trainer	2	16,7
	Team Mate	3	25,0
	Fan	5	41,7
	Other	2	16,7
	Total	12	100,0
Forcing to sexual intercourse, sexual intercourse	Administrator	1	20,0
	Team Mate	1	20,0
	Another Athlete Out of the Team	1	20,0
	Other	2	40,0
	Total	5	100,0

Table 2: Chi-Square analysis regarding the sexual abuse in terms of certain variables.

sure of the participants to sexual abuse does not vary based on the age variable.

H1: There is no significant difference between branch and exposure to sexual abuse. Since it was found $X^2=18,720$; $p=0,283>0.05$ according to Chi-Square test, H_1 hypothesis is acceptable. Therefore exposure of the participants to sexual abuse does not vary based on the branch variable.

H2: There is no significant difference between active years of sports and exposure to sexual abuse. Since it was found $X^2=2,097$; $p=0,553>0.05$ according to Chi-Square test, H_2 hypothesis is acceptable. Therefore exposure of the participants to sexual abuse does not vary based on the active years of sports variable.

In Table 3, ways of exposure of the participants to sexual abuse and by whom they were exposed were analyzed. When the answers given for "Confront, approach" were reviewed, it was found out that, of all participants, 12.5% was exposed to abuse by the trainers, 6.2% was exposed to abuse by the administrators, 25.0% was abused by the

Table 3: Distribution of participant views regarding sexual abuse.

	Groups	n	%				
Number of Exposure to Abuse	1,00	3	12,0	How did you react to the incident?	Anger, Rage	11	44,0
	2,00	9	36,0		Fear	9	36,0
	3,00	5	20,0		Despair	4	16,0
	4,00	2	8,0		No emotion	1	4,0
	5,00	3	12,0	What were the disturbances you suffered after the sexual abuse?	Total	25	100,0
	8,00	1	4,0		Insomnia	8	32,0
	10,00	2	8,0		Nightmare	6	24,0
	Total	25	100,0		Nausea	6	24,0
When were you exposed to abuse?	Before Training	2	8,0		Tiredness, Exhaustion	5	20,0
	During Training	10	40,0		Total	25	100,0
	After Training	7	28,0	What did you do to deal with your complaints?	I used sedatives	2	8,0
	After the Game	6	24,0		I made changes in my social life	8	32,0
	Total	25	100,0		I left from the team	7	28,0
How did you avoid the abuse?	I perceived it as a joke and ignored.	2	8,0		I did nothing	8	32,0
	I told the executer not to do.	13	52,0	With whom did you talk about these acts?	Total	25	100,0
	I physically resisted the acts.	4	16,0		My Family	3	12,0
	I told the act to my team mates.	4	16,0		My Sibling	2	8,0
	Other	2	8,0		My Administrator	1	4,0
	Total	25	100,0		My Friend	17	68,0
					Other	2	8,0
Where were you exposed to sexual abuse?	Saloon- Field	13	52,0	Do you think such behaviors are a problem in sports?	Total	25	100,0
	Dressing Room	5	20,0		Yes	15	60,0
	Storage Room	4	16,0		To A Certain Extent	10	40,0
	Other	3	12,0	team mates, 18,8% was abused by another athlete out of the team, 6.2% was exposed to abuse by masseurs, 12.5% was abused by the attendants, 12.5% was exposed to abuse by the fans and 6.2% was abused by others.	Total	25	100,0
	Total	25	100,0	When the answers for “Undesired questions, sexual jokes” were reviewed, it was seen that, of all participants, 12.5% was abused the trainers while another 12.5% was abused by the administrators, 56.2% was exposed to abuse by the team mates, 12.5% was abused by another athlete out of the team, 6.2% was abused by the fans.			
Do you think there is a connection between the sports clothes and expose to sexual abuse?	Yes	18	72,0				
	No	7	28,0				
	Total	25	100,0				
After you were exposed to sexual abuse, was there a change in your performance?	My performance reduced	19	76,0				
	No change occurred	6	24,0				
	Total	25	100,0	When the answers for “Disturbing, persistent dating proposal” were reviewed it was found out that, of all participants, 9.5% was abused by the trainers, 47.6% was exposed to abuse by the team mates, 23.8% was abused by another athlete out of the team, 9.5% was abused by the fans and 4.8% was expose to abuse by others.			
If you experienced any change in your performance, how long did it last?	Less than 1 week	4	21,1				
	Between 1 Week- 1 Month	7	36,8				
	1-3- Months	6	31,6				
	Less than 6 Months	2	10,5				
	Total	19	100,0				

Table 4: Distribution regarding the impacts of sexual abuse on the participants.

team mates, 18,8% was abused by another athlete out of the team, 6.2% was exposed to abuse by masseurs, 12.5% was abused by the attendants, 12.5% was exposed to abuse by the fans and 6.2% was abused by others.

When the answers for “Undesired questions, sexual jokes” were reviewed, it was seen that, of all participants, 12.5% was abused the trainers while another 12.5% was abused by the administrators, 56.2% was exposed to abuse by the team mates, 12.5% was abused by another athlete out of the team, 6.2% was abused by the fans.

When the answers for “Disturbing, persistent dating proposal” were reviewed it was found out that, of all participants, 9.5% was abused by the trainers, 47.6% was exposed to abuse by the team mates, 23.8% was abused by another athlete out of the team, 9.5% was abused by the fans and 4.8% was expose to abuse by others.

For the statement “Telephone calls, letters, messages”, it was found out that, of all participants, 5.0% was abused by the trainers, 35.0% was abused by the team mates, 45.0% was exposed to

abuse by another athlete out of the team and 10.0% was abused by others.

As to the statement "Disclosure of the sexual parts of the body", it was seen that, of all participants, 10.0% was abused by the trainers, 30.0% was exposed to abuse by the team mates, 10.0% was abused by another athlete out of the team, 10.0% was abused by the masseurs, 20.0% was exposed to abuse by the attendants and 10.0% was abused by others.

When the answers to "Soft touch to the body" were reviewed, it was seen that, of all participants, 11.1% was exposed to abuse by the trainers, 66.7% was abused by the team mates, 11.1% was abused by another athlete out of the team and 11.1% was exposed to abuse by others.

For the statement "Apparent touch to the body", it was seen that, of all participants, 16.7% was exposed to abuse by the trainers, 25.0% was abused by the team mates, 41.7% was abused by the fans and 16.7% was exposed to abuse by others.

As to the statement "Forcing to sexual intercourse, sexual intercourse", it was found out that, of all participants, 20.0% was abused by the administrators, 20.0% was exposed to abuse by the team mates, 20.0% was abused by another athlete out of the team and 40.0% was abused by others.

When the findings regarding the impacts of sexual abuse on the participants were reviewed, it was seen that number of exposure to sexual abuse was 2 with a ratio of 36.0% and 3 with a ratio of 20.0%.

For the question reading "When were you exposed to sexual abuse?", it was found out that 8.0% of the participants were exposed to sexual abuse before training while 40.0% was exposed during training, 28.0% after training and 24.0% after the game.

For the question reading "How did you avoid the abuse?", it was found out that 52.0% told the executor not to do, 16.0% physically resisted the acts and 16.0% shared the incident with their team mates.

For the question reading "Where were you exposed to sexual abuse?", 52.0% was exposed to sexual abuse at the saloon-field, 20.0% at the dressing room while 16.0% at the storage room and 12.0% was exposed to sexual abuse at other locations.

As to the question reading "Do you think there is a

connection between the sports clothes and exposure to sexual abuse?", 72.0% answered as yes while 28.0% answered as no.

For the question reading "After you were exposed to sexual abuse, was there a change in your performance?" it was seen that 76.0% experienced a reduction in their performance and 24.0% experienced no change in their performance.

For the question reading "If you experienced any change in your performance, how long did it last?", 21.1% said that it lasted less than 1 week, 36.8% said it was between 1 week and 1 month, 31.6% said it was 1-3 months and 10.5% told that it was less than 6 months.

As to the question reading "How did you react to the incident?", the answers given by 44.0% was anger, rage while 36.0% reacted with fear, 16.0% reacted with despair and 4.0% said they displayed no emotion.

For the question reading "What were the disturbances you suffered after sexual abuse?", 32.0% said they suffered from insomnia, 24.0% said they had nightmares, 24.0% said they felt nausea and 20.0% said they suffered from tiredness, exhaustion.

When the answers given to the question "What did you do to deal with your complaints?" were reviewed, it was seen that 8.0% took sedatives, 32.0% made changes in their social lives, 28.0% left from the team and 32.0% did nothing.

As to the question "With whom did you talk about these acts?", 12.0% told that they talked to their families, 8.0% told their siblings, 4.0% told their administrators, 68.0% told their friends and 8.0% told to others.

For the question reading "Do you think such acts are a problem in sports?", 60.0% answered as yes and 40.0% said it was a problem to a certain extent.

4. Discussion

In this study conducted on 170 females attending to Firat University School of Physical Education and Sports, views of the participants as to sexual abuse were reviewed. According to this, the results given below cover a summary of the study.

It was seen that 65.3% of the participants were between the ages of 19-21 and those exposed to sexual abuse were mostly engaged in volleyball, ath-

letics and basketball respectively. It was found out that majority of the participants (72.3%) had an active sports life varying between 1-7 years. It was detected that trainers, with whom the athletes worked, were mostly males (76.5%).

14.7% of the participants (25 individuals) stated that they were exposed to sexual abuse. In the studies carried out by Gündüz et.al. (2002) for the elite women athletes in our country revealed that 200 out of 356 individuals from different sports branches were exposed to sexual abuse by the spectators, trainers, administrators, other athletes either in the same or another team. As a result of the study conducted by Toftegaard Nielsen (1998) in Denmark, it was found out that 25.0% of the athletes were exposed to sexual abuse by their trainers. McGregor (1998) stated that 40.0% and 50.0% of the athletes in Canada suffered from a number of undesired events in the sports environment from sexual harassment to sexual abuse (Yıldız, 2009). There might be a number of factors affecting exposure to sexual abuse. Socio-economic, cultural, psycho-social, environmental and personal factors can be listed among these.

72.0% of those suffering from sexual abuse (18 individuals) were between the ages of 19-21. 16.0% of those suffering from sexual abuse were engaged in table tennis, 20.0% was engaged in volleyball, 16.0% was engaged in athletics while 16.0% was playing badminton. 36.0% of those exposed to sexual abuse had an active sports life of 1-3 years, 28.0% had an active sports life of 4-7 and 32.0% had an active sports life of 8-11 years.

As to the manners of exposure of the participants to sexual harassment and abuse, "disturbing, persistent dating proposal", "telephone calls, messages" "confront, approach" and "undesired question, sexual jokes" were the most common behaviors displayed. Also it was found out that most of the participants were exposed to sexual abuse by their team mates. Bal (2011), in his study, stated that most repeated sexual harassment and abuse behaviors were confront, approach, persistent dating proposals, sexual words, jokes and behaviors and soft touch to the body. In his study Durmuş (2004), came to the conclusion that most common sexual harassment incidents suffered by the university students were "disturbing gaze and abusing with the look", "undesired touch", "deliberate harassing in the public transport", "disturbing by frequently mentioning sexuality in the talk", "receiving sexual-

ly disturbing text messages sent to the mobile phone". These findings show similarities to our findings in this study.

Majority of the participants (56.0%) were exposed to sexual abuse 2-3 times. Yıldız (2009) stated that 64 out of 96 athletes suffered from sexual harassment and abuse at least once in their sports lives. It was detected that most of the participants (52.0%) tried to avoid the act by telling the executer not to do.

Participants were mostly exposed to sexual abuse during (40.0%) and after the training (28.0%). Yıldız (2009), stated that the athletes were mostly exposed to sexual abuse after the training. In the study conducted by Gündüz et.al. (2002), the most common answer given to this question was "after the game". Contrary to these findings, in our study, "during training" ranked first as the time frame when abuse incidents were seen most frequently.

The participants were mostly exposed to sexual abuse in the saloon-field (52.0%) and in the dressing room (20.0%). According to a study conducted, sexual harassment and abuse are the leading factor affecting the individual's doing sports in a safe environment (David, 2005). It was found out that women athletes suffered from sexual harassment and abuse at the sports hall and fields in general (Bal, 2011). This finding matches up with our study findings.

Most of the participants (72.0%) expressed an opinion as to the existence of a connection between the sports clothes and exposure to sexual abuse. Yıldız (2009) and Fasting et.al. (2003), obtained similar findings to ours in their study.

Sexual abuse incidents reduce the performance of most participants (76.0%). Reduction in the performance usually lasts between 1 week and 3 months with a ratio of 68.4%.

Majority of the participants (44.0%) expressed their anger, rage against the abuse incidents while 36.0% reacted with fear. It was found out that most of the participants (32.0%) suffered from insomnia after the abuse and 48.0% suffered from nightmares and nausea. 32.0% of the participants said that they made changes in their social lives to deal with their complaints. 28.0% left the team and 32.0% did nothing. Majority of the participants with a ratio of 68.0% stated that they shared the incident with their friends. 60.0% consider the abuse as a total problem while 40.0% think that these behaviors

cause problem to a certain extent. Ovayolu et. al. (2007), found out that sexual abuse had sexual, emotional, depressive mood and anxiety related, behavioral impacts and affected personality development. In those exposed to sexual abuse repeating and disturbing thoughts, nightmares related to the incident, difficulty in falling asleep and concentrating and outburst of rage can be seen (Kılıç, 2004). After the sexual abuse, it was seen that feelings of rage, sadness (58.3%), shame (54.9%), fear (43.2%) and despair (35.7%), shock (47.2%) were intensively experienced (Durmuş, 2004).

5. Conclusion

Sexual harassment and abuse incidents require social sensitivity. Every individual and society should be able to draw conclusions from these incidents and should feel responsible. By taking the necessary precautions required to be taken in order to prevent such incidents and carrying out the necessary studies, each segment of the society should raise their awareness. It should be noted that everyone has a role in the enforcement of legal arrangements, which will prevent or abolish such incidents, organization of educational activities regarding the subject, working in collaboration with the families, related organizations, clubs and units and increasing the number of studies regarding this subject. Attention should be paid that this is a social problem.

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