

Zainab Khan

Read All About it!

The article Sexual Harassment and Assault at Work: Understanding the Costs written by the Institute for Women's Policy Research highlights sexual harassment in the workplace and its often taxing effects on victims and the company they work for. It identifies ways to define and report sexual harassment as well as potential solutions through trainings, policy, etc. I resonate with this article because it emphasized the costs that sexual assault brings particularly to women in STEM fields. Being a woman in a male-dominated field can be intimidating, and not necessarily because of harassers themselves. Like the article mentioned, there is often a power differential that may cause a victimizer to feel that they do not have to abide by rules. In another case, the victimizer may know people who can get them out of legal trouble should they be reported. With the right resources, this may mean that they likely will not face the justice they deserve. I also think women in the workplace has turned into a controversial topic as the #MeToo movement made light, and so people feel as though it is something that should not be talked about. However, just like with other controversial topics, if it is not talked about, we allow the topic to be buried and the problem persists. I do not feel that the article was biased in any way so their scope was broad and thorough. I think their method of writing about something this controversial was great because it was informative, well-researched, and well-structured. I feel this related to me when they emphasized the effects of sexual assault particularly in engineering and science. Case in point, they stated there were "high levels of harassment" of women "in science, engineering, and medicine". Upon reading this, I felt worried for not only myself but the victims of these situations. I am glad that there are people actively working on studying the situation and promoting intervention training. Computer science is a male-dominated field for now and I intend on staying cautious and on my toes in the future!