TEDDY'S TRANSCRIPT

I: INTERVIEWER

P: PARTICIPANT

(0:00) I: Let me start by saying, Hi, I'm Khadijah. I'm a master student from Christ University. Thank you so much for taking part in my research about women's safety perceptions following relocation. This interview is being audio recorded, and I would share this data with my research guide as well, and I would be using this in my dissertation. Is that okay?

P: Yeah, sure.

I: Thank you so much. Thank you. Shall we start? If you're ready?

(0:30) P: Yes.

I: Yeah, so, so I have some basic questions. You picked your pseudonym already, Teddy. So how old are you, teddy?

P: 21

(0: 37) I: Okay and what is your gender?

P: I identify as a woman

I: Okay, where did you move from and where did you move to?

(0:48) P: So, I moved from Bangalore to Pune. I live in the outskirts of Pune, not in the Pune city.

I: Okay, great. Can you please tell me what your reason for relocation was?

(1:01) P: I moved for my masters.

I: Great. Can you please tell me what is your living arrangement? whether that's a PG or a hostel or an apartment?

(1:10) P: So, I live in a PG. I- The PG is kind of like a flat system.

I: Hmm like an apartment?

(1:24) P: Like big city so the PG looks like each room looks like an apartment. So, I live with girls, I have my private space.

I: That's great. I'll start with a very simple question, can you please tell me what the concept of safety means to you, whether that's physical safety or emotional security, just what makes you feel safe and secure in a space?

P: I think safety just means being able to do whatever I am doing, wherever I am without fear, right, without feeling like something might happen to me if I do it differently, if I do something else, if I am different, or if I do something differently, that something might happen to me when that feeling isn't there, I think that is safety. And I'm talking about primarily about emotional and physical safety here, and what- what makes a safe, what makes a space safe, is not fearing something. And then I- of course, when I say fear, I mean of men, of nothing else, not of a tiger, not of a bear, I'm sure I can figure that out. Of a, of a man, of- of a man staring at me just because I decided to wear shorts that day, or of a man just coming into the PG gate and drunk and like hurting me, so safety for me is not having to fear any of this.

(3:17) I: Great, just being able to express yourself without fear of anything.

P: Basically, yeah.

I: yes, that makes sense. Can you please tell me what makes you feel safe and what makes you feel unsafe in your environment, certain things that contribute to your sense of safety or even take away from it?

(3:39) P: What makes me feel unsafe? I'll tell you that it is like we already said, Men. It is people. It is men who are under the influence of any substance. It is also men who are not as exposed to the world as other men are, so who have not seen enough of the world. It is also men who are primarily in the working classes. I do not understand. I mean, I don't want to form perceptions about them and further the stigma that is there about them, but, but the fact is that I do feel unsafe around them, so that is still justified. I think primarily this in-in public spaces and in public transports. I don't trust anybody. In general, what makes me feel safe is being around women. So, the perception is that if you're not around men, nothing will happen to you if you're around women, if you're around somebody you know, like your, like your own family, like your boyfriend, like your uncle, etc, nothing bad will happen. So, if you're with a man, you know, nothing will happen to you. Or if you're with a woman, then nothing will happen to you that that

constitutes as a safe space, but safety as a construct, what it means to me, I have already told you.

I: Yes, but yeah, what helps you feel safe is being surrounded by other women and not being in the presence of a male that you might find intimidating or anything like that.

P: Certainly, yeah.

(5:25) I: Yes, that makes sense. Can you please describe your initial perception of safety after relocating? So, the first time that you came to Pune, what was your impression of the place? Did you feel safe? Did you feel unsafe? What was the initial perception of the area?

P: The place that I live in is called Loni, and it is 20 kilometers away from the Pune city. The context here is important because so Pune city is here, and it's expanding. Okay, I am located here, and the Pune expanded almost till here *demonstrates length with hand gestures*. So, the closest the Pune city is-is 10 kilometers away. So that's where the city essentially starts from. All of this is still a very village like area, still not- this is not under the Pune Municipal Corporation, I live in a village. Why is the village developing? because of the student population. So, there are more, there's a studio, there's a Domino's, there's a whatever, whatever, because to cater to the student population. So, it is not that it is an underdeveloped area. When I first moved in the roads. The roads are not fully made, and I moved in last year during monsoon, so there was a lot of the roads were just bad and not very hygienic, not very clean, very seemed very underdeveloped, that you know, it would be difficult to live here. So then again, my immediate, I think, in the initial phases, what I used to think of was, ‘is it safe for me to go out in the evening at all?’ Because the place I live in is has no streetlights. So for me to go from the main road to there, it's about two kilometers away, and you don't find autos easily, so the only way for you to sometimes is to just walk. The situation is better now compared to last year. You find out, but I am saying you have to walk till, till if you have to work, you have to- have your torch light on. So, my fear used to be that is it safe for me to work, so I never used to step out post dark. And I also used to feel like if I'm wearing a dress or shorts or whatever, will the men around me, because this is a village, will the men around me perceive me differently? Am I? Is it okay to do that? Also, I live in a co living PG, so there are boys in the second and the third floor.

I: Oh okay. So, it's not completely a girls’ PG.

(8:16) P: And the fear was also that, what if, because guys keep coming to girls floor, right, because they have their boyfriends and stuff, um, is that? I mean, am I safe? I don't know your friends not going to step into my room and how I mean? What do you mean? So.

I: it's still unfamiliar males to you.

(8:41) P: Yeah, so these were, these were my initial, I think fears about my safety.

I: Okay, and so your initial perception of the place was not very good. You felt a little unsafe.

P: Yeah.

(8:57) I: Understandable. Can you please tell me if your perception of safety has changed over time. Now that's been a while since you've moved. How has getting to know the area, knowing the language, things like that, helped with your sense of safety? Or has it like reduced it as well? Has it changed over time?

P: Has it? it definitely has. So, the thing is, I- for the most of my life, I have been in Karnataka. I have been in either Mysore or Bangalore, and here, safety is in- safety is a privilege here. I mean privilege everywhere. You're an Indian woman, etc, etc. But I'm seeing here, especially in Karnataka, in these parts of Karnataka, Bengaluru, urban is somehow better in my understanding, but Mysore was not a safe place. I have had some experiences of sexual assault in Mysore, and I was a child, so it wasn't very ideal. Went to Maharashtra, even though I was living in a- in a village like area right, safety is insane. So in the times that I did step out in the evening and I did walk, in, the times that I had to switch on my flashlight, in the times that I had to step down after 10pm for a walk right just in front of my PG, all of these I felt extremely safe to do, because nobody would look at me. Everybody would mind their own business. And if somebody did look at me, it was because I was smoking a cigarette, and they were like, ‘Oh, she's smoking a cigarette’. So that- that, that used to happen initially, but the people around us are used to it, because it's a PG, right? Everybody smokes. Everybody steps down for a smoke so people are used to it. So,there was no- uh two factors, there was no judgment involved, and there was no safety issue with related to my smoking. So that was, this was in Loni where I live. In Bangalore, however, there is that judgment, and so it's not safe for a woman to smoke in Bangalore unless it's in areas like Koramangala, or it's in areas- very student dense populations that that is also a major factor for safety. Because what do you mean? I can't smoke a cigarette without feeling safe. Men just changes if they figure out your drinking or you're smoking, right? That's there.

(11:40) I: So, could you please elaborate on that, like, what do you mean by- do you feel more unsafe if they?-

(11:47) P: If you're drunk, though, I think the men's perception is that you're more available. Smoker, if you are a drinker, it means you are- you are more free. You are a bad girl. You don't follow the norm, the society. So, you can be more easily, and by extension, you can be taken advantage of more easily, because you are one of those outcasts as a girl, anyway. So, these, these outcasts. Perception, I think, is very messed up in men's head, still be a smoker and still be very religious and a good girl. So, this, this binary doesn't sit well in men's head. So that is- me- That is why the perception of me as a drinker and a smoker being very neutral is important to me.

I: Yes.

P: I'm sorry, I digressed. I digress.

(12:48) I: Please talk about whatever you are comfortable with. Completely fine.

(12:54) P: So, in Loni, that's what was happening. It was, it was safe to smoke. It was safe to step down at 10, 10:30 and again, right even when I stepped down for a walk, nobody would look at me, either in the morning or in the night. And there was the rule about boys not coming into my floor anyway. And once I started to the boys in my PG, realized that they are very, very respectful boys, that they are just for their studies. They're just here to have fun with their own groups and nothing else. So, me talking to the boys, me seeing how the people in Loni are, me being comfortable smoking and stepping down at night because nothing happened, right? And that's why my stepping down at night kept getting reinforced, and every time that happened, it kept getting reinforced and became very strongly established. So, because of all of these factors, my perception of safety has slowly- has really changed. I would go beyond my road for a walk at 11pm and I- I'm sure I'd feel safe. I know experiences of men trying to touch me or staring at me for too long. I mean, if somebody stares at me, I stare back and they look down right, because in Maharashtra especially, men are scared of women, because women are really, really bold and strong and brutal. So, in not, not, not the rural areas, I'm sure, but generally, rape cases, generally sexual assault cases are lesser than if you compare it to other North Indian states. So, I think, I think I'm very lucky to be living there.

(4:42) I: Yeah, that sounds actually really nice to feel safe in your own place. It's a huge blessing, honestly. So, coming from that place to you've definitely felt sort of a difference in safety perception, like you did not feel as safe in the place you moved to than you were at home. Sorry. I was just trying to see if what I understood was correct. Was going from a place where you lived, where it was so much more acceptable to do what you were doing and feel safe, and coming to Pune, where it's not exactly like that. So, it's has it been hard to adjust yourself?

(15:21) P: So I thought that it would not be the same as it is in Bangalore, right? I thought level of acceptability and safety wouldn't be there in Pune, because I was living village like area. So that was my perception. Initially went wrong because I understood the place and the people more. Yeah, I guess that safety issue never, never happened. It has never happened until now.

(15:51) I: That's- that's really great. Can you please tell me whether there were any incidents that occurred after you moved that made you feel unsafe in any way, anything that made you feel safe and unsafe, sorry, anything like difficulties with public transport, or the people you were surrounded with, or anything about, you know, about the environment that made you feel unsafe?

(16:12) P: I think public transport once I felt unsafe because I was standing close to the men's section, right? So, there were, and so in Pune's in the transport, PMT, there is no, like, a strict division, like women here, men here, everybody just sits. They want to. And I think I was standing really close to a man, and I think he was right behind me, so I felt unsafe, but it was a feeling because of my experiences in Bengalore transport in Bengaluru, if I stand next to, next to the men's section, I am, for sure, there's a possibility of me being touched inappropriately, but In transport surrounded by, I mean, so many men, right? Nothing but it was just a fear. It was this- my body getting alarmed.

I: Yes. From the proximity like, what if he does something? Sort of that.

(17:15) P: What if, so? It was a 'if' Though otherwise, I haven't felt unsafe other than men. Like the area that I go by, there are lot of trucks there, so those men kind of stare at you, and some workers, I mean, they stare at you. But other than that, no nothing.

I: Thankfully, nothing that has made you feel unsafe since relocating there.

P: Thankfully, yeah.

I: That's really good. That's good. You mentioned that you did not have any safety problems or safety concerns as such. But were there any strategies or measures that you used when you initially moved, like some people like, to send their live location to their friend if they're going out, or they only go out if they have a friend with them. So, were there any sort of strategies that you adopted to feel safer in this new place?

(18:06) P: So, I never used to step out after 6pm and if I did, and if I really had to, then I used to come back in an auto instead of walking. And if I did have to walk back and there was no other option for me, then I would put on my torch, and I would put on the person, whoever I'm speaking to on speaker, put on the torch, and which is something I still do, despite safety, that that that is there in Loni, I think I do it. It- it is, it is a measure I still take. I used to take, and I still take. Other than that, that is it. I mean, at night, if I want something, I just call one of my friends, guy friends, in the PG, I ask them, get it for me, instead of me stepping out myself. So that's, that's how much I do. And also, I had a two wheeler. At some point I had, I had rented a two wheeler for the last two months. And even then, even when I had a two wheeler, I was kind of scared to go out after dark by myself. So if I did, I would go with a girl friend, or I would go with the- I would ask a guy friend to get me something so.

(19:39) I: So, you would make sure that you're accompanied by someone or avoid certain times of the night or day, basically. And how did that make you feel? Did that make you feel safer doing those things?

P: It definitely did. I mean, it just made me feel like if somebody is with me, and if something were to happen, because the area streetlights, right the area that I have to pass by from the main road to here, the streetlights, and there are no people living there. There's like a factory over there. And so really, a 700-meter stretch. There's nobody living there, so if something happens there at night, pm, I've gone out to get dahi [yogurt] or something, what do I do then? So, people with me would always make me feel like if something happened, there's at least somebody to make a call. It did make me feel a lot safer.

(20:05) I: That's -that's great. Could you please tell me if- like you mentioned that there was, there was this one road that it was very isolated. Nobody lived close to it, so going alone, there was a bit of a concern for you. So, like that, were there anything about the physical layout of where you lived or where your campus is that affected your sense of safety, like a place where,

like you mentioned, is isolated, or if there's lack of surveillance cameras or streetlights? So how do the physical layout of your environment influence your sense of safety?

P: Major, major impact. Because if there were surveillance cameras, and if there were street lights, I would have gone out after 6pm the day I moved into Loni. The- it was, it was, the fact is that the college is huge. Okay, the campus is extremely huge. They have a lot of money they have not invested in making the surrounding area safe. The college can pair up with the Panchayat, the ruling, and can do things, but is choosing not to. So, they are not making the roads, putting street lights, even though a lot of student population lives on this side. And because there were no people living in that stretch of area, and there was just that one factory, right? And also, a lot of drivers. And again, my perception of truck drivers will do substance, working class, unsafe. So, all of these perceptions in my head. That was what was causing the feeling of not feeling safe. It kind of the the- isolatedness of the road and the streetlights did have a major impact on my perception of safety, at least.

(22:23) I: Did it impact how you navigated your surroundings? Did it make you feel like you didn't want to go out as much, or anything of that sort?

(22:31) P: It did make me feel like I don't want to go out as much. I mean, I don't want to risk going as much because there are no streetlights. So eventually, what got easier for me is that, okay, sure, there are no streetlights, but I've been here long enough to know, and I've walked a couple of times enough to know that nothing can happen. And because I take safety measure of always having the speaker on and my torch on, nothing will happen. And there, there have been times where one or two uncles have stopped and asked me if they should drop me, because it's night time. And I know if something were to happen, whatever there would be another uncle, there would be another dude passing by who would help me out, because people are that nice there. So it has significantly changed despite, the despite the physical space, the perception has significantly changed because of my interactions with people.

(23:43) I: That's really nice. That leads me to my next question, like you mentioned, knowing these nice people, having them as a support system, how has making new social connections influenced your sense of safety, knowing you have people to call if anything goes wrong, to help you out for anything? How has that influenced your sense of safety?

(24:01) P: I think that is, that is primarily what has made me feel safe in the place. Because if I didn't step down and talk to these people around my space, right? If they didn't talk, talk to me, if they didn't tell me, okay, the monsoon is like this. If they didn't engage in normal conversations like this, and if the boys my PG weren't helpful enough, my feeling of safety would not have been this solid. Also that, because when I used to walk and come sometimes at night, I always used to find someone from my PG, either a guy or a guy's gang or whatever. So I used to just walk with them, right? Even though I am not like best buddies with you, just because you know me, you would make sure that I walk with you and that I reach safe. So that- that sense of community, and the sense of community is extremely strong in Loni, in Loni, in general, because we live in a village, right? We always have to- if there is a lack of accessibility, let's say we always have to be there for each other in that sense. And there's always electricity issues in my PG, so we're like the people living in PG, we always try to help each other out. So that sense of ability and again, like you said, right? Having somebody to call, always happy to call on my phone when walking from the main road, um, having people is what has made me feel safe. Because, I mean, look at the look at this thing, right? Because people is what made me feel unsafe in the first place, but to feel safe, I needed people only. I don't know if that makes-

(25:47) I: Yeah, I get what you- I get what you did there.

P: Yeah, yeah. Basically.

I: It's about the type of people that you're surrounded with.

P: Of course, yeah.

(25:59) I: How did that make you feel having these social connections because you just moved to a new place? So, there's some sort of emotional security that they're providing as well. Would you say?

P: True there was, there was emotional security, especially- sorry You said something. Sorry.

(26:15) I: So sorry. I was just saying how like you might have experienced home sickness or missing your home and having some sort of a community may have like helped you from that.

P: In a way, yes, it still took me time to call them my people right? My room was extremely comfortable. I had set up my room the way I want, so that became home very quickly to me, but the people, it took me some time, because the way the people speak, the way they communicate,

and the way their tone is-is very different from the tone that I have seen growing up. Kannada speakers are a little soft as compared to Marathi, because is a little there is a throw in their tone, and there's a throw in their language, because they are they're very straightforward people. It took me time to get there and understand that, but again, immersing myself in the culture helped a lot. The sense of emotional security came as I let myself immerse myself into the culture and into the people and their lives. I think somewhere in the middle of my first semester, I knew that, okay, I'm safe here. It's all good. It's all great. I can work it out maybe four months after moving in, I felt that.

(27:49) I: That's nice. That's really nice. So your sense of community added to your sense of safety in that way?

P: My sense of community got stronger in February when my second semester started, because I've known these people by then, first semester, for the first two, three months, it was absolute chaos. But I guess again, like the four months passed and I was like, okay, I'm good here, and people knowing people helped. Yeah.

(28:19) I: That's really great. Before you moved to this place, have you heard any sort of news stories or social media online about this new location that affected your sense of safety before moving or after moving, any sort of post or news article that have made you feel at ease or at unease?

(28:40) P: What made me feel uncomfortable? And a little bit scared was because my friend used to live there, my senior, and she used to tell me that it's not like, you know, you have to be. She just used to scare me about the whole place, because the place is located on the Solapur highway. So, you exit- so, when I say main road, I mean the highway. Everything is so you get highway and crossing the road is difficult. So, she said, you have to worry about crossing the road all the time. And she had just created this perception in my head that it's very difficult to live there. But I don't know, not specifically in terms of safety, in terms of physical safety, because, you know, crossing the road, getting yourself to that side of the highway, this side of the highway, at 9pm at 8am in the morning, is hard. It is still hard. What we feel good was the was, my sister lives in Mumbai, and she had always, has always, had a good view about safety of women in Maharashtra in general. Mumbai isnt the safest place for women, but she used to tell me how safe Maharashtra is in general. So, I was like, hey, you know what? I think I can make it even in the first/second month. I was like, because she's told me so much about Mumbai and Pune. And

Pune. She used to live in the Pune city, the- that side of the Pune city. So, I was like, that made me feel at ease. But on the other hand, my physical safety wise and stuff, I was scared because of what my friend had told me. So, because I experienced the situations myself when I went it got easier, but that created a sense of unsafe because of the perception she had created in my head. That's what I'm saying.

I: Understandable. When someone you know is saying something like that, you're bound to get worried.

P: And she was the only person I knew who was living there and was such an alien place. So, I had to literally listen to everything she was saying. I bought everything she was saying.

I: That's the only person you knew that lived-

P: Also, we weren't very close, so I mean, most- more should I figure out by myself when I moved out? But yeah, that's it.

I: That's what your thing was at the beginning. Can you please describe how the stress of relocation may have affected your sense of safety, like missing home or having to even get familiar with all these new things, being away from your friends at home, things like that. How the stress of relocation impacts your sense of safety? Do you feel it made you a little bit more vulnerable or reserved, or anything of that sort?

P: Really? So again, because it was a village, like place, really worried about how safe am I here? How- like, how should I conduct myself in this place? Should I change the way I conduct myself in public? Because this is a new space. I mean everything, right? I mean, accessibility is an issue here, because I live two kilometers away from uh- give me 2 minutes

I: Sure, sure. Take your time

P: Yes, so physical space and language, because I did not speak Marathi. And you have to understand that Pune in general is Marathi, Marathi. Marathi. Imagine a village area and everybody, they refuse to speak to you in Hindi in fact. So, I was like, I was lucky enough to know Hindi pretty well. I am a fluent Hindi speaker. So that works out for me. But in initially, I was like, if I'm not speaking the same language as you, how do I ask for your help? Ask you about the place. How do I ask you about when is the power going to be back? And stuff like that.

Because if I don't share that feature with you, so that, that added to stress, right? That added to the newness of it. But I used to be hyper, hyper vigilant in the first two months of moving in, because of- because, also because my room does not have a door, has a, it has these really huge curtains, so that serves as door. So, suppose if my main door is open and there are two rooms opposite of my room that have one of the doors is non functional. It doesn't close fully. But I'm saying those two rooms have doors, so somebody from the main door, it's easier for them to come into my room, right? Yeah. So that also used to be a major safety concern for me now, I mean, it doesn't matter, because now I'm like, Who will come? Nobody cares. No shows up ever. It's- we live in that area. No one's going to come in. So that used to be, that used to cause a lot of anxiety in me.

I: Just unfamiliar with the language. Did the language barrier in any other scenario also make you feel unsafe on public transport, not being able to communicate to- if you were going in a bus or anything like that?

P: Not as much. So, I don't think I faced as many problems as North Indians in Bangalore are facing right now, very chill because my Hindi was good. So, I always used to ask them to repeat whatever they said in Marathi, to understand Marathi myself, or to ask the translate in Hindi. Or I had to translate for- when I had to translate was 65 rupees, means in Marathi, right? So, it wasn't a language- wasn't a safety issue for me, other than- other than the fact that if I needed some help, or if I needed to ask somebody, something near my PG initially, that used to be a problem because they weren't very welcoming in the beginning. So that is it only that one safety concern.

I: How do you feel when they weren't very welcoming in the beginning? How did that impact you?

P: I felt like I had to figure it out all by myself, and I moved out of home, so mainly taxing for me, and kind of made me feel like, if you- if I'm an outsider, because I'm an outsider, I'm not a native, not your language speaker, etc, if I'm an outsider, will you be there to help me if something happens to me? So that- that was a recurring thought. But again, I think two months in, I knew that the auntie and the uncle and the shopkeeper, they would all be there if you need anything, because as you spoke, they started to get welcoming if you don't speak to them enough. How do you know if they are nice or not? Right?

I: True, true, true, fair point. So getting to know them really helped you feel a little bit more safer in that environment.

P: Basically. Yeah,

I: Okay, that's great. Now for my last question, can you please share an experience where cultural differences in this new environment, if there were any influence your sense of safety? So, we spoke about the language. But other than the language, were there any other social norm, norms like you said, this is a village, so were there any cultural differences that played a part in your sense of safety?

P: Not really, because as a culture like I said, they are- women are very bold. Women are very Do you know what mufat [blunt] means?

I: Yes, yes, yes, right. So, Maharashtra women are like that in general. So, the more news I came across, the more I saw how women were, the way they conducted themselves, and the more I heard about safety in Mumbai for women. And most of my news was coming from my sister, who lived in Mumbai. I knew that the same case, because Mumbai is Mumbai. Mumbai has everything you need. It's a whole ass capitalism thing going on there. But I'm seeing because I keep hearing only these good narratives, right? The culture factor, the culture being different from my own, did not impact me negatively. It only impacted me positively. Okay, so the way women are there, and the way women are treated is much better than women are treated in Karnataka, in my own home. So, it was more the culture. It was a pleasant culture shock for me.

I: Yeah, that's really nice.

P: It was very surprising, but it has been that way. So I think I once came across this news in, I'm not sure, I think in my first semester the PMT so the Pune public transport, a man staring at a woman or something of the kind, or he tried to touch her, something like that, and she slaps him. Okay, multiple times continuously she keeps slapping him. And nobody says anything, or does anything. Nobody says, ‘Stop slapping him’. And I realized so, so what is the message that the people in the bus are sending that you have the right to slap him left and right, you have the right to and I think she slapped him 20-25, times.

I: Oh, wow

P: I’m not joking girl- I was so shocked. I was like, No way this is allowed, no way because-

I: Nobody stepped in or anything.

P: Somebody was just recording a video of it, of course. I mean, how else do you think I saw its private anymore. But again, something like that happened to me in the Bengaluru transport. Okay, so, BMTC, so this drunk man, he, he says- he touches my shoulder, and he says, he says, something as irrelevant as why isn't your nails cut? Or why are you something? He was drunk.

I: Why was even looking at your nails?

P: Why is he looking at me at all? And he was drunk. He was drunk out of his mind, right? And I yell at him, because, who are you to touch me in the first place? Right? What gave you the right to touch my shoulder? Touch is- thats a no, no right? and not consensual touch, and then, and then I'm yelling at him. And there were multiple, there was, I think, multiple locations. That is, locations that this has happened in BMTC for me, where I had- so I in this matter. I'm a mufat [blunt/outspoken]. I would, I will, I will cause a scene. And I don't give a fuck. So, I have caused a scene at least thrice in BMTC, and no come to my rescue. No man has come to my rescue, nor has the conductor. Neither have the women so passive viewers, so as opposed to this, and imagine what happened in Pune, transport is, in fact, is a breath of fresh air for me. So, I know that if in PMT, if somebody tries to touch me inappropriately, I just have to say, what are you doing? And including the conductor and the women will come to my rescue and will yell at him or will throw him off the bus.

I: That's amazing.

P: Yeah, it's very simple. So coming from a place like this, and you have to imagine, I'm- I am a privileged woman, right? I live in urban I have the chance of getting off and booking an auto. I have the chance of not going by bus. So when, when my sexual assault triggers used to keep coming back to me at a point where it was difficult for me to deal with it. I used to take auto. I used to go by my two-wheeler, and I have that choice, but a lot of women don't. And if a woman privilege is saying that this is my sense of safety in Bangalore, urban versus in Pune, rural. The huge, huge, huge difference, and I cannot imagine how what other women face that is. I mean, I hope your research gives good insights into that. I'd love to see where this is headed.

I: Really hope so. Thank you for your information. I'm sure it will really, really add.

P: I hope so.

I: I'm sorry, but continue, you were saying something.

P: That's the that's the thing. I keep wondering, how women who can't speak for themselves, right, women who can't tell or who are scared of what will happen. They speak out. And women who just don't know what to do, and women who think, oh, this just happens. This happens. You can't do anything about it. So those have to get used to it, sort of thing, you have to get used and I'm sure you relate. And where I'm coming from. And the thing I think that, I think in a way, me standing up for myself is sort of like a me giving back to the women community and saying, You know what, I'll stand up for you too. Yes, definitely, because you can't for whatever reasons. And I respect that. Okay, it's not easy to stand up for yourself who are not taught to the society has not taught to stand up for yourself anyway. It's something I-I try to do. I don't know if it's...

I: No, it's amazing. I was really proud when you said, like, you do that now that after going to Pune, it's also inspired you to, like, not let things go.

P: True. And I think I was, I think, at a point in- in when I was in my second year and bachelor's, I think I had already gotten to the point where I knew that I have to yell, I have to shriek. And so after going to Pune, I realized that, oh, it is normal to do that, and you will not be seen as a crazy chick.

I: It's normal to stand up for yourself, and you need to.

P: Exactly so...

I: So that's a very positive culture difference that you've picked up on.

P: Very, very positive. I mean, I don't know how many such people you will find who will say that the cultural difference was positive.

I: It's not many. Not many, no.

P: Right? It's very shocking that it has been this positive for me.

I: I'm really glad for you. Touch wood, really, what you deserve honestly. That's the basic need to feel safe.

P: Yeah, thats what every woman deserves. That's what every girl deserves. So, yeah.

I: You're amazing. You're absolutely amazing. Thank you so so so much for taking part in my study. I am so glad that you said yes, because I was really happy to hear this. It really made my

day to like, hear such a positive thing that you've grown from this, and then you become braver, if anything. So that's wonderful. I'm really proud of you. That was That was amazing. Thank you so much. Thank you.

P: If there is anything else that you want me to answer, have I- have I covered everything that you're looking for?

I: Yes, absolutely like you've been really perfect. Thank you for being honest with me and sharing so much. It's not easy to share all of this with a complete stranger, but thank you for that. Is there anything else you'd like to add about the topic, or just anything in general you'd like to say?

P: Nothing. Honestly, I think I've covered everything I wanted to say, but like, I felt really safe with you here to be able to be so open and comfortable. Thank you for giving me this voice.

I: No, thank you so much. I'm genuinely very grateful. Thank you so much. I'm very happy one day when my study is finished, I would be very happy if you can read it.

P: I am so excited, and you will wait for my Google Forms response when I am doing my dissertation.

I: I will be right there. I promise.

P: Awesome. If I can help out your classmates in any way, please tell them, I'd love to be a part of this.

I: Oh, you're so sweet. Oh, my God, you're amazing. Thank you. Everyone's research will thrive because of you. The backbone of the research.

P: Its allright, no problem anytime.

I: Thank you so much. Have a nice day. Thank you.

P: Bye. Take care, good luck Thank you.

I: You, too. Please be safe. Bye bye.