

# EXPLORING THE PHENOMENON OF VIOLENCE FACED BY RESIDENT DOCTORS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS OF MAHARASHTRA BY PATIENT/S AND/OR RELATIVE/S AND/OR ESCORT/S Factsheet

A study by the Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) in collaboration with Seth G.S. Medical College and King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital and Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD)<sup>1</sup>

## WHY DO WE NEED THIS STUDY?

Resident doctors form the backbone of the Indian medical system. They are often the first point of contact with patients, caregivers, and the general public, and at the receiving end of violence directed against the medical system

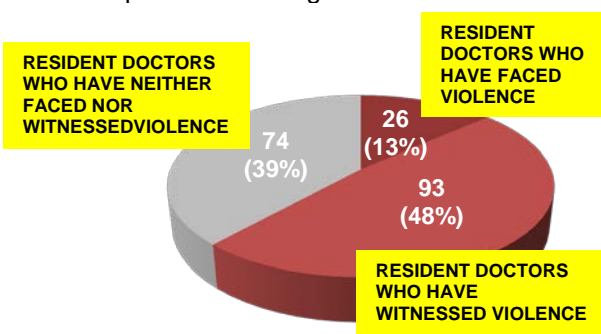
Of late, there have been incidents of violence against resident doctors, calling for a deeper understanding of its causes, its nature, and recommendations to prevent the same.

## WHAT METHODS DID WE USE?

An **online survey** was conducted with resident doctors of Maharashtra in March-May 2018 which explored the sociodemographic profile of doctors, the nature of violence faced or witnessed by them, the causes for the same, and recommendations for preventing such violence.

The questionnaire also provided space for qualitative responses, wherein doctors could freely share their views about different aspects related to violence against doctors.

A total of **193 resident doctors** responded to the online survey questionnaire, out of which 13% had faced violence from patient/s and/or relative/s and/or escort/s, and 48% had witnessed violence being inflicted upon their colleagues.

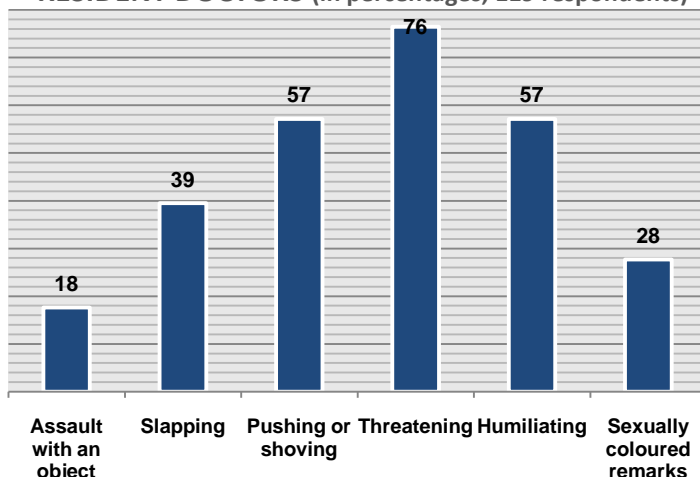


- 74% reported that the violence witnessed or experienced was inflicted by a **group of persons**.
- Incidence of violence took place largely at the **time of night duty**; more than 60% of the RMOs reported working double shifts at least 1 to 3 times a week.
- Respondent resident doctors reported that violence most commonly occurred in the **emergency (casualty), pediatrics, intensive care unit (ICU), and general medicine departments**.

**86.6% of resident doctors who had faced violence felt it could have been prevented.**

**83.4% of all 193 respondents reported being very worried about violence against resident doctors.**

## NATURE OF VIOLENCE FACED OR WITNESSED BY RESIDENT DOCTORS (in percentages; 119 respondents)



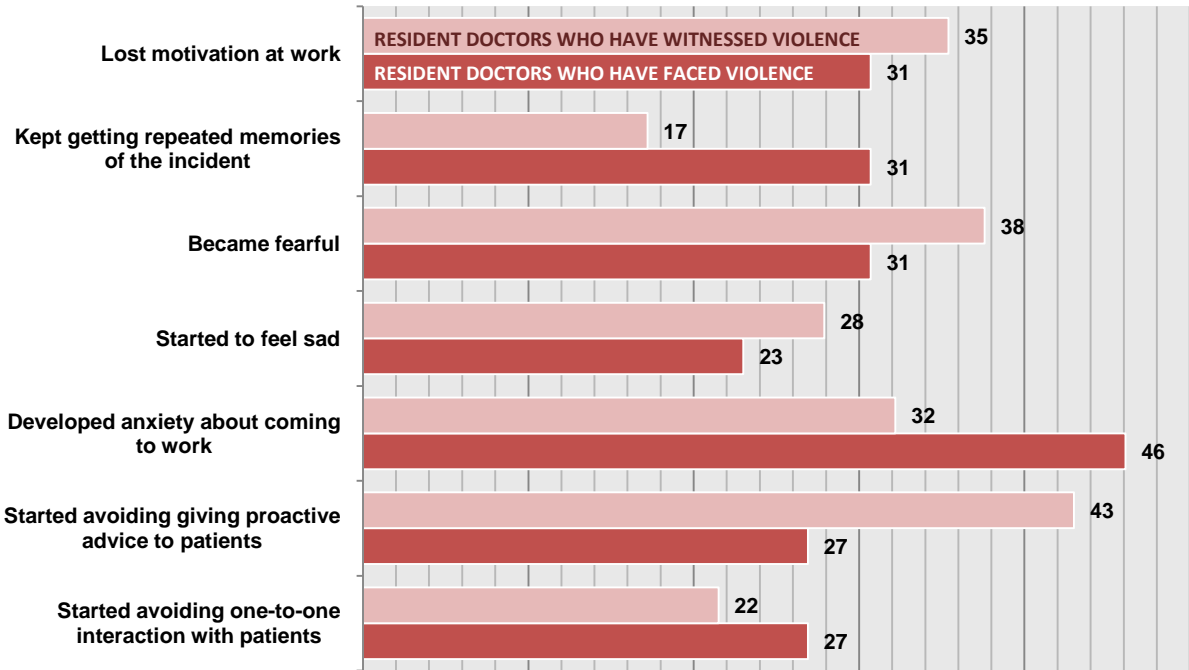
A greater proportion of male residents reported being threatened and humiliated.

## KEY CAUSES OF VIOLENCE REPORTED (in percentages; 119 respondents)

Overcrowding	44%
Death of a patient	33%
Dissatisfaction with medical care provided	32%
Lack of equipment and drugs	32%
Long waiting time	30%
Patient in critical condition leading to stress for patients, relatives and/or escorts	30%

<sup>1</sup>This is a factsheet based on preliminary findings. The study is underway. For any more information regarding the study, please write to [cehatmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:cehatmumbai@gmail.com)

**IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE ON RESIDENT DOCTORS** (in percentages; 119 respondents: 26 who have faced violence and 93 who have witnessed violence)



Only 30.2% of resident doctors who had either faced or witnessed violence had filed a medico-legal case.

The most common reason for not doing so was that the doctors felt 'it was of no use to report such an incident'.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST RESIDENT DOCTORS** (in percentages; 193 respondents)

