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Effects of Eve Teasing: A Case Study of Women in Chandigarh

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Abstract:

Almost every girl is facing eve teasing in her life. For some girls it is “normal” part of their daily lives but for others it forbids their normal development and undermines their freedom. The present paper will focus on the effect of eve teasing on girl victims. The study was conducted in Chandigarh. Total sample of 75 respondents was selected for the present study. Random sampling method was used for data collection. In conclusion it was found that eve-teasing effect socially, psychologically and physically to women respondents and in a few cases these effects were drastic and unbearable for the victims. Most of the abusers were of middle aged. It was surprised to know that significant number of women victims were oblivious of women helpline number in spite of being well educated.

Keywords: *Eve teasing, women victim, abuser*

1. Introduction

Eve-teasing is often known as sexual harassment. It is an act of humiliating or sexual harassment of a girl on the road or other public places like in buses, in malls, parks, shops, hospital, markets, work place, etc. It covers a range of sexually aggressive behaviour, verbal, non-verbal and physical. It is a universal phenomenon. Many people consider the term “eve teasing” as rooting from the word “eve” which literally means early. So it is generally concluded that “eve teasing” means teasing girls who are at their early age of youth or at the early age of puberty. However, the fact is, the term does originates from the word “eve” but it actually refers to our first mother “Eve” from whom we human kind came from. So “Eve Teasing” means to tease girls, at any age, who hold the characteristics of Eve or of a mother. Therefore, it actually means teasing and dishonouring the whole “nation mother”.

Wrong socialization under influence of patriarchal system and impact of media are two prime cause of eve teasing, especially in India. In patriarchal society male and female are socialized in different ways. Discrepancy between the norms, values, expectations and sanctions imposed on girls and those on boys because of the socially structured gender inequality is a critical factor. Men are given unlimited freedom right from childhood, sanctions are imposed only on girls and almost none on boys; there is no accountability for boys and if their parents come to know about their being eve teasers they take it so lightly that it becomes an object of humour for them. Therefore eve teasing can be perceived as an outgrowth of the gender biased socialization process and a mechanism by which men assert power and dominance over women Akhtar (2013). In another study by Ghosh (2011) it was investigated that more than 75 per cent of the boys feel that man and women are not equal. Rather they remark that men are superior to the women. Such feelings are infused by their parents and society which motivate them to underestimate or disrespect the women. On the other hand media, be it internet or television plays a significant role in pervading eve teasing. Media presents a woman as a substance of enjoyment and pleasure which pollute the human psychic and motivate the male to indulge in the act of eve teasing.

A research conducted by Jagori, between January and March 2010, included a baseline survey of over 5000 respondents in New Delhi over 23 areas in the city. According to the study, women in the 15-19 age group and women workers from unorganised sectors were especially vulnerable; that 2 in 3 women had experienced sexual harassment at least 2 to 5 times in the last year; that poor infrastructure including the quality of streetlights, pavements and public toilets were major reasons for lack of safety; and that women continued to bear the burden of keeping safe. These findings were triangulated by focus group discussions and safety audits in several parts of the city.

2. Objective of the Present Study

The present study has been done on the victims of eve teasing to know the various socio, psychological and physical effects on their daily life.

3. Method of Study

The present study was conducted in Chandigarh. Data for the study were collected through both the quantitative as well as the qualitative methods by canvassing self constructed interview schedule. Total sample of 75 respondents were chosen. These respondents were interviewed at various places like bus stops, cinema halls, shopping malls, etc. Random sampling method was selected for the present study.

4. Findings and Discussion

Age of women plays an important role to become a victim of eve-teasing or sexual harassment/kidnapping. Data were tabulated to know this fact and given in Table 1. It shows that majority (48%) of victims belonged to the age group of 12-25. It showed that girls become victim at their very tender age when they are in the stage of recognizing their own self and the outer world. Girls of this age were found in high percentage. The reason behind this was that abuser believed that it is easy to make girls pray at their tender age. Another 36 per cent of the victim were found in the age group of 25-35 years and rest were i.e. 16 per cent of the victims were belonged to age group between 35-45 years.

Age	Frequency	Percentage
12-25	36	48
25-35	27	36
35-45	12	16
Total	75	100

Table 1: Age Wise Distribution of Victims

Table 2 indicated that majority (29.3) of the women victim were graduated and 24 per cent were post graduated. 32 per cent of the women victims were passed up to 10th/12th. One case (1.3 %) was found of illiterate and 13.3 per cent had professional degrees like BDS, MBBS, C.A., assistant professor, engineers, etc. Thus, it has been clear that women of all education levels were targeted as eve-teasing. Education hardly left its any impression on women to not be a victim.

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	1	1.3
10 th /12 th	24	32
Graduate	22	29.3
Postgraduate	18	24
Professional	10	13.3
Total	75	100

Table 2: Education Wise Distribution of Victims

Regarding occupation of victims it came to fore that majority of the women victims were working in different fields. Only 21 per cent of the victims were working at home as a housewife. 37.3 per cent of women victims were doing jobs in private sector as a managers, teachers, engineers, doctors, nurses, sales women, sweepers, etc. Of same professions of women victims were also found in government sector also which was comprised of 10.7 per cent. 30.7 per cent of the women victims were studying in schools/colleges.

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Private Job	28	37.3
Government Job	8	10.7
Student	23	30.7
Housewife	16	21.3
Total	75	100

Table 3: Occupation Wise Distribution of Victims

Women were asked how frequently they become victim of eve-teasing and in response, it came to the fore that majority of women (61.3 %) were usually teased by men. 30.7 per cent were reported that they were rarely being teased by men. And 6.7 per cent reported that they always face the problem of eve-teasing. One single case (1.3 %) of kidnapping came in to light during present study, given in Table 4. Victim was kidnapped from the premises of her residence. It showed that abusers don't scare of doing crime in the premises of residence. During research, it was found that intensity of eve-teasing increased with the easy approach to the victim by the abuser. Women who were pedestrian become victim more easily than those who had their own vehicles.

Frequency of Eve-Teasing	Frequency	Percentage
Always	5	6.7
Usually	46	61.3
Rarely	23	30.7
Any other	1	1.3
Total	75	100

Table 4: Distribution of Victims According To Frequency of Eve-Teasing They Face

In regard to the places of eve-teasing, road, bus stand, and market were found very common. It was found that 22.7 per cent of the women became victim of eve-teasing on the road, which was followed by bus stand with the percentage of 10.7. Same percentage i.e. 10.7 per cent of the respondents became victim in market. Women reported that abusers take benefit of crowded places and touch their body parts while passing through them. One single case came to fore who was been teased in cinema hall and another one was been teased on railway station. Majority of women i.e. 53.3 per cent of the respondents reported that place doesn't matters. Men used to tease women when ever and where ever they get chance. In a few cases women victim reported that they are not even safe at their homes. Relative (old aged) gave them uncomfortable touch while offering blessings. It is supposed that touching of head is a way to offer blessings rather to touch any other body part. What a women feel while passing through these situations is beyond the male psychic.

Place of Eve-teasing	Frequency	Percentage
Bus Stand	8	10.7
Railway Station	1	1.3
Cinema Hall	1	1.3
Market	8	10.7
Road	17	22.7
Any Public Place	40	53.3
Total	75	100

Table 5: Distribution of Victims According To the Place of Eve-teasing

Different methods of eve-teasing came to light which are given below in Table 6. Data in Table 6 indicated that in 54.7 per cent cases, the method used was passing indecent remarks, in 8 per cent cases either pinched/poked the women, in 22.7 cases the women reported that the abuser tried to touch their body parts. In 12 per cent respondents reported that abused sang obscene songs while passing through them. 2.7 per cent of the respondents reported that abuser gave them very awkward gaze.

Method of Eve-teasing	Frequency	Percentage
Indecent Remarks	41	54.7
Pinched/Poked	6	8
Touched Body Parts	17	22.7
Sang Obscene Song	9	12
Gazing	2	2.7
Total	75	100

Table 6: Distribution of Victims According to the Method of Eve-teasing they Faced

Eve-teasing is a very embarrassing, awkward and insecure feeling for women. To the reaction of eve-teasing different women responded differently. 54.7 per cent women victim reported that they kept silent. 10.7 per cent victims reported that they made noise for help. Another women victim of same percentage i.e. 10.7 per cent slapped abuser for their ghastly act which was followed by 5.3 per cent who responded that they informed to the police. In these cases all women victim were not satisfied with the police response expect two. In 18.7 per cent of the cases women victim fall in category of any other where women reported that they act according to the situation (table 7).

Reaction on Eve-teasing	Frequency	Percentage
Silent	41	54.7
Made Noise	8	10.7
Slapped Him	8	10.7
Inform to Police	4	5.3
Depends on Situation	14	18.7
Total	75	100

Table 7: Distribution of Victims According to their Reaction on Eve-teasing

It is very often that women usually face ridiculous act of eve-teasing. As discussed earlier age, education, occupation, etc. does not have any relation with eve-teasing. Different women reacted differently. Do they report to their parents about the incident of

eve-teasing was another question which was asked from the women victims. Regarding reporting to parents/guardian it came to fore that majority of women victim (46.7 %) never reported to their parents about eve-teasing. Feeling of shame, guilt, fear of over control by family members, etc. forbid them to hide about the incident of eve-teasing from their parents/guardian. 25.3 per cent of respondents reported that they 'always' reported to their parents/ guardian. And 28 per cent respondents report 'sometimes' to their parents/ guardian presented in Table 8.

Reporting to Parents	Frequency	Percentage
Never	35	46.7
Always	19	25.3
Sometimes	21	28
Total	75	100

Table 8: Distribution of Victims According To Their Reporting To Their Parents

To know the parents/guardians' reaction these respondents were asked question on how their parents/guardian reacted on reporting. Motive behind this question was to investigate the supportive behaviour of parents/guardian, which is given in Table 9. Among these women 42.5 per cent said that their parents/guardian supported them. They give them instructions to defend themselves in outer world. 10.7 per cent victim reported that they never got any kind of support from their parents/guardian. Majority of them were married and informed their husbands about the eve-teasing. These women victim didn't get support in fact they got harsh response i.e. "nokri chhod do" (leave the job). According to these women victim, leaving of job is not easy for people belonged to low socio economic strata as the single earner is not enough for survival. Remaining 46.7 per cent women victim never reported to their parents/guardian.

Reaction of Parents	Frequency	Percentage
Supported	32	42.7
No Support	8	10.7
Never Talked to their Parents	35	46.7
Total	75	100

Table 9: Distribution of Victims According To Their Parents' Reaction

Eve teasing fills the women victim and their family members with fear. It is very obvious that these women victims feel insecure while visiting out. Thus, another question which has been asked was regarding feeling/problem women victim while visiting to their school/workplace is presented in Table 10. In this regard it was found that 6.7 per cent women victim avoided to go to their school/workplace. 34.7 per cent felt insecure while going to their school/workplace. Other victims that were in majority didn't feel insecure and go out without fear.

Feeling While Going to School/work place	Frequency	Percentage
Avoid	5	6.7
Feel Insecure	26	34.7
Don't Feel Insecure	44	58.7
Total	75	100

Table 10: Distribution of Victims According To Their Feeling/problem While Going to School/work place

This fear not only prevent victim to visit to their school/workplace but also to visit to new places. Table 11 indicated that 8 per cent of victims avoid going to new places. In case of urgency they accompanied with others who were known to them. 48 per cent of the women victim boldly said that they used to go new places as sometimes their job demands to visit new places.

Feeling while Visiting to New Places	Frequency	Percentage
Avoid going	6	8
Accompany	33	44
Go alone without fear	36	48
Total	75	100

Table 11: Distribution of Victims According To Their Feeling While Visiting New Places

4.1. Psychological Effects

Apart from social effects eve-teasing also effects the victim so badly that it confers number of problems like tension, fear, anxiety, sadness, etc. In other words it effect physic of victim that abuser cannot imagine. To investigate various psychological effects of eve-teasing on women victim questions were asked like effects on mood, cognition, etc. which is given below (Table 12) in a tabulated form.

Regarding effect on the victims' anxious mood it was found that most of the victims were surfacing problem of irritable mood during eve-teasing. In 21.3 per cent of the women victims' mind filled with the fearful thoughts (table 12). Table 12 also showed that 33.3 per cent women victim started fearing from the strangers.

Anxiousness	Frequency	Percentage
Irritability	34	45.3
Fearful Thought	16	21.3
Fear of Stranger	25	33.3
Total	75	100

Table 12: Distribution of Victims According To Effects on Their Anxiousness

Table 13 indicated that 42.7 per cent of victim felt sadness and 24 per cent lost their interest in daily activities. Apart from this, another 33.3 per cent of women victim felt lack of pleasure which persisted for few days.

Effect on Mood	Frequency	Percentage
Sadness	32	42.7
Loss of Interest	18	24
Lack of Pleasure	25	33.3
Total	75	100

Table 13: Distribution of Victims According To Effects on Their Mood

In cases of insomnia 33.3 per cent of the victim suffered from broken sleep and found it difficult to sleep due to repetition of flashes of incident of eve-teasing. In 13.3 per cent cases women victim were surfacing the problem of nightmare which was followed by 20 and 33.3 per cent where women reported that they were facing problem of light headedness and unsatisfactory sleep respectively.

Insomnia	Frequency	Percentage
Difficulty in Falling Asleep/Broken Sleep	25	33.3
Nightmare	10	13.3
Light Headedness	15	20
Unsatisfactory Sleep	25	33.3
Total	75	100

Table 14: Distribution of Victims According To Their Suffering from Insomnia

To know about the concentration in work both at home as well as at school/work place they were enquired that do they able to concentrate properly. In this regard it came to the light that 36 per cent found it difficult to concentrate after eve-teasing. And 21.3 per cent of the women victims were always preoccupied with some concern while doing any work. 14.7 per cent were found it difficult to comprehend and response fast. Only in 28 per cent of cases women victims responded that they able to concentrated at a given work at a given time properly (Table 15).

Effect on Cognition	Frequency	Percentage
Difficulty in Concentration	27	36
Able to Concentrate with any Difficulty	21	28
Preoccupied With Some Concern While Doing Any Work	16	21.3
Find It Difficult To Comprehend And Response Fast	11	14.7
Total	75	100

Table 15: Distribution of Victims According To Effect on Their Cognition

Table 16 indicated that 65.3 per cent of the women victims mind was generated with hatredness for the opposite sex. Women victims felt insecure while talking to them. As it was discussed earlier also that it is very often that women face eve teasing which lose their trust on men. 34.7 per cent women victims said no hatredness ever came to their mind for opposite sex.

Feeling of hatredness for Opposite Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	49	65.3
No	26	34.7
Total	75	100

Table 16: Distribution of Victims According To the Feeling of hatredness for Opposite Sex

4.2. Physical Effects

Apart from social and psychological effects of eve-teasing on women victim physical effects were also tried to be explored in the present study. Physical effects were discussed in Table 16. In this regard it has been found that in majority of cases i.e. 54.7 per cent women victims reported 'no effect' was ever noticed on their physical body. But other women victims reported number of physical body effects. These were backache, headache, irregular periods, injury during harassment and injury during self defence, in percentage of 4, 29.3, and 2.7 respectively. One of cases found where woman became victim and injured during assault by abuser and another one case was came to light where woman became victim during her self defence. 6.7 per cent of the cases reported that they felt shivering and sweating in their body due to fear (Table 17).

Physical Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Backache	3	4
Headache	22	29.3
Irregular Periods	2	2.7
Injury During Harassment	1	1.3
Injury During Self Defence	1	1.3
No Effects	41	54.7
Other body Effects	5	6.7
Total	75	100

Table 17: Distribution of Victims According To Effects on Physical Body

Last question which was very important to probe out was regarding women victims' awareness of woman helpline number. It was surprised to get their responses that majority of victims i.e. 72 per cent of women were not aware about the woman helpline number. A few of these respondents responded that they had noticed woman helpline number in buses, roads, etc. but never noted it down or remembered. Only 28 per cent of women victim were aware about the woman helpline number. It was observed that in few of the cases respondents saved this number in their mobile contact list.

Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	21	28
No	54	72
Total	75	100

Table 18: Distribution of Victims According to their Awareness of Woman Helpline Number

5. Conclusion

Thus, from the above discussion it was concluded that every women becomes victim of eve teasing irrespective of her age, education, occupation, race, caste, etc. majority of the women victims were between the age group of 12-25. Most of the women were educated and working in different fields of their interest. It was found that place doesn't matter for an abuser to tease women. They do eve-teasing wherever they get chance for this shameful act. Passing indecent remarks was found very common method for eve-teasing. Most of the women victims kept quiet on teased by abusers due to social stigma or for the sake of *Izzat* (honour). A very few of the women victims dare to took action against abusers by slapping them or by reporting to the police. Very few of the women victims used to report to their parents/guardians. These indents filled some of the women victims with fear and forbid them to go to their school/workplace.

Apart from this, eve-teasing also leave its effect on women victims' psychology by making their mood irritable and filled their mind with fearful thought and fear of strangers. Many of the women victims felt sadness after eve-teasing which also disturb their sleep. In a few cases women victims were surfacing nightmares at night and found difficulty in concentration while working. In physical effects major complaints of women due to eve-teasing were probed and it was came to fore these women victims were facing problems like backache, headache, irregular periods, injury during harassment and injury during self defence, etc. lastly, it was surprised to know that significant number of women victims were oblivious of women helpline number.

6. References

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