

Socio-psychological impacts of Eve teasing on College - going girls: A Sociological study in Cuttack City of Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Currently, we are aware that our lives are accompanied by a variety of issues. In a similar vein, research problems deal with the related research questions. The purpose of research questions is to direct the researcher through every phase of the process. The current study, titled "**Socio psychological effects of eve teasing on college going girls: A sociological study in Cuttack city of Odisha,**" addresses issues such as what are the different types or forms of eve-teasing, what makes it tick, what are its repercussions, etc. The current study is descriptive research in nature and contains the views of college-going girls as well as information about the effects of eve-teasing on them. The present study has 50 college going girls from Ravenshaw University, Cuttack city of Odisha using purposive and snowball sampling.

KEY WORDS: Eve teasing, College going girls, social problem, educational institutions

1. INTRODUCTION

Women are perceived as belonging to the weaker segments of society. Men therefore rule over women, and occasionally they take advantage of them for personal gain. Women experience a wide range of forms of harassment. Sexual harassment is one of the most prevalent forms of harassment worldwide. In India, harassment of women in public spaces by both known and unknown individuals is referred to as "eve teasing." Eve teasing literally refers to women that irritate or bother you. It is defined as the act of making fun of, provoking, provoking, annoyance, and embarrassing women by statements, gestures, jokes, physical contact, taunting, and playfully or maliciously, physically or psychologically. It is a distinct and romantic way to refer to South Asia, particularly India. Neither Britain nor any other European nation uses it. Many psychologists think that men engage in this behavior for reasons other than sex, love, or enjoyment. Eve-teasing has a lot to do with Indian men's patriarchal worldview. Males are socialized to think that they possess greater physical and emotional strength than females. They believe that they are just having fun and are not doing anything wrong. It is regarded as a developing societal issue as well. This is a result of a number of societal shifts, including urbanization, the influence of western culture, modernization, and modifications brought about by democracy and shifts in the status of women's roles. Eve teasing is perceived as a behavioral issue by individuals and as a social deviation by society at large.

a) Definition of Eve teasing:

The term "eve teasing" is a colloquial term for harassing women sexually. The phrase itself makes fun of the seriousness of the crime and the victim's psychological fallout. To suggest that no girl in India has escaped eve teasing would not be an exaggeration. Every girl's existence is inevitably filled with episodes of Eve teasing, which causes them great unnecessary mental suffering. Lewd looks, stealthy whistles, unwelcome bumps, seemingly careless touches, prolonged glances at inappropriate times, suggestive music humming, crude remarks made, cheap gestures, the showing of an immoral photo or video, bikes flying close and hands reaching out to grope, driving by in slowly moving cars that are playing loud music while numerous eyes are evaluating you from within. These are all classic instances of Eve teasing. The girl is staring at this truth in her face long before she even enters adolescence. Eve teasing is a frequent occurrence in every possible setting, including restaurants, bars, auto/bus terminals, shopping centers, movie theaters, railway booking offices, and buses. However, the one location where it occurs an alarming amount of the time is while driving. It's not a joyful act; rather, it's an act of violence that should be punished as such.

b) The history and evolution of eve teasing:

In South Asia, eve teasing is a major issue. In Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, this word is most commonly used to refer to sexual abuse, harassment, or assault of women by men. In essence, eve teasing is an Indian English expression. In 1960, this phrase first surfaced in media and public discourse. Since the 1960s, a significant number of women have been attending school in order to pursue employment outside the home. Eve-teasing is becoming commonplace in Indian society. We must look back in time to identify the problem and assess how serious it is. The history and culture of the place are the root of the issue. Before attempting to destroy this evil, one must comprehend what is underneath. There are two dimensions to the issue. It is the sexualization of women on the one hand and their subjection as a second gender on the other.

Due to the division of labor based on physical power, women were pushed into a secondary position. In terms of physical strength, men outweigh women. Because of her reproductive system, women were not able to perform as much hard labor as men. He could, however, cultivate the ground, herd sheep, and gather food. Over time, she was limited to taking care of household tasks, staying at home with her children, and bearing children. Man eventually began to treat her like a commodity or piece of property that belonged to him. Her situation continued to worsen because she was not self-sufficient and needed a male head to survive. She was not permitted to carry out any limited actions or take part in decision-making processes. Her status as a commodity and a reproductive machine was widely regarded as the law of the nation. Commodification led directly to the sexualization of women.

Although man did govern her, he could not survive without woman. In order to raise and have children, take care of the household, care for the elderly, and feel like a master, a man needed women around him more than he needed them for sexual fulfillment. Early on, man realized the value of women to himself, society, and the state; hence, every man desired to be the head of the household and to have a woman living with him. Sometimes as a means of dominance, but mostly in the name of purity, he wished to control her and her sexuality.

c) Forms of eve teasing :

The term "eve teasing" generally refers to: lewd looks, satire, mocking, offensive remarks, obscene gestures, playing with one's ears, provocative clapping, pushing, touching a woman's body without her consent, seductive singing, taking a continuous or moving picture for the purpose of blackmailing or character assassination, and so forth.

d) Causes of Eve teasing:

Eve teasing has its roots in both society and familial attitudes and traditions. This is influenced by the culture's hatred and violence against women as well as the absence of a responsible, sympathetic, interactive, and healthy relationship between men and women. Additionally, the primary cause of the development of such a pessimistic mindset in them is the inadequate education received by the youngsters from their relatives. The following is a very simple list of the general causes of eve teasing:

i) Women's strong attraction to males and their perception of them as commodities to be consumed; ii) Social norms have become outdated due to improper family and moral education; iii) Technology misuse; iv) Desperation and unemployment; v) The detrimental effects of electronic and film media, the absence of a healthy culture, vi) Drug use in society, vii) The improper application of pertinent laws, viii) The inadequate training of law enforcement officers, ix) Men's negative attitudes toward women in society, x) The discriminatory relationships between men and women in domestic, social, economic, and political spheres, etc.

e) *Laws on Eve teasing:*

- Section 294 imposes a three-month sentence, a fine, or both for any indecent behavior, song, or speech in a public place.
- Section 509 penalizes anyone who violates a woman's privacy or intentionally offends her modesty by speaking, gesturing, making noises, or displaying objects. The punishment can be a year in jail, a fine, or both.
- According to Section 354 of the law, a person who coerces or abuses a woman in an attempt to violate her modesty faces up to two years in prison, a fine, or both.

f) *Social Issues Caused by Eve's Joking*

Eve teasing has authoritarian implications that uphold women's unequal status in society. It always gets in the way of women's movements and activities. Furthermore, it degrades the women's morale by portraying them as dull and socially awkward. It stops them from developing their capacity early on. Men's life are filled with exciting sentiments and opportunities to exhibit their greedy attitude when they engage in the unpleasant habit of teasing. However, it continuously puts women and children in unbearable conditions that make it impossible for them to breathe in the fresh air of a normal life. Eve teasing and sexual harassment have common consequences such as kidnapping, rape, trafficking, acid attacks, dropping out of school, early or forced marriage, suicide, moving a family outside of the area, growing social and economic dependence, spreading social insecurity, eroding freedom of movement, injuring brothers and parents, causing psychological issues, etc, and ultimately destroying society as a whole.

2. Review of literature

In her paper "**Causes and Consequences of Eve Teasing in Urban Bangladesh: An Empirical Study,**" Islam (2012) reported that, in Bangladesh, working women, housewives, and even older women are targets of eve teasing, with female garment workers and school-age girls topping the victimization list. After conducting a study to investigate the causes and effects of eve teasing in urban Bangladesh, she discovered that the issue is a result of various cultural and social factors, including the patriarchal social system, men's stereotypes of women, traditional family values, unemployment, illiteracy, globalization of culture and economy, lack of awareness among women and girls, difficulties in enforcing laws, etc. The main finding was that curtailing girls' education was one of the main consequences.¹

In this regard, Varun and Kanika (2013) conducted another investigation. In his study, the researcher was quite clear that teasing is a type of socially unacceptable behavior that happens to women on a daily basis. They might experience that kind of violence at any age, any time, or any place. It falls under the category of crimes when society despises the victim more than the offender. When this happens, society tends to blame women. This social anxiety is the reason why offenders frequently get away with their crimes and victims themselves conceal incidents. Some additional significant components of crimes, such as teasing, have also been covered by you. 'Patriarchal system of society', gender structures, and women's economic dependence on men are significant among these elements. According to your conclusion, this issue can be reduced by appropriate socialization, the expansion of education for girls, women's economic empowerment, etc.²

3. Methodology

a) *Objectives:*

The main goal of this research is to classify eve teasing as a social issue. Based on this goal, the following specific objectives have been used to perform the study. For example, to gather economic and psycho-social data from the respondents, to learn about their personal and demographic details, to understand the nature and causes of eve teasing, to assess the effect of eve teasing on college-bound girls in Cuttack, Odisha, to understand how to address it, and so forth.

b) *Research Methodology:*

Purposive sampling is the basis of this investigation. The designated study place in this case is Ravenshaw University in Cuttack City. All female students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs have been classified as the population, with each girl serving as the study's sample. Twenty female students from the arts, science, and commerce streams, chosen by snowball sampling from both UG and PG programs, provided the detailed data. In this context, a structured questionnaire and direct interviewing technique have been used. An further strategy that has been used is observation. After the data were gathered, they were edited and then described in order.

¹ Islam. (2015). Eve Teasing as a Social Problem: A Study on the School Girls in Dhaka City, Bangladesh . *Public Policy and Administration Research*, Vol.5, No.9,(ISSN 2224-5731(Paper) ISSN 2225-0972(Online)).

² Kapoor, Varun. Dhingra, Kanika.)1127(Sexual Harassment Against Women InIndia. International Journal of Sustainable

c) Cases of Eve teasing:

Case study No-1

Arpita Pritam is a 22-year-old Ravenshaw University fifth-year student. Last year, she filed a complaint against the Eve teaser. The local police station provided the data that the researcher found. According to the police officer, she reported that while arriving at college, a boy on a bike approached her and made physical contact before leaving. She simply recalls her bike number and plans to file a complaint at the police station. After reviewing the report, the policeman began to investigate and discovered that the owner of the bike was paralyzed for a few months and that the bike's number was invalid. According to the police officer, it is possible that he took the bike and committed this deed. The matter is still pending.

Case Study No-2

Akankhya Mohaptara, a 19-year-old second-year arts student at Ravenshaw University, shared her story with the researcher. She claimed that certain students from her university had harassed her when she first arrived, in the canteen, outside of class, and in various other places. She dealt with it at least ten times. The majority of the time, she responded to these Eve teases as well, and they warned her about some risky difficulties, which gives her anxiety. She arrived with her parents, went home with them, and is still having issues at the university. She also complained about it to the principle, who advised the eve teasers not to engage in this kind of and she advises against it, cautioning the Eve teasers not to engage in this kind of job either.

Case study No-3

Sabina Begum, a 19-year-old third-year student at Ravenshaw University, admitted that she has experienced teasing most of her time there. Some outsiders stopped their route to school and followed her when she was in class 9. She notified their parents about it, and they advised her to change the way she acts, but the teasers still follow her around nonstop. When it kept happening, she told their parents about it once more, and as a result, they forbade them from going to school, which caused her to stop going to school for two years.

Case study No-4

Priti Singh, a 17-year-old +2 second-year commerce student at Ravenshaw University, said that she was teased by several senior students when she initially arrived at the university, but she chose to ignore it. After a few days, they started torment her once more in various ways, such as making comments or singing songs. She complained to their professor about it, and the professor instructed them to stop, which in turn caused the teasers to behave less aggressively.

Recommendations

It is therefore imperative that the socioeconomic circumstances of women who make up half of society be developed in order to free them from undesirable social disorders like eve teasing. Not only is it a problem affecting women, but it is abhorrent for all people. Because it would be a major setback for humanity in this age of globalization if our women's community is subjected to harassment and repression in the manner of the medieval barbarians. In the near future, a significant calamity that affects the entire community will occur if we are unable to quickly control these unwanted circumstances. It is crucial to create new laws quickly, carefully, and rigorously as well as to make sure that all previously created laws are implemented all the way to the end of the problem.

Additionally, to outlaw the placement of aimless and abandoned children in front of schools and colleges; to halt the dissemination of vulgar drama, pictures, and scenes through mobile phones, newspapers, televisions, and movies; to launch a large-scale social movement and prevention against eve teasing in order to raise public awareness of its detrimental effects; to instill religious and moral values in children from an early age domestically; to boycott eve teasers in public; to increase police presence at educational institutions and populated areas; to guarantee the exemplary punishment of eve teasers; and to rehabilitate the unemployed, lazy, vagrant, familyless, juvenile delinquents, and mischievous teenagers, organizing them according to general and vocational education Initiatives can be extremely important in both treating and preventing eve teasing.

Conclusion

Eve-teasing is disrespectful to a woman's honor, decency, and self-respect. She is deeply upset by it. It ought to be handled like a separate offense. To keep it under control, we need stringent laws and policies. Fighting this rapidly spreading issue is imperative. Even though eve-teasing may not seem like a serious crime at first, if it is not halted in time, it can become one. This kind of behavior toward women is unjust, unfair, and Hippocratic in a nation like India where women are revered equally with the gods. Women should be treated with respect. Only then would we be on the path of success, happiness, and prosperity: "Yatra Naryantu Pujyante Tatra Ramyate Devtaa."

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