

---

## **THE DEHUMANIZATION OF WOMEN**

---

Akanksha, Amity University, Jharkhand

### **ABSTRACT**

The very major concern for women in cities around the world, are fear of victimization and crime and all these fear is being provoked further because the men in public space are potentially uncontrollable, unpredictable and thus threatening. The subordinate role of the women in the country and even the workplace on the gender based crime often known as “Eve Teasing” in the public transportation and spaces systems is being much more focused by the South Asian literature. Through the study we got to know that 66% of the surveyed respondents did suffered harassment while commuting. Most of the sexual harassment had been first encountered in their adolescent years. More than 40% which is about the largest number of the women had suffered their worst harassment experiences in buses and trains having no separate sections for the women. Some of the reasons for eve teasing are the patriarchal mindset among the youth boys media’s role, improper socialisation, lack of consciousness in regard to the legal provisions. The questionnaire which actually offers a means which is to access the occurrence of eve teasing which is culturally relevant and of age appropriate for the female youth in India.

Keywords :- Eve Teasing, Women, Public Areas, Sexual Harassment, Legal Provisions

Women are like those flowers who got plucked because of its fragrance and beauty however all she wanted is to be adored. Harassment which is being done in the public places either by the known or the unknown which gradually affects the women is termed as eve – teasing whose literal meaning is to cause annoyance or to irritate a women. In the country like of India, where the women are being worshipped in parallel to the Gods, this kind of behaviour is not just and fair and thus not be acceptable by anyone. Fear of crime and victimization are essential concerns for the females all across the world and the fear is basically generated by the men in public space because the behaviour can't be just predicted and is potentially uncontrollable and thus threatening.

The application is much more limited to the developing countries which basically lack the research capacity which is much more required. The issue is not just only related to crime science but even plagues the field which is related to public health, in which rapid assessment methodologies responded which is for the use of rapid environmental appraisal. This phrase basically emerged in late 1950s. The very first report was published there in 'The Times of India' in 1958, the report consisted that in a report which was about the non-official bill which was put forth before the parliament which proposed rigorous punishment for the ones molesting women. During this period, in subsequent news report this word marked same as a neologism. The word was seen officially in 1984 in the vocabulary of state, when the special legislation under the Delhi Prohibition of Eve Teasing Bill was passed. Except in the international press or in the feminist usage, where this particular word is marked as scare quotes, it is also in continuation of the part of deeply normalised everyday use with reference to South Asia. The eve teasing is mostly stuck and has always tended to be aimed to figure out the female college students of urban areas and even the females who works in office in the cities. The report of the late 1950s and the early 1960s stated that eve teasing was basically about the harassment of the females visiting college and going office by the roadside romeos. Growth of middle class women in higher education and consequently in the public space is seen in the post independence decade.

The primary concern of the eve teasing is the impact on the victims, to understand the perpetrator's intension and even the cultural factors is very important because the influence of such kind of behaviour which basically inform the prevention strategies. Taking consideration of an event such as in the Hindi film industry it is blamed to promote some offscene acts which is much more prevalent in the youths and thus even it portrays eve teasing as an effective

romantic pursuit. By the strict patriarchal society the ubiquitous nature of eve teasing is influenced. It is suggested by the World Health Organization that the patriarchal societal norms which are strict favours the family's reputation over the well being of the females and thus are a community level risk for the sexual harassment of the females. The ongoing media reports of the cases like of suicide, forced marriages and also the inter family violence is evidenced to strengthen these norms. In the regions like of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Northern India the strict patriarchy is more prominent. Eve Teasing and also the resulting common problems such as of social isolation of the adolescent girls is seen in the unpublished research work which was done previously from the young author residing in rural Punjab.

The vivid reasons why perpetrators participate in eve teasing inclusion of the attraction and the power at the very individual level is explained by the four factor theory of the sexual harassment. The individual doing these kind of acts must be motivated to harass and the very common motive to harass another individual is control, power and even the sexual attraction. Men who harassed women in public areas by having negative attitude, the intension was to establish their supremacy as said by the Dhillon's study in 2014. The another study which was done in Bangladesh Nahar et al.'s in 2013 described power and control as the reasons why these men tease and the following study also provided some illustrations of the harassment which is based on sexual attraction, crude sexualised comments and sometimes as the romantic expressions of the feelings. This is a very well known fact that premarital romance and sex are not respected in many of the continent and thus it supresses the healthy bond between the males and the females and that's the reason why the men tease when they are attracted.

There are many provisions under which one can get the remedy for all their problems. The section 294 of IPC<sup>1</sup>, section 354 of IPC<sup>2</sup> and section 509 of IPC<sup>3</sup> mentions the definition, provisions and the punishment for the on lookers. Many of the cases are reported whereas many goes unreported, some of the landmark judgements which follows the same are of Rupan Deol Bajaj v. KPL Gill<sup>4</sup> where the Supreme Court established that if the modesty of the women is outraged then the offender will be getting punishment as all the above activities is disturbing the culture and the environment of the society. In the another case of State of Kerala v. Hamsa the accused winked his eyes on a women which got noticed by many other individual and thus,

---

<sup>1</sup> Indian Penal Code, §294, Acts of Parliament, 1860 INR

<sup>2</sup> Indian Penal Code, §354, Acts of Parliament, 1860 INR

<sup>3</sup> Indian Penal Code, §509, Acts of Parliament, 1860 INR

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Rupan Deol Bajaj v. Kanwar Pal Singh Gill, 1996, AIR 309, 1995 SCC (6) 194

this as a result outraged the modesty of the women and thus the court announced punishment for the accused to establish an eco friendly environment.

The Poyner's method (1986) for the analysis of the crime serves as to break to bigger problems into the constituent parts. The questions which basically described the nature of eve teasing were – what, when, where, why, who and how. Eve Teasing thus is making derogatory statements regarding the women, sexual staring, using vulgar language, making fun of the women who are dark in colour, rating the girls loudly regarding their looks, indecent proposals, following them to their home and blowing kisses and many more. The occurrence of the eve teasing is seen in many places like of in the bus stands, parks or the streets, internet cafes, railway stations, coffee shops and the restaurants. The offenders have not left the places such as temples, movie theatres, beaches, college campuses or even near the schools, shopping malls, market places and even on some sort of celebrations and the festivals. When any girl or women walk alone or even with her friend these kind of acts occur in a more often manner. The vivid reasons which are basically outlined for the occurrence of eve teasing is age, gender discrimination, status of women, human sexuality, socialisation of boys and girls, the influence of the media and the cultural values and clashes. Boredom, more women seeking education and the employment creates many opportunities for the victimisation, facilitated by technology such as e mail, cameras, cell phones and also the increased use of the alcohol even in public places are some of the situational causes.

To deal with the harassment and the violence in the home, many countries have recently taken action and also some sort of attention is being paid to the sexual harassment in public places, specially on that time when females are travelling from one place to the other. For the effective preventive measures some sort of information regarding this form of victimisation is required. Many of the females are spending approx 70% of their time outside their home and therefore, their increased contact with men in the absence of their guardians is thus expected to increase more crime opportunities in the public places. If anyone tolerating these kind of incidents could basically increase and encourage the motives of the offenders.

Most of the eve teasing areas which are more prevalent took place on the buses on the bus stop. On public transport and crime this study makes a valuable contribution. In the developing countries like of India, the public transport is less developed and mostly they run in a private manner. Therefore, it included overall range of crimes including the property and personal crimes on the bus system. Thus, the harassment in the buses take place when the area is much

more crowded. However, the further elaborative explanation can only be given by the cultural anthropologist but most of the part of it included the major emancipation of the females who basically travels in public for their required purposes. This in turn leads to the interaction of men with the women and since they don't know them thereby it leads to the temptation to harass them. From the act of eve teasing one many enter into depression too and can get shifted towards suicidal behaviour. The incident which happens can have a deleterious effect on the mental health as well as on physical health. It is the possibility that eve teasing can have long lasting effect on the psychological health of the females. Thereby, to tackle all these consequences which arise out of the problem needs to be tackled in the best possible way and it also requires much more research. Therefore, the prevention effect must look after the seriousness, enforcement and ubiquity of the eve teasing and also the better education must be transferred to the youth and all the cultural norms should be inculcated in their veins so that before doing any such kind of acts they should think twice.