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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**“EVE TEASING AND ITS PSYCHOSOCIAL INFLUENCE AMONG THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS”**

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**ABSTRACT**

Gender discrimination is enormous problem not only within Indian society but worldwide. In Indian society patriarchal norms have discriminated women and imposed secondary status. It affects women's social, cultural and political involvement. This process of discrimination begins at adolescent age. Eve-teasing is emerging as a widespread burning issue throughout the country at present. The term Eve-teasing refers to the harassment of women by men. Although the term “eve teasing” originates from Indian society, in recent times, this vice has spread over all the sub-continental countries. In the eve of globalization and Information and technology gender discrimination and women issues has turned in to new dimension. The present paper wants to highlight on eve teasing as beginning of her own underestimation and pursuing herself as an inferior individual.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Women are not only standing but also competing with men at various positions even the crime against the women in society is increasing in many forms. Violence against women is experienced by women of all ages and social classes, all races, religions and nationalities, all over the world. It is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men<sup>1</sup>. Eve teasing is one of the huge issues of metropolitan cities of India. A large number of Indians have faced or facing the eve teasing at public places, shopping malls and public transport system. Women face the threats of eve teasing at everywhere. The issue of eve teasing is increasing day by day not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas.

Eve-teasing is a widespread social evil and a complex problem. We are used to see the girls subjected to teasing from television screen to nearby street. It starts at the face of a girl much before she reaches adolescence. Eve teasing is not depends on the how the woman looks or what she has wears or where she goes even aged woman are facing such kind of teasing. Everyday every woman faces the some kind of the eve-teasing. School and college going girls and female garment worker are at top of the list of victims of eve-teasing. Adolescent girls are the main victims eve teasing. Whistling, catcalling, touching or groping, flashing, blowing kisses, stalking, sexual gesturing or unsolicited photography are all instances of eve-teasing suffered by all sorts of women. Usually the young men, especially when associated with friends are mainly responsible for eve-teasing.

Eve teasing has received attention by public and media in 1970. In the 1970 decades more and more women's started going to college and working independently meaning that they were often no longer accompanied by a male escort as had been the norm in traditional society<sup>2</sup>.

**Causes of Eve teasing**

**Wrong Mind-set**

Mind set of people is changing day by day to look at girls and women in negative sense. Because of this negative mind-set eve teasing is increasing in daily life. Number of males thinks that women are only to fulfil the physical needs.

**Male dominant society**

In India, We have male dominant society where male are considered always powerful and strong while women are weak and powerless. This male dominating society pushes women to be quite on any issue related to the male. This is the reason even after facing the eve teasing women and girls are not reporting.

**Fun**

Now a days eve teasing becomes a part of fun especially in college going boys. Due to physical attraction sometimes male can't control himself and he indulges with eve teasing.

**Modernization**

It is one of the main reasons, due to modernization the pattern of girls clothe changed a lot which attracts the boys. These attractions due to modernization become a reason for eve teasing.

**Bad impact of electronic and social media**

Now a day electronic and social media is playing a vital role in fixing behavioural pattern. Negative attitude towards women and girls has been exposed through the movies and various television programmes which revealed in increase in eve teasing. Easy availability of internet and social media on mobile phone increased access of vulgar and even porn films which increase the greed towards sex which starts with eve teasing.

### **Lack of security for women**

It is our prime duty to provide adequate security to women and girls. But we are unable to provide adequate security to women and girls. The lack of security during travelling at night, at work place increases the eve teasing.

### **Absence of Punishment**

Due to absence of strong punishment, law and the implementing the law in practically failed to create fear about the eve teasing. Absence of Law is a great factor of encouraging eve teasing.

### **Degradation of Social, Cultural, Moral Values**

Loss of social, cultural and moral values resulted into the instances like eve teasing. Earlier there was boundaries of religion were very strong those became a weak and turned into uncontrolled behaviour of people in society. When a man is careless about his religion naturally he falls under some bad dealings like eve teasing.

### **Family Control**

It's a duty of parent to impart the moral education among the children. Here now a day parents are careless about the same which encourage boys for eve teasing.

### **The Crimes under the Indian Penal Code (Ipc)**

Seven Crimes included under this head are as follows:

- Rape (Section 376 IPC)
- Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363-373 IPC)
- Dowry Death (Sec.302, 304B IPC) and Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Torture (Cruelty by Husband & Relatives) (Sec.498-A IPC)
- Molestation (Sec.354 IPC)
- Sexual Harassment (Sec.509 IPC)
- Importation of Girls (Sec.366-B IPC)<sup>3</sup>

### **Impacts**

#### **Early Marriage**

Eve teasing forces the parents to do early marriage of girls. They have fear for their social status. Instead of opposing to eve teasing they want to run away from the problem. So they choose option of early marriage of girls. As we know that early marriage is invitation of all physical, mental and health problems. Neither can she take care of herself, nor to her children and family. Due to early pregnancy mothers and child mortality rate is high level.

#### **Drop out**

One of the reason behind the drop out of girls from school is eve teasing. This happens mostly in rural area. However, different studies suggest that drop-out rate among girl increases with the increase of age. It's very natural that parents worried about the safety of the girls when they feels that their girl's safety is under threat by eve-teaser, they make alternative thinking and prefer to stop education of their girls and confine them inside the home.

#### **Suicide**

There are some cases of suicide due to eve teasing. When girl face the eve teasing and they disclose the matter with family

member then parents blames to victims instead of teaser. Parents may have threats about the troubles regarding to the marriage proposal of the girls. In such situation girls may attempt the suicide.

### **Psychological impact**

Eve teasing results into increase in disorder like anxiety, schizophrenia, and depression. Many Sometimes they do not get support from family due to mistrust. All these causes and frustration leads many girls towards committing suicide. Eve teasing causes different unpleasant situations to women at individual and social level.

### **Review of Literature**

Chesfeeda Akhtar (2013) provides analysis of the magnitude of eve teasing & it's relation to socio-economic & psychological factors. It also assesses women's response to the eve teasing. According to study eve teasing affects badly on women's development. Any act of gender based violence that resulted in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts coercion or arbitrage deprivation of liberty life whether occurring in public or private life.

(Shally, 2005) stated that eve teasing is one of the form of violence against the women and girls. Eve teasing remains the first or introductory incident of violence against women. It is because of male dominated society and women protests very silently against such heinous crime. The origin of eve-teasing, the depth of eve-teasing as a problem, the problems caused in the households and individuals and the role can be played are discussed.

### **Objectives**

Present paper aims to study following aspects eve teasing

- To understand nature, type and experience of eve teasing by adolescent girls.
- To know the psychosocial impact of eve teasing on adolescent girls.
- To suggest the possible remedies to overcome from the problem of eve teasing.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Present paper is based on the empirical data. The data has been collected from the Samdoli village in Sangli district, Maharashtra, India. Present study has been conducted by using the primary and secondary source of data. Primary data is a base of this study and has been collected by using the interview schedule. Present study conducted on 30 samples from Samdoli village in Sangli district, Maharashtra, India. To satisfy the objectives of the study, qualitative methodologies and quantitative techniques has employed. The study is exploratory in nature. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select samples.

### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Table No.1 speaks about the nature types and experiences of the eve teasing among the adolescent girls. Majority of the respondents told that attitude of the society towards girls has been changed in negative sense, When it was asked to the adolescent girl that attitude of society towards girls is changed? The attitude of society to look at women and girls

has changed and they are looking as an objective towards them. All the adolescent girls responded that they have faced the eve teasing during their daily life.

**Table No 1** Nature, Type and Experience of Eve Teasing

Sr. No.	Variable	Major Findings
1.	Change of attitude of the society	60% of adolescent girls feels that attitude of the society has been changed towards Girls in negative sense.
2.	Experience About Eve teasing	All the respondents faced eve teasing in their daily life.
3.	Opinion about Reason of eve teasing	50% girls told that dressing pattern is a reason for eve teasing, while 40% girls told that physical appearance is the reason Behind eve teasing.
4.	Places of eve teasing	50% on street 40% Bus Stands 10 Classrooms
5.	Type of Eve teasing	46.7% whistle blowing 23.3% using abusive words 10% Calling by different names
6.	Causes of eve teasing	60 % Time pass 40% Frustration and Cultural Dominance
7.	Factors affecting on eve teasing	56.7- because of no punishment 33.3 dressing Pattern 10% Mind set of boys

According to the majority respondents, reasons behind the eve teasing are dressing pattern and physical appearance. It is clear from the responses from the adolescent girls that people in the society look them as an objective. They are facing the eve teasing mostly on street, bus stand and some time in college. The girls from the rural area have to spend more time at bus stands, streets and college. It is clear from the table that public places where girls have to spent more time while going to school and college are not secured. These girls are teased by using whistle, abusive words and sometime calling them by the various names. Most of the respondents said that the reasons behind eve teasing are just time pass, frustration and cultural dominance. The cultural dominance of male in the society motivates them for the teasing. It is happening because there is a no fear of punishment to the eve teaser. Respondents also feel that dressing pattern of girls is also a reason behind the eve teasing. Behind culture of modernism and western girls are exposing themselves that attract the eve teaser towards them.

It is clear from the above table that eve teasing is not the problem with the girls from the urban area. Adolescent girls from the rural area are also victims of eve teasing. They have faced eve teasing in various forms which might be the reason to demotivate them and underestimate them.

**Table No 2** Psychosocial Influences among the Adolscent Girls

Sr. No.	Variable	Major Findings
1	Feeling of Insecure in College	63.3% – Can't feel 26.7% - Feels insecure
2	Psychological Effect of eve teasing	53.3%- Drop out 26.7%- Fear 20 % - Depression
3	Unwanted Touch	63.7% Some time
4	Suicide due to eve teasing	63.7% had thought of suicide

Table no. 2 explores psychological influence of eve teasing among the adolescent girls. Majority of the respondents can't feel insecure in college but they are feeling insecure once they are out of college and at public places. Presence of all students and teacher may help them for not feeling insecure. One fourth of the girls responded that that they feel insecure

in college also. It is clear from these data that girls at public places and even in college do not feel secured from the eve teaser. More than half of the girls responded that they feel to leave the education in between because of eve teaser. One fourth of the girls feel feared by eve teasing and around same proportion of girls face the problem like depression. It clearly shows that eve teaser is the very saviour problem and that affects very badly on girls. More than half girls reported that they had unfavourably touched by the eve teaser. It is also very risky that eve teaser has taking advantage of non-punishment to them. The reason behind this may be the girls even after they are touched by the eve teaser are not reporting. More than half of the respondent said that once they have thought of suicide in their mind. It shows the intensity of the eve teasing.

It is appear form the table that greater proportion of adolescent girls are facing the eve teasing and affecting adversely on their psychology.

**Table No 3** Remedies to Overcome

1	Awareness about Eve teasing as Crime	90% girls know that eve teasing is a crime
2	Sharing of eve teasing to family members	60% girls are sharing with family Member- Mother and Father 27% with friend only 13 % with brother and Teacher
3	Opinion about Need of self-defence training	54% feels need of self-defence training 46% did not feels need of self-defence training
4	Need of Moral Education for boys	86.6 % stated need of moral e ducation for boys
5	Suggestion of Stop to eve teasing	73.3% Need to create awareness in society 16.7 % Feels girls should stay at home 10% Girls should be alert

Table no 3 talks about the remedies to overcome from the problem of eve teasing. Around all the respondents are aware that eve teasing is a crime. Even by knowing these reality girls are not reporting the eve teasing. More than half of the respondents are sharing the eve teasing happened with them with family member i.e. Mother and Father. Some of the respondents are sharing with the friends only. But no one has reported to the police. Even after sharing with the family member, family member not taken any action and not reported to the police. Instead of reporting to the police they suggesting to the girls to change their rout of college and suggest them to ignore. More than half of the girls feel that there is need self-defence training. They feel that there is need to be strong to face this kind of eve teasing. Good number of respondents don't feels that there is no need of the self-defence training to face eve teasing. Majority of the girls are agree on need of moral education for boys at family level. The girls are well aware about that moral education for boys is necessary to solve the problem of eve teasing. Three fourth of the girls reported that there is need to create the awareness in the society to change the attitude of the society towards the girls. One fifth girls told that they should stay at home to avoid eve teasing. It is clear from the table that there is a need of strong action towards the eve teasing. There is a strong need to teach morality to the boys at family level which may one of the best solution.

**Findings**

- Most of the adolescent girls feels that attitude of the society has been changed towards girls in negative sense.

- All the respondents faced the eve teasing in their regular routine.
- Most of the adolescent girls feels that dressing pattern is a reason behind the eve teasing
- Majority of the girls faced eve teasing on street and at bus stands.
- According to the majority of the respondents whistle blowing is a way of eve teasing.
- The study explored that eve teasing happens as a time pass.
- Findings revealed that eve teasing happens because of no strong punishment against the eve teaser.
- Most of the adolescent girls can't feel insecure in college but feels outside of the college.
- Majority of the respondents stated that they have thought of drop out from the college.
- Most of the respondents told that they have touched unwantedly and same proportion of respondents reported that they have thought of suicide once in a mind.
- Around all the girls are aware about the eve teasing as a crime.
- Majority of the girls sharing the incidents of eve teasing with family Member- Mother and Father.
- Majority of them feels that there is a need of self-defence training.
- Highest proportion of the respondents agreed that there should be the moral education for boys.
- Maximum proportion of the respondents suggested that there is need to aware the society to stop the eve teasing.

#### **Suggestions**

- Need to increase the role of family to give the moral education to boys in the family.
- The mind-set of the society has to change. In their homes too, the male and the female child should be treated equally.
- There is a need of implications of laws that can directly make an effect on this.

- There should be Social Worker in every college to counsel girls as well as boys.
- Moral education at school and college level should get adopted.
- Local police and school security should play a strong role.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Eve teasing is a one of the serious problem. It shows the cultural dominance of males in the society. Girls facing the problem of eve teasing with high intensity even our efforts are very less to avoid eve teasing. Though it is true that strong laws and punishment are an effective deterrent but that is not enough. Intention is not to punish the eve teaser but to prevent such crime so that girls can enjoy the social environment which is free from the fear. Now it is our duty as a responsible person of the society to start the talking on this topic. If we could not start talking we cannot act to change the present situation. We must stand up and speak and act against this menace. We need to report all these cases and system has to take strong action against the eve teaser. A dream of fearless society for girls and women is possible if we stop to be mute witnesses to such crimes.

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