

Eve-Teasing and its Psychological Influence Among Health Care Students

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Abstract: Gender discrimination is an enormous problem not only within Indian society but Worldwide. 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. This study helps us to know the attitude of students on eve-teasing, its psychological influence among students and also helps us to intervene the new strategies to control eve-teasing. A cross sectional study was performed on students in Khammam, Telangana. Self-structured questionnaire was prepared and data collection was done.

Keywords: Eve-Teasing, Psychological Influence

1. Introduction

Violence against women has become one of the most visible and articulate social problem around the world [2], [3]. Eve-teasing is one of the most serious form of violence against women by men all over the world [2]. Eve-teasing means when some young boys or men are throwing speech towards a girl or women such as rude comments, touching, groping, stalking, prank calls, acid attacks, obscene song, whistling, threatening etc., In our country, it has gradually become brutal form of sexual harassment often resulting in grievous hurt, acid throwing, rape, murder and forced suicide [2].

Adolescent girls and students are the main victims of eve-teasing. They are mainly facing eve-teasing at public places, shopping malls and public transport systems [1]. It is a crime easy to commit but difficult to prove [2]. It is a traumatic experience which can leave deep psychological scars and has negative consequence for greater community [2]. Eve-teasing has a psychological influence among girls and students like depression, suicide attempts and early marriages etc.,

Depression now is a major concern all over the world. Adolescent – onset Major Depressive Disorders [MDD] is associated with an increased risk of suicide, suicide attempts and suicide ideation. Traumatic events like Eve-teasing, sexual harassment is the main cause of depression. Those who are the victims of eve-teasing [sexual harassment] are also sometimes forced into the marriages before they are mentally or physically matured. This underage marriage problems are also increasing

by eve teasing problems [4].

(Shally 2005) stated that eve teasing is one of the form of violence act against the women and girls. It is because of male dominated society and women protests very silently against such heinous crime. The origin of eve-teasing, depth of eve-teasing as a problem, the problems caused in households and individuals and the role can be played are discussed [1]. Chesfeeda Akhtar (2013) provides analysis of magnitude of eve-teasing and its relation to socioeconomic and psychological factors. It also assesses women's responses to 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 [1].

So, from this study, students get benefited and the study findings will help policy makers to understand that students depression is a public health problem as well as to adopt a new intervention strategies to control eve-teasing to prevent psychological harm such as depression, suicide attempts etc., especially for students.

2. Methodology

This was a cross sectional study conducted among 200 Health Care students, Khammam, Telangana from May 5th 2019 to May 10th 2019. A structured self-administered questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire was pre-tested and necessary modification was done and finalized before collection of data. Consent is taken prior to the study from study objects.

Permission was taken from head of the respective departments. Health Care students present during the study on the day of survey were included. Students who were absent during the day of survey and not willing to participate were excluded. Total number of students present during the survey conducted were 200 students which includes females of ages between 21 to 25 years.

The background questionnaire included questions on a range of demographic variables such as Age and Course of study. A

15 item questionnaire measuring attitudes of students towards eve-teasing which includes opinions, views and experiences of eve-teasing and its psychological influence among students.

3. Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was done using SPSS 25 descriptive statistics were performed. Chi-square test was used to find the association among categorical variables.

4. Results

Majority (80%) of students faced eve-teasing in their daily life. Most (82%) of students feel that attitude of society has been changed towards girls in negative sense.

According to majority (58%) respondents, reasons behind eve-teasing are absence or lack of punishment, wrong mindset & bad impact of social media, modernization & lack of security to women. They are facing eve-teasing mostly (66%) on road side/streets & bus stops and sometimes (12%) in public transport, market places etc., Most (46%) of students are teased by comments, whistling, following & stalking and some (14%) are teased by touching, pinching, poking and sexual harassment.

Most of the students told that eve-teasing has psychological impact. Majority (74%) of students faced fear & embarrassment due to eve-teasing. Some (4%) of students have been attempted suicide and (8%) gone through depression. Some (8%) of the students are dropped out from college. Majority of the students told that they never reacted or taken action when someone has eve-teased them.

Nature, Type and Experience of Eve Teasing:

S. No.	Variables	Major Findings
1.	Experience about eve-teasing	80% of students faced eve-teasing in their daily life. 20% of students not faced any eve-teasing in their daily life.
2.	Type of eve-teasing	46% comments & whistling 16% following & stalking 14% touching, pinching & poking 4% sexual harassment
3.	Places of eve-teasing	66% in road side/streets 20% in bus stops 12% in public transport 2% in market places, parks
4.	Causes of eve-teasing	16% absence or lack of punishment 14% wrong mindset & bad impact of social media 6% loss of security for women 6% modernization 58% (all of the above)
5.	Change of attitude of society	82% of students feel that attitude of society has been changed towards girls in negative sense.
6.	Type of psychological impact	74% fear & embarrassment 8% depression 8% drop out & early marriage 4% suicide

Most (66%) of the students are concerned about eve-teasing. More than half (64%) of the students are sharing the eve-teasing happened with them with friends. Some (10%) of them are

sharing with their parents i.e., mother and father. Majority (90%) of students are aware that eve-teasing is a crime. Most (94%) of the students feel that there is a need for moral education for boys. Almost (98%) all of the students states that there is a need of self-defense training to face eve-teasing. Majority (72%) of students states punishment is the best remedy to overcome eve-teasing. Almost (96%) of the students are aware of ‘‘SHE TEAM’’ which was introduced in Telangana with a motto to provide safety and security to women. It is clear that there is a need of strong action towards eve-teasing.

S. No.	Variables	Major Findings
1.	Eve-teasing is a matter of concern	66% - It concerns me 18% - I'm not sure 8% - It doesn't bother me 6% - not a serious problem
2.	Sharing of eve-teasing to others	64% friends 20% I don't share 10% mother & father 4% teachers 2% brother & sister
3.	Awareness about eve-teasing as crime	90% of students know that eve-teasing is a crime.
4.	Need of moral education for boys	94% of students stated that need of moral education for boys
5.	Opinion about need of self-defense training	98% of students feels need of self-defense training
6.	Best remedy to overcome	72% punishment 20% counselling 4% ignore it
7.	Awareness about ‘‘SHE TEAM’’	96% of students are aware of ‘‘SHE TEAM’’

5. Discussion

Majority of the students told that attitude of the society towards girls has been changed in negative sense, when it was asked to one of the student 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 [1]. They said that they are facing the eve-teasing mostly on roadside/ streets, bus stand and sometimes in market places. It is clear that the public places where girls have to spend more time while going to school or college are not secured [1]. Students ethics, value, attitude have been demoralizing. So, there are many unusual event like eve-teasing have been occurred by students of different level of education system. Many students are watching cinema, motion picture and imitating western culture and trying to present as a hero among their friends circle by conducting unwanted behavior like eve-teasing [2].

When students are asked about psychological influence of eve-teasing? They stated that girls at public places and even in college do not feel secured from the eve-teaser. More than half of the students feel feared and embarrassment of eve-teasing and some of the students feel to leave the education in between because of eve-teaser and some of them face the problem like depression. It clearly shows that eve-teasing is a serious problem and that affects very badly on girls. The greater proportion of students are facing the eve-teasing and affecting

adversely on their psychology [1].

More than half of the students are sharing the eve-teasing happened with them with friends. Some of them are sharing with parents i.e., mother and father. But no one has reported to the police. They stated that 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 the girls to change their route of college and suggest them to ignore [1].

6. Conclusion

Eve-teasing is one of the serious problem. It shows the cultural dominance of males in the society. It may be concluded that laws dealing with eve-teasing should be implemented properly and patriarchy should be eliminated from the society. Culprits should be punished strictly and the victims of eve-

teasing must be encouraged to protest against the offence and media should be used to promote more positive images of women and practice culture against eve-teasing. 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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