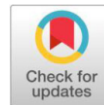


Original Research Article

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An Insights Into Young Adults' Attitude Towards Eve-teasing

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Eve teasing is regarded as a problem associated with juvenile criminality. It is a type of sexual aggressiveness that can take many different forms, from groping to catcalls, sexually provocative comments, and brushing in public areas. In addition to endangering a woman's safety, prevalent views of gender roles that place the blame on the victim may make her feel even more ashamed and degraded. The purpose of this descriptive research study was to ascertain how young adults felt about eve-teasing. Using the population proportion sampling approach, 240 young individuals, both male and female, were chosen from two colleges at the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology to serve as the research sample. Suitable statistical methods [8,9] i.e., frequency, percentage, p-value, and correlation, were applied to the collected data to derive the research results. After analysis and comparison of the data, the findings of the research reflected strong disagreement towards eve teasing. A significant association was found between the attitude of young adults towards eve teasing and selected independent variables, i.e., age, gender, college, and family income.

Keywords: Young Adults, Eve-teasing, Age, Gender, Attitude, Scale, College and Family Income, Gender-Based Violence (A-GBV)

Introduction

The name "Eve" alludes to the Bible's creation story concerning Adam and Eve. Teasing the girls, passing comments on them, harassing them, and troubling them purposefully is called 'eve teasing'. The Indian Penal Code does not use the term "eve teasing," but it does forbid actions akin to it in Section 294 - making a girl or woman the object of lewd gestures, comments, songs, or recitations-which carries a maximum sentence of three months in jail [1]. Gosh characterizes it as "a collection of actions that are perceived as an offense and an act of dehumanization of female sex" [2]. In South Asia, the daily threat of eve teasing is severe enough to prevent women and girls from participating in public, including at work and school, costing women and society enormous opportunities [3, 1]

Eve teasing, or public sexual harassment, was identified by Talboys *et al.* [4] as a serious issue that interferes with their daily lives. Anger, humiliation, shame, fear of rape, and a strong disincentive to girls spending time in public can all result from civilization or the threat of victimization. Many young women decide not to spend as much time in public as possible, either by choice or because of pressure from their families. This includes opportunities for social engagement, professional advancement, political roles, and education. Depression and suicidal thoughts are two more things that eve-teasing can cause. A more thorough investigation of the effects of eve-teasing on mental and physical health, as well as a deeper comprehension of the risk and protective factors for victimization and related health outcomes needs to be studied.

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Eve-teasing is much more than just an irritation or inconvenience; it is detrimental to women's sense of safety in public. Further research is required because it is quite possible that eve teasing could have long-lasting psycho-social repercussions. In conclusion, prevention initiatives should emphasize on enhanced enforcement, increasing awareness regarding the gravity and prevalence of eve-teasing, and implementing educational programs aimed at young people to deter future offenders and inform those in danger about available resources and coping mechanisms. At society level the behaviour towards women will be influenced by the mindset they maintain [5,6,7].

Methodology

A total of 240 male and female young adults were selected as a sample for research through the population proportion sampling method from three colleges of the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology [5,6,7]. To achieve the research objective, a tool, namely the Attitude Scale on Gender-Based Violence (A-GBV), was used [5,6,7]. To establish the content validity [8,9]. The attitude Scale on Gender-Based Violence (A-GBV), was evaluated by to subject experts and thereafter reliability of the tool was calculated (0.74) through pilot study [8,9]. Suitable statistical methods [8,9], i.e., frequency, percentage, p-value, and standard deviation, were applied to the collected data to derive the research results.

Result and Discussion**Young adult's Attitude towards Eve-teasing**

In South Asia, the term "eve-teasing" refers to a prevalent type of sexual harassment that usually takes place in public spaces [1], With between 50% and 100% of women reporting victimization, eve-teasing is believed to be extremely common, despite the lack of prevalence studies and the range of measurement techniques [10, 11, 12].

Making passes, making lewd gestures, whistling, staring, pinching, stalking, fondling, and rubbing against women are a few specific instances [1, 13, 14]. Understanding the mindset surrounding eve teasing is crucial because it influences how others will respond to it in the future. Views about a person, place, thing, or event are generally classified as either positive or negative; this is known as the attitude object. An optimistic and mostly positive way of thinking is implied by a positive attitude. The negative attitude, on the other hand, is primarily pessimistic [15]. According to Dey *et. al.* eve teasing is a crime that is simple to commit but challenging to prove [15].

Table 1: Distribution of Young Adult's Attitude towards Eve-Teasing

(N=240)

Variables		Analysis	Statements on Eve-Teasing						
			Girls also tease boys and harass them	Eve teasing of strangers of the opposite sex is unethical.	Roaming with friends should not be encouraged as it gives them more opportunity to eve tease.	Eve teasing makes women feel attractive and popular.	If a woman is being teased every day, she should not ignore it.	The safety of women from eve-teasing is a social responsibility.	Women should avoid going to male-dominated places to avoid eve teasing.
Gender	Female	Mean	2.28	3.93	3.72	4.38	4.16	4.44	2.28
		SD	1.004	1.075	1.258	.917	1.209	.848	1.004
	Male	Mean	2.31	3.50	3.53	3.72	3.88	3.98	2.31
		SD	1.083	1.123	1.045	1.039	1.281	1.181	1.083
		p Value	0.004*	0.805	0.003*	0.221	0.000*	0.079	0.001*
Age	18-21 years old	Mean	2.33	3.53	3.56	3.98	3.96	4.15	2.33
		SD	1.126	1.118	1.238	1.066	1.197	1.102	1.126
	22-25 years old	Mean	2.21	4.15	3.77	4.20	4.04	4.35	2.21
		SD	.809	.995	.929	.935	1.378	.912	.809
		p Value	0.484	0.439	0.001*	0.194	0.141	0.637	0.183
College	Agril.	Mean	2.41	3.37	3.30	3.56	3.92	3.87	2.41
		SD	1.187	1.152	1.090	1.064	1.222	1.218	1.187
	HSc	Mean	2.22	3.92	3.81	4.32	4.07	4.41	2.22
		SD	.947	1.051	1.157	.908	1.268	.892	.947
		p Value	0.001*	0.172	0.002*	0.001*	0.001*	0.365	0.0001*
Family income	High	Mean	2.29	4.02	3.83	4.33	4.24	4.42	1.83
		SD	1.129	0.934	1.191	0.834	1.079	0.919	0.953
	Middle	Mean	2.24	3.82	3.62	4.12	3.69	4.24	2.28
		SD	0.917	1.109	1.135	0.988	1.626	1.011	1.163
	Low	Mean	2.38	3.32	3.49	3.71	3.86	4.01	2.10
		SD	1.189	1.157	1.171	1.152	1.179	1.182	1.002
p Value	0.033*	0.274	0.909	0.058	0.002*	0.142	0.176		

Note: *Stands for significant at $p < 0.05\%$ level of significance

There was no significant association between the family income of young adults and their attitude toward the statement that states that a man can force his wife into pregnancy or abortion as he bears the financial burden and obligation. A significant association was found between the gender of young adults and their attitude toward statements regarding girls teasing and harassing boys; roaming with friends gives the opportunity to eve-tease; women who are teased every day should not ignore it; and women should avoid going to male-dominated places to avoid eve-teasing. While there was no significant association between the gender of young adults and their attitude toward statements that state that eve-teasing the opposite sex is unethical, eve-teasing makes women feel attractive and popular, and the safety of women from eve-teasing is a social responsibility. According to the data in Table 1, it can be observed that the majority of young adults belonging to the age group between 18-21 and 22-25 years old were undecided if girls also tease boys and harass them and if women should avoid going to male-dominated places to avoid eve-teasing. Young adults belonging to the age group 18–21 agreed, and young adults belonging to the age group 22–25 strongly agreed that eve-teasing strangers of opposite- sex is unethical.

The majority of young adults belonging to the age groups 18–21 and 22–25 disagreed with the statement, which states that roaming with friends gives opportunity to eve-teasing. Young adults belonging to the age group of 22–25 strongly disagreed, and young adults between 18-21 strongly disagreed that eve-teasing makes women feel attractive and popular. Young adults between the ages of 22-25 strongly agreed, and young adults between the ages of 18-21 only agreed that if a woman is being teased every day, she should not ignore it. The majority of young adults belonging to the age groups of 18–21 and 22–25 strongly agreed that the safety of women from eve-teasing is a social responsibility. A significant association was found between the age of young adults and their attitude toward a statement stating that roaming with friends should not be encouraged as it gives them more opportunity to eve tease. While there was no significant association between the age of young and their attitude in statements stating that girls also tease and harass boys, eve-teasing of strangers of opposite sex is unethical, eve-teasing making women feel attractive and popular, ignoring even if a woman gets teased every day, the safety of women from eve-teasing being social responsibility, and women avoiding going to male-dominated places to avoid eve-teasing.

Table 1 indicates that the majority of young adults belonging to the College of Agriculture and College of Home Science were undecided if girls also teasing boys and harass them and if women should avoid going to male-dominated places to avoid eve-teasing. They agreed that eve-teasing strangers of opposite sexes are unethical. Young adults belonging to the College of Agriculture and College of Home Science disagreed with the statement, which states that roaming with friends gives opportunity to eve-teasing and that eve-teasing makes women feel attractive and popular. Young adults belonging to the College of Agriculture agreed, and young adults from the College of Home Science strongly agreed that if a woman is being teased every day, she should not ignore it. The same is stated in the statement, which states that the safety of women from eve-teasing is a social responsibility. Young adults belonging to the College of Agriculture only agreed, and young adults from the College of Home Science strongly agreed with the statement. A significant association was found between the college of young adults and their attitude towards the statements regarding girls teasing and harassing boys: roaming with friends gives the opportunity to eve-tease; eve-teasing makes women feel attractive and popular; women ignore even if they get teased every day; and women avoid going to male-dominated places to avoid eve-teasing. While there was no significant association between the College of young adults and their attitude toward the statements stating that eve-teasing opposite sex is unethical and the safety of women from eve-teasing is social responsibility.

The data in Table 1 explains that young adults belonging to high-, middle-, and low-income families are undecided if girls also tease boys and harass them. Young adults belonging to middle- and low-income families were indecisive about whether women should avoid going to male-dominated places to avoid eve-teasing, but young adults from high-income families disagreed with the statement. Young adults belonging to high-income groups strongly agreed that teasing strangers of opposite sexes is unethical, while young adults from middle- and low-income families only agreed. Young adults belonging to high-, middle-, and low-income families disagreed that roaming with friends gives the opportunity to eve-teasing. Again, young adults from high- and middle-income families strongly disagreed that eve-teasing makes women feel attractive and popular, whereas young adults from low-income families only disagreed. Young adults belonging to high-income families strongly agreed that women should not be ignored if they're being teased every day, but young adults from middle- and low-income families only disagreed with this statement. Young adults belonging to high-, middle-, and low-income families strongly agreed that the safety of women from eve-teasing is a social responsibility. A significant association was found between the family income of young adults and their attitude toward statements stating girls teasing and harassing boys and women ignoring them even if they get teased every day. While there was a non-significant association between family income of young adults and their attitude toward statements regarding eve-teasing the opposite sex being unethical, roaming with friends gives opportunity to eve-teasing, eve-teasing makes women feel attractive and popular, the safety of women from eve-teasing is social responsibility, and women avoid going to male-dominated places to avoid eve-teasing.

In a study, Dhillon & Bakaya found that crimes that remain unreported prevent offenders from receiving punishment and enable offenses to continue [1].

According to Dey *et al.*, (2016), there are so many legal farces and loopholes in our nation that offenders are rarely prosecuted [16]. The rate of eve-teasing is rising as a result. They also stated that patriarchy should be eradicated from society and that laws pertaining to eve-teasing should be appropriately implemented.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study found a significant association between family income and young adults' attitudes towards gender roles and eve-teasing. Specifically, there was a strong correlation between higher family income and a more negative attitude towards eve-teasing. This suggests that young adults from higher-income families are more likely to hold progressive views and are less tolerant of harmful behavior like eve-teasing. However, the study also found that young adults' attitudes towards eve-teasing are not solely influenced by family income. Age, gender, and educational background also play a significant role in shaping their attitudes. For example, young adults belonging to the age group of 22–25 years and those from the College of Home Science were more likely to strongly agree that eve-teasing is unethical and that women should ignore it if they are being teased every day. These findings have important implications for policy and interventions aimed at reducing eve-teasing. It suggests that efforts to combat eve-teasing should not only focus on punishing perpetrators but also on addressing the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to gender-based violence. This includes addressing poverty, patriarchy, and gender stereotypes that perpetuate harmful attitudes and behavior toward women. Moreover, the study highlights the importance of education in influencing young adults' attitudes towards eve-teasing and even gender roles. It suggests that educational institutions have a critical role to play in promoting gender equality and gender-based stereotypes. By providing young adults with the knowledge and skills needed to challenge gender-based violence and discrimination, educational institutions can help create a more equitable and just society. In short, the study provides valuable insights into the complex relationship between family, income, gender, age, and education and their influence on young adults' attitudes towards eve-teasing. It underscores the need for a multi-faceted approach to addressing eve-teasing and promoting gender equality that addresses the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to gender-based violence and discrimination.

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