

ATTITUDE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS REGARDING EVE-TEASING AND TO EXPLORE THEIR EXPERIENCES

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study were to assess and compare the attitude of male and female undergraduate students regarding eve teasing as social evil . The research design selected for study was “Mixed method” (Qualitative and Quantitative). The study was conducted at pharmacy, engineering, Nursing and Management colleges of MM University (N=400) and purposive sampling technique was used. Attitude scale (5-point likert scale) to assess the attitude of undergraduate students regarding Eve Teasing. Open ended questionnaire was used to explore their experiences regarding Eve Teasing as a social evil. There was significant difference between the attitude of male and female undergraduate students enrolled in Maharishi Markandeshwar University (p=0.05). Majority of male and female students respond that eve teasing is a social evil.

KEYWORDS:- *Eve teasing , Attitude of undergraduate male and female students*

INTRODUCTION

India, with 1,270,272,105 (1.27 billion) people is the second most populated country in the world The figures show that India represents almost 17.31% of the world's population, which means one out of six people on this planet live in India.¹ More than 50% of India's current populations below the age of 25. Total Female Population in India is 614,397,079 (614.4 million) India has the largest population of adolescent's girls (243 million). The main problems of girls in India are child marriage, women empowerment, Female infanticide/foeticide, lack of power ,lack of education,

malnutrition, Substance abuse, Teen Prostitution, early marriage, mental health problems, early pregnancy increase death rate, Accidental and intentional violence and eve-teasing²

Eve teasing has become a concern of the country, owing to its injurious effects on women, especially to the teen aged girls. It's obvious that no conscious citizen of our country is unacquainted with this problem created by evil-doers³

The term Eve teasing is used to refer to sexual harassment of women in public places such as the streets, public transportation , parks, beaches , and cinema halls. This type of a public harassment by a lone man or gangs of women includes verbal assaults such as making passes or unwelcome sexual jokes : nonverbal assaults such as showing obscene gestures , winking , whistling , and staring ; and physical assaults such as pinching, fondling and rubbing against women in public places. several instances of eve teasing have been followed by more violent assaults such as rape and murder ⁴

METHODOLOGY

The research design selected for study was “**Mixed Method**” (qualitative and quantitative) used for assessing the attitude of undergraduate male and female students enrolled in M.M. University and to explore their experiences regarding Eve Teasing. Formal administrative approval was obtained from the principal of respective colleges of M.M.U, Mullana, Ambala .For the present study the sample size was 400 and they were informed about the purpose of study.

- 200- Undergraduate Female students. (100 Medical and 100 Non medical)
- 200- Undergraduate Male students (100 Medical and 100 Non medical)

The following data collection tools were developed in order to obtain data ::

- **Section A** : Information regarding sample characteristics of study subjects.
- **Section B** : Attitude scale (5-point likert scale) to assess the attitude of undergraduate students regarding Eve Teasing.

- **Section C** : Open ended questionnaire to explore their experiences regarding Eve Teasing as a social evil.

The paper and pencil technique was used to collect the data related to attitude and experiences of undergraduate students regarding Eve Teasing as a social evil .To ensure the content validity of the tools, it was submitted to 11 experts from the field of Medical Surgical Nursing ,Psychiatric Nursing, Paediatric Nursing ,Community health Nursing and Obstetrical Nursing .The reliability coefficient for assessment of attitude of students regarding eve teasing as a social evil was calculating using Karl Pearson method. The reliability coefficient ‘r’ of this questionnaire was .94 of male undergraduate students and .89 of female undergraduate students, which is more than .75 . Hence the questionnaire was found to be reliable. The data obtained in the study would be analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics i.e. mean, median, standard deviation, Z – test and chi- square.

RESULTS

Both the groups were Homogenous on the basis of qualification of mother , occupation of father , occupation of mother , family income per month and heterogeneous on the basis of age , place of living, qualification of father, siblings of opposite gender was found statistically at 0.05 level of significance.

SECTION -1. Attitude Scores Of Male And Female Undergraduate Students Towards Eve Teasing , As A Social Evil

Table 1

Frequency and percentage distribution of male and female undergraduate students with regards to level of attitude towards eve teasing as social evil

N=400

S . No.	Attitude	Male n=200 (f%)	Female n=200 (f%)
1	Favorable(150-200)	48 (24%)	54 (27%)
2	Moderately favorable(100-150)	152 (76%)	145 (72.5%)
3	Unfavorable(40-100)	00	01 (0.5%)

The data presented in table 1 showed that majority of students attitude score were Moderately favorable (100-150) attitude towards eve teasing as a social evil in which 48 male students out of 200 shown favorable attitude regarding eve teasing as a social evil.

Table 2

Mean, Mean Difference, Standard Deviation And Z Score Of Male And Female Undergraduate Students Regarding Eve Teasing As A Social Evil.

N=400

Attitude scales scores	Mean	SD	MD	SEMD	Z' value
Male (n=400)	143.50	10.93	3.94	1.319	2.98*
Female	139.56	15.12			

(n=400)					
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Z(398)=2.98;*significant(p=0.05)

The data presented in table 2 revealed that mean and standard deviation of attitude score of male and female undergraduate students was 143.50 ±10.93 and 139.56± 15.12 represented with mean difference of 3.94 and it was statistically significant at .05 level.

SECTION-2. QUALITATIVE RESPONSE DATA WITH THEMES AND SUB THEMES OF MALE AND FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:-

TABLE -3

1ST THEME:- EXPERIENCES REGARDING EVE TEASING

N=400

S.NO	SUBTHEMES	BOYS (n=200)	GIRLS (n=200)
1.	Egg on one's face	Eve teasing causes demotivation. As of the subject replied "It is a psychological afflict, dismantle the person emotionally, girls get scared and discouraged to face the people."	Majority of the that eve-teasing causes despair, humiliation, Inferiority, disheartenment and intellectual persecute. As one of the subject replied "I get depressed because of eve teasing" and another subject said that "it should be stopped up as it is a disgraceful act for the humanity."
2.	Terrified to take action.	No one replied about that girls should hit back to culprits.	Eve-teasing harasses the individual. As one said that "Faced but scared to take any action against it."
3.	Eve teasing dread stay alive in personage.	10% of subjects said that Eve teasing fear exists in every girl's mind.	30% of subjects said that Eve teasing terror exists all the time when they are out. Sometime feel safe when move in

			groups or parents or acquaintances. One of the subject stated that “I sometimes avoid to go alone in overflowing places and.” Another one said that “I saw a group of 3-4 boys following 2 girls in the road and passing comments on them.”
4.	Believes that eve teasing may cause psychosomatic harm to girls	50% of subjects feel that Eve teasing harms the girls. One of our subject stated that “I have a friend had an incident about 2 years ago, a guy teased her badly but she couldn’t do anything that time. She was very scared and went into depression.”	Eve teasing causes destruction and emotional impairment to girls. As one of our study participants said that “I have seen a girl being teased by a boy. She was crying badly because of that and I felt dreadful and stay tensed for 2-3 days”
5.	variety of vulgar lane nuisance	15% of Subjects replied that eve teasing is sexual street harassment. One of the subject said that “I saw my friend teasing a girl in the middle of the road and she start crying.”	20% of subjects feel that Eve teasing is street harassment. According to one of our subject “I have experienced eve teasing 2-3 times. Boys commented on me, passed sexual remarks but I acted like a strong girl and took an action against them to stop them.”

TABLE 4

2ND THEME:- PREVENTION FROM EVE TEASING

N=400

S.NO	SUBTHEMES	BOYS (n=200)	GIRLS (n=200)
1.	Civic and youth wakefulness	30% Of boys said that there should be public awareness program started in country to prevent or minimizing eve teasing. As one subject said that, “To prevent eve teasing we should have Public awareness agenda and governments guiding principle are helpful to prevent the eve teasing” and another subject said that, “by public awareness and proper guidance and education at school from youngest age possible for both boys and girls”.	60% of girls said that there should be community alertness programs started in nation to prevent or minimizing eve teasing. As one of subject replied, “Educate the people about the importance of girls and how we can overcome this problem” and another subject said that “men should be educated or made aware about this. Co-education is necessary for folks.”
2.	Jurisdiction triumphs justice	40% of boys said that there should be impartiality and laws to conquer problem. As one subject said that, “Strict rules to punish whoever is involved in eve teasing.” and another subject said that, “By making strict laws to impound the culprits”	80% of girls said that there should be justice and laws to overcome problem. As one subject said that, “laws have been made against eve teasing. Quite a few services for girls security should be provided.” and another subject said that, “strict laws with severe detention can bring a change in society”.
3.	Counselling in school and	55% Subjects said that there should be counselling sessions in school	There should be counselling sessions in school and colleges to thwart and

	colleges.	and colleges to prevent and minimize the eve teasing, as one subject said that, “special awareness programs organized in colleges and schools” and another subject said that, “Parents should also help their children to stop eve teasing by giving their child good upbringing., Education and good motivation”	minimize the eve teasing, as one subject said that, “Counselling of youth, involvement of parents, role of media and mass communication and promotion of awareness amongst people in both urban and rural sectors” and another subject said that, “counselling and education in school, colleges, parents have to be in great concern with their teenage children for them activities”.
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DISCUSSION:-

In the present study it was seen that there was significant difference between the attitude of male and female undergraduate students enrolled in Maharishi Markandeshwar University. But a study was conducted by Biplob Kumar Dey to measure the attitude toward eve teasing among local residents and tool was administered to 200 people (100 males and 100 females) living in different areas of Dhaka city. The main effect of gender toward the attitude of eve teasing is non-significant (F=2.410, df=1,192). That means the attitude toward the eve teasing did not vary significantly according to gender.⁵

Majority of male (61%) and female (77%) students responded that eve teasing is a social evil. The study findings were found consistent with the study findings of study conducted by M. Kuruvilla and K. P. Anu, “Perceptions about sexual harassment: study among postgraduate girl students and women employees in a University Campus”⁶. The qualitative responses of male and female students regarding eve teasing as a social evil and prevention from eve teasing that were divided into two themes i.e. experiences regarding eve teasing and prevention from eve teasing and were further classified into subthemes these findings were supported by the findings of study conducted by Sheikh Mahinoor in which they studied about the eve teasing in Bangladesh. Present study also laid emphasis on the importance of mass media and also it shows the real

picture of eve teasing in the society which was supported by a similar study conducted by Geeta Kashyap in which she studied the Role of Alternative Media in Empowerment of Women.⁷

CONCLUSION

Male And Female Undergraduate Students have Moderately favorable Attitude Towards Eve Teasing as a social evil. There was significant difference between attitude of male and female undergraduate students.eve teasing should be prevented through education, counseling and retaliate the culprits.

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